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Water and Sanitation
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

MEDIA STATEMENT

Minister Nkwinti announces sweep changes in rooting out corruption on infrastructure projects

02 April 2019

In an effort to root out corruption in the Department of Water and Sanitation, Minister Gugile Nkwinti announced sweeping changes in the management of major infrastructure projects.

The announcement was made during a media briefing convened by Minister Nkwinti today, 02 April 2019 in Department's Head Offices in Pretoria.

He said the 'blind contracting' of mega projects of water and sanitation to service providers had cost the department between R10 and R15 billion in the past years. The department was working with law enforcement agencies to investigate corruption in the department and he was waiting for their report. However, three senior managers have since resigned from their posts to avoid being investigated, Minister Nkwinti said.

Poor management in the department and not money, was at the heart of the department but he was working hard to turn around things, he said.

In terms of Sections 74 and 103 (2) of the National Water Act, Minister Nkwinti issued a directive to Water Entity, Trans – Caledon Tunnel Authority (TCTA) to provide programme management services to the Department of Water and Sanitation (DWS) on the following water projects:

- De – Hoop Water Project
- Mzimvubu Water Project
- Loskop Water Project
- Xhariep Bulk Water Supply
- Clanwilliam Water Project

In his directive, Minister Nkwinti said TCTA should utilize its capabilities and resources to increasing support DWS in its infrastructure mandate that will enable the effective delivery of water and sanitation services to the public.

"The directive shall be implemented inline with all applicable laws and the new implementation Model which promotes effective utilization of the Construction Unit in the



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implementation of the managed projects and socio-economic transformation in the execution of projects”, he said.

He instructed TCTA to develop a Business Plan and a service level agreement shall be concluded by the end of April. Once concluded, a Technical Task Team will be established with officials from DWS, TCTA, Water Service Authorities, relevant institutions impacted by the projects and as well as Provincial COGTA officials to analyze a suitable model for implementation funding for each project.

In addition, Minister Nkwinti issued another directive for DWS to follow an applicable legislative framework in formalizing a relationship with Development Bank of Southern Africa (DBSA).

DBSA will be entrusted to perform programme management services in the following projects:

- Giyani Water Project
- Nandoni Nsami Pipeline
- Nwamitwa Dam
- Tzaneen Dam
- Polokwane (Ebenezer and Olifants)
- Vaal Gamagara Project

DWS faces enormous challenges of inadequate capacity for effective programme planning and co-ordination, necessary for ensuring effective project preparation, roll out and delivery to specifications, on time and within budget.

The announcement by the Minister Nkwinti is in line with pronouncements that he articulated during his Budget Vote speech when he introduced his turn-around strategy to improve the optimal operations of DWS.

END

Issued by the Department of Water & Sanitation

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