



MEDIA STATEMENT

Minister Nkwinti engaged the AmaMpondomise Royal Council and communities to discuss the Mzimvubu Water Project

22 January 2019

Minister Gugile Nkwinti of the Department of Water and Sanitation engaged the AmaMpondomise Royal Council and communities that will be affected by the construction of the Mzimvubu Water Project. This was to give an update on the project and address the concerns of the communities.

The meeting took place on Monday, 21 January 2019 at Caba Great Place in Caba Village, Qumbu.

The Minister appealed to the AmaMpondomise tribe to work with government to ensure that the project becomes a reality, more so as it has been talked about since 1962. The Minister indicated that he had come to ensure that there is consensus with the communities about the project and how it would be rolled-out. This was as the project will affect some households and their livelihood.

Some existing roads will be upgraded, others closed and new ones constructed to accommodate the building of the project as part of the Advance Infrastructure. The Minister committed to the construction of roads to Maclear and Qumbu from Caba Village as part of the Advance Infrastructure. He allayed the fears of residents who will be directly affected in terms of relocation by guaranteeing their compensation. Further, he assured the community of Lalini Village that, although the Lalini Dam project that was meant to generate energy has been temporarily put on hold, they will also get water from the Mzimvubu Water Project because there will be reticulation to also service their area.

The Eastern Cape Provincial Head of the Department of Water and Sanitation, Ms Portia Makhanya, gave a background of the project, including that it will increase water security in the AmaMpondomise area. It will also improve agriculture because there will be sufficient water for irrigation as well as domestic use.

End





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