



## water & sanitation

Department:  
Water and Sanitation  
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

### INTERNET ARTICLE

#### **Minister Nkwinti clears the air about Mzimvubu Water Project**

16 January 2019

The Minister of Water and Sanitation, Mr Gugile Nkwinti met with Traditional Leaders of Elangeni Traditional Council and community members to give clarity about the pending development to be derived from the soon to be constructed Ntabelanga Dam in Siqhungqwini Village in Tsolo.

The engagement with these key stakeholders was held on Monday 14 January at Siqhungqwini Junior Secondary School, with an aim to bring them on board and expand on what the community is set to benefit from the construction of the dam.

Ntabelanga Dam forms part of the Mzimvubu Water Project, that includes the construction of Lalini Dam. This project is set to boost economic development in the Eastern Cape and increase water supply in affected areas such as Joe Gqabi, O.R. Tambo and Alfred Nzo District Municipalities.

Minister Nkwinti saw it fit to have a meeting with the affected stakeholders and there was glaring discomfort on a number of issues, particularly on how they are set to benefit from the prospective opportunities that accompany projects of this nature.

During the meeting, a community member from Mqokolweni (Khanyisile Lingani) requested the Department of Water and Sanitation (DWS) together with District Municipality and Local Municipalities to have a database of skilled people that are going to be directly affected by the upcoming development. Meanwhile, Lindile Jokazi of Nxoto village sought clarity on allegations that the Chinese companies will drive the project and whether it is true that households will be relocated without being compensated.

It was resolved that the skills database will be handled by the established Project Committee and Minister Nkwinti emphasised that the issue of Chinese involvement is not true.

Councillor Dumisani Mvumvu of Joe Gqabi District Municipality said the Project Oversight Committee is established and it will comprise of Executive Mayor of Joe Gqabi District Municipality, Mayor of Elundini Local Municipality, Local Chiefs, Councilors, officials of the Department of Water and Sanitation and



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community representatives. The role of that committee will be to monitor the progress of the project and ensure that decisions are taken and agreed upon.

In closing remarks, Minister Nkwinti requested the Local Chiefs to assist identify alternative land where the families will be moved to. He assured them that they will certainly be compensated for their loss due to relocation but that is yet to be discussed with relevant stakeholders. He added that roads construction will not affect households to a point where they have to be relocated.

**Lameki Jumba**