



water & sanitation

Department:
Water and Sanitation
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA



MEDIA STATEMENT

Deputy Minister Pam Tshwete bids Cubans a farewell

24 March 2019

Deputy Minister of Water and Sanitation, Pam Tshwete, bade a farewell to 15 Cuban engineers, technicians and water scientists who arrived in South Africa in 2015 as part of a bilateral agreement to help with their technical expertise in South Africa's water sector.

The group is part of the 35 that were deployed in various clusters of the Department of Water and Sanitation throughout the country. Twenty of their compatriots returned to Cuba when their contract expired in June 2018.

The Cuban experts were on a four-year contract that was signed between the department and the Institute of Cuban National Resources four years ago. The contract was signed by the late Minister Edna Molewa during her tenure as DWS Minister and Cuban First Deputy President Ines Maria Chapman Waugh.

In her speech to the departing group this afternoon Tshwete said South Africa was profoundly grateful for their services in the country.

"What you've done for our country is not different from what you did in Angloa. You were always there in the hour of need."

She said the Cubans came to fight in defence of democracy even though they were not obliged to.

Speaking on behalf of the departing Cubans, Eduardo Loriga, said they were leaving South Africa with a heavy heart.

"It feels like we are South Africans now. South Africa has become our second home. We will continue to retain our relations with this country and its beautiful people," Loriga said.

End

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