



water & sanitation

Department:
Water and Sanitation
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

INTERNET ARTICLE

Vaal-Gamaraga pipeline refurbished to boost manganese mines

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The implementation of the Phase 1 upgrade of the Vaal-Gamagara Water Scheme (VGWS) in Northern Cape will stimulate economic growth and social development in South Africa in accordance the National Development Plan. It is essential to sustain the development of the manganese resources in the province and the realisation of the downstream benefits in the Eastern Cape through beneficiation and export.

The upgrading was prompted by an ageing water pipeline that is 35 years old which supplies Hotazel and Black Rock. In addition to being under capacitated to supply the increasing demand from the various new mines in the area, it is subject to regular interruption due to breakages. These interruptions in the water supply have a direct impact on the production of the mines and their viability.

In February this year Minister Nomvula Mokonyane issued a Directive in terms of Section 103(2) of the National Water Act 1998 (Act 36 of 1998) to the Trans-Caledon Tunnel Authority (TCTA) to plan, implement, project manage and perform all relevant activities associated with engineering infrastructure development and arrange funding for the Phase 1 Upgrade of the Vaal-Gamagara Water Scheme ("VGWS1")

The scope of VGWS1, which is subject to the Trans-Caledon Tunnel Authority (TCTA) due diligence, comprises of:

- * The replacement of portions of the existing VGWS pipeline from Roscoe to Blackrock, through the construction of a new pipeline and related appurtenant works*
- * Securing the ground water resources, at well fields SD2 and SD4 and providing the pumping infrastructure at the ground water aquifers and connection pipe lines to the existing and new infrastructure*
- * Securing the water resource from the dewatering of the Kumba Sishen and Kolomela mines*
- * Establish institutional arrangements and processes to ensure meaningful participation by DWS, SWB and Stakeholders at the TCTA strategic and policy level and co-ordination at the operational level of the project.*
- * Procure off-budget funding for the commercially viable portion of the project and perform ongoing loan management and assist DWS with obtaining funding from the fiscus for the social portion where needed*

Progress made since the Minister's directive includes TCTA requesting Sedibeng Water for a site visit to assess the current infrastructure. The visit took place in May 2015 and TCTA has since developed an interim Project Charter and terms of reference of the due diligence to enable TCTA to accurately define the scope of the project

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