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Water and Sanitation
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

MEDIA STATEMENT

Minister Mokonyane confident Lesotho Highway Water Project will be completed on time

26 October 2016

Water and Sanitation Minister Nomvula Mokonyane today briefed the Portfolio Committee on water and sanitation on the progress of the Lesotho Highlands Water Project Phase II in parliament.

During her presentation, Minister Mokonyane declared that both countries are working around the clock to ensure that the project is finished as per the specified timeline which is 2025.

She attributed the slight delay in the project to the unrest in Lesotho following their national elections as well as the fact that they had to brief the new government that came into power. In addition, she said they also had to follow the relevant Treaties, Protocols and Policies that were agreed upon when agreement was reached between the two countries.

Minister Mokonyane emphasised that it would have been irresponsible for South Africa to push for the project during such a time in Lesotho and was important that South African government allow them to focus on putting their government in place.

"We can confirm that the project is on course. We had to ensure that there is mutual respect between the two countries and also take into consideration the plans of Lesotho's new government, bring them on board and ensure that they buy in on the plan. We don't want to be seen as dominating the Basotho but be equal. The plan on Phase II is to invest in inclusive growth for Lesotho and South Africa".

The update comes after recent speculations on the nature of the project and procurement processes and funds involved, as well as the attention the project has been receiving from the media and public in general.

Furthermore, Minister Mokonyane told the portfolio committee that the two Governments (South Africa and Lesotho) had finalised and agreed on a new governance structure to the project and a new procurement policy aimed at affirming South Africans and Basotho, in line



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with the Broad Based Black Economic Empowerment principles applicable in South Africa and embraced by the government of Lesotho for this project.

This is intended to guarantee the beneficiation of South African and Lesotho nationals from the opportunities that arise in the development of the LHWP Phase II.

THE END

Issued by the Department of Water & Sanitation

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