

SINCE Minister Lindiwe Sisulu took office at the Department of Water and Sanitation, she has over time expressed her distaste against corruption, saying that this delays service delivery of a much-needed source of life, water.

It is disheartening, seeing continued media coverage about harsh realities South Africans still have to endure as a result of backlog in the provision of water and sanitation services.

But perhaps, the silver lining in all of this is Minister Sisulu's firm

Sisulu's stance against graft will be tested

grip in handling corruption within the Department and its entities.

"When we came in, we found a Department that no longer enjoyed the confidence of the people it served, having been eroded by a number of cases of corruption," Minister Sisulu said.

Upon assuming office, Minister Sisulu said she was informed that the amount of irregular and wasteful expenditure amounted to R16 billion, which she later found out

that the amount was revised to R31 billion.

However, her leadership has since resulted in tough action being taken against transgressors through forensic investigations which have resulted in disciplinary action taken against 97 officials who were found guilty; of which 24 have since resigned.

Minister Sisulu's leadership may inspire confidence to non-corrupt officials in the Depart-

ment and some members of the public.

However, this will be put to test as the implementation of the budget allocation for the Department of Water and Sanitation is rolled out.

The optimist in me is looking forward to see the effective implementation of water projects and hopefully, no citizen has to endure any further challenges of water supply and sanitation services.

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