

[Media Statement]



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Water sector veteran bows out after illustrious career with TCTA

Today, Trans-Caledon Tunnel Authority (TCTA) announced the departure of one of its long-standing executive team members, Mr Johann Claassens, who retires after having served the entity since 1994.

During his tenure at TCTA, Mr Claassen has overseen the implementation of water infrastructure projects worth multi-billion rands.

Mr Claassens was involved in the establishment of the Lesotho Highlands Water Project (LHWP) since 1987, and then joined TCTA in 1994. He was later appointed by the then Minister of Water Affairs and Forestry as a South African Delegate on the Lesotho Highlands Water Commission (LHWC). In this position, he oversaw the implementation of LHWP on behalf of the governments of South Africa and Lesotho.

Towards the completion of Phase 2B of the LHWP in 2002, Mr Claassens relocated to TCTA's head office in Centurion to take up the position of Project Manager for the implementation of the Berg Water Project in the Western Cape. He later became the Executive Manager responsible for implementing all of TCTA's bulk raw water projects while still serving as a Delegate on the LHWC.

"It has been an exciting journey working for TCTA; I was fortunate to live my passion for water over the past three decades being involved in a number of exciting projects towards enhancing water security for our people", said Mr Claassens.

The Chief Executive Officer for TCTA, Mr Percy Sechemane, expressed his appreciation for the value added by Mr Claassens to the sector over the years. “Mr Claassens has given his all in ensuring that TCTA remains one of the best institutions in project management and implementation”, said Mr Sechemane. “TCTA has lost a very valuable member, his contribution and passion for the organisation will be sorely missed”, he added.

Given the importance of the role in TCTA’s work, the organisation has already appointed Mr Johannes Mavuso as a successor to Mr Claassens, and the handover process has been completed. Mr Mavuso started in his new role at the beginning of June 2022. He comes to TCTA with skills and knowledge in executing mega projects.

Mr Mavuso has led various diverse project teams and amassed a wealth of knowledge and experience in project management, project controls, contract administration and leadership. His professional life spans over 20 years and covers initiating, planning, and delivering mega infrastructure projects.

Among other achievements, Mr Mavuso has successfully executed dozens of mega capital projects in South Africa, Mozambique and Qatar. “I look forward to leveraging my experience and that which already exists within TCTA to enable the organisation to continue delivering value through water infrastructure projects,” he said.

“Water is a critical resource and enabler for social and economic development locally and internationally. Therefore, TCTA is well-positioned to be the world-class enabler of sustainable infrastructure for a water-secure South Africa. I firmly believe that I made the right choice by being part of this strategic and crucial entity in the country,” added Mr Mavuso.

Mr Claassens’s last day at TCTA is today, 30 June 2022.