



## INTERNET ARTICLE

### **Minister Mokonyane holds a memorial service for Fidel Castro with the Cubans**

04 December 2016

The mood was nothing short of somber and sadness as the Cuban engineers and Acting Ambassador to South Africa, Mr Pedro Arteaga gathered in Pretoria, on Sunday, 04 December, 2016 to listen to Minister Nomvula Mokonyane and Deputy Minister Pamela Tshwete's tributes to the late Cuban President Fidel Castro.

The ceremony was organized by the Department of Water and Sanitation to celebrate the life of Castro who was the pride of the people of Cuba.

Minister Mokonyane described him as a man with a golden heart who has played a significant role in the liberation of South Africa as well as the development of some African states.

After starting with a song in appreciation for the support and compassion that the Cubans have shown South Africans, Minister Mokonyane said that all these men and women (Cuban Engineers in South Africa) who left their loved ones to come and assist us in South Africa and elsewhere in the African Continent took courage from their leader who fully supported this ideology.

"The water sector is also a beneficiary of President Fidel Castro's *big golden heart*, as we currently enjoy services of 35 Cuban Water specialists who are also in all our provinces sharing their knowledge and skills with our water workforce" Mokonyane said.

One of the engineers deployed in South Africa, Eduardo Loriga said they were very much saddened about the passing of President Fidel Castro and his spirit and all that he represented will forever live on.

"We will continue with his legacy as a way to honor him",

Deputy Minister Pamela Tshwete who welcomed the guests during the proceedings also offered her condolences, sighting that South Africans will forever be grateful and indebted to the Cubans for the role they played during SA's fight over oppression.



## water & sanitation

Department:  
Water and Sanitation  
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

The service was filled with emotional tributes from the acting ambassador of Cuba in South Africa, Mr Pedro Arteaga to the engineers.

The proceedings were concluded with chants as the Cubans sang "I am Fidel Castro" after being asked "who is Fidel Castro", this being an indication that the iconic leader's legacy is set to continue.

**Maduvha Maseda**