



## water & sanitation

Department:  
Water and Sanitation  
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

### INTERNET ARTICLE

#### **Exxaro spends millions to treat polluted mine water**

14 April 2015

*Exxaro Resources has spent R250 million to turn polluted mine water into clean drinking water at the Matla coal mine in Mpumalanga.*

*Following engagements with the departments of Water and Sanitation (DWS), Environmental Affairs (DEA) and Mineral Resources (DMR), Exxaro - one of the largest South African based diversified resources groups - has come out with a sustainable solution to the underground water.*

*The treatment includes water being pumped to the surface where it undergoes treatment using an innovative filtration process to purify the water.*

*The water treatment plant will treat 10 mega litres per day. The mine will discharge 6.5MI to the Olifants River while the remaining treated water will be used for water needs at the mine including being used in the Matla Operations.*

*The Matla underground mining operations experience too much water entrance into the workings from surface, leading to flooding risks. The safety of workers and the environment could also be affected by the contaminated water should this water be released back to the surface before undergoing treatment. "Water is a strategic natural resource in South Africa and it is our duty to ensure that we reduce the impact of our mining activities on this precious resource," says Exxaro Chief Executive Officer (CEO) Siphon Nkosi.*

*As part of its water management strategy, Exxaro says they effectively manage water through, reuse, reduction, and recycling of water. They proactively respond to water related risks, minimising risks and ensuring operations use water efficiently.*

**Ike Motsapi**

**Issued by the Department of Water & Sanitation**

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