



water & sanitation

Department:
Water and Sanitation
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

INTERNET ARTICLE

Hundreds of jobs created through the long-term AMD project- Minister Mokonyane

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Almost 1 000 short and long term jobs have been created through the Department of Water and Sanitation's (DWS) long term Acid Mine Drainage (AMD) solution which started operating in 2014.

This was according to Minister of DWS Ms Nomvula Mokonyane, during the launch of the Long-Term AMD Programme.

Addressing members of the audience on Wednesday, 18 May 2016, Minister Mokonyane pointed out that almost 1 000 short and long term jobs were created through this long-term solution or strategy.

The announcement was made at the South West Vertical Shaft, Central Basin in Germiston, where the department together with the implementing agent, Trans Caledon Tunnel Authority (TCTA) hosted the event.

This process was implemented from 2014, Minister Mokonyane added.

Of great importance was that the water availability programme of government will be enhanced by this process. She said at present the process is delivering 82 megalitres of purified AMD water on a daily basis. There is room for improvement in upping the process.

This solution, Minister Mokonyane said "promises simultaneously to augment water supply to the nation's economic hub of Gauteng. This long term intervention will therefore, turn the AMD problem into a long term sustainable solution by producing fully treated water that will significantly increase water supply to the Vaal River System and defer the need for further costly augmentation beyond Phase 2 of the Lesotho Highlands Water Project for at least another 30 years."

It should be noted that there are benefits reaped in relations to the initial short term intervention. These include the prevention of an environmental catastrophe. If the State had not intervened the way it did, the flow of AMD into the larger environment, including the natural river system, would have caused widespread environmental pollution through the release of various hazardous metals.

Through government's on-going protection of underground water resources by pumping and treating AMD, the State has managed to protect valuable groundwater resources from being contaminated by toxic AMD. Over the years, we have succeeded in preventing the rise of AMD above the determined Environmental Critical Level.

In contributing to socio-economic development government has achieved important gains in the socio-economic development of the communities around the Western, Central and Eastern Basins. These project areas have witnessed significant small enterprise development, preferential procurement and skills development among historically



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disadvantaged groups, as well as job creation, reaching about 1 000 jobs at the peak of construction of the treatment plants.

And, in directing one of the state-owned entities, TCTA, to implement this initial phase of the AMD programme in the Witwatersrand, government has made a positive move in establishing the requisite knowledge node and capacity to deal with similar legacy issues related to AMD across the country.

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