**REPORT ON KNOWLEDGE SHARING SESSION:**

**SIP-3 UPDATE: PAST, PRESENT AND THE FUTURE**

**Summary**

This brief summarises the proceedings of a Knowledge Sharing Session on the theme, *“**SIP-3 Update: Past, Present and the Future*”, held in August 2020. The session looked at Strategic Integrated Project-3 (SIP-3) program, assessing its current status, prospects and strategy to enhance the program. SIP-3 has been in operational since its inception in 2012. The Strategy Division organised the session to inform the organisation on its status, progress and future outlook.

After an introductory discussion on the program objectives, history, and coordination interventions, the session reviewed the program’s projects, their status, and attendant challenges. The session also provided the program’s progress since inception. Since 2012, seven (of the 12) projects, valued at about R18.9bn, were completed, with thousands of construction jobs created.

However, despite the achievements, active projects are dwindling, while the original objective of catalysing socio-economic development in the Eastern Cape has not been fully achieved. Four projects, valued at R190 billion, have not progressed well or are on hold. This represents 87% of the program portfolio and significantly compromises the realisation of SIP-3’s broad goals.

The session learnt that efforts were already underway to try and enhance the SIP-3 in order to achieve the originally set objectives. SIP-3 Coordination initiated an enhancement program in 2016 to bring in new catalytic infrastructure. However, political challenges stalled the initiative. In 2019, TCTA revisited the enhancement initiative. In October 2019, SIP-3 obtained approval from the PICC to proceed with the SIP-3 program review as a first step towards the enhancement. The review was designed to identify critical gaps and use them to develop a strategy.

Highlights include engagement with the PICC Technical Unit, hosting a workshop with project partners, and reviewing of both the National Infrastructure Plan and the SIP-3 Business Plan of 2013. These were supported by in-depth interviews with selected stakeholders soliciting their views on SIP-3 and its objectives.