

## [ Media Statement]



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### **TCTA PARTNERS WITH GOLD ONE TO SOLVE PUMPING CRISIS AT EASTERN BASIN AMD PLANT**

On Friday, 08 July 2022, the Trans-Caledon Tunnel Authority (TCTA) and Newshelf 1186 Pty/Ltd (NS 1186), a subsidiary of Gold One Group Limited, signed a Memorandum of Agreement that will improve the availability and reliability of the Eastern Basin Acid Mine Drainage (AMD) Plant.

The Agreement stipulates that the Gold One subsidiary will procure and deliver the critical equipment (submersible motors and spare parts) for exclusive use at the AMD plant by TCTA. TCTA will be responsible for installing and maintaining the equipment. As part of the Agreement, the equipment is expected to be delivered to the AMD Plant in October 2022 and operational by November 2022.

The Executive Manager for Project Management and Implementation, Johannes Mavuso, said that the Eastern Basin AMD Plant has not been able to treat acid mine water since February 2022 due to the failure of pump motors. "This has affected TCTA's ability to abstract water from the Eastern Basin, thus, resulting in the increase in the AMD level within this basin," he said.

The spare parts for the AMD pump motors were ordered in 2021, but the supplier could not deliver them in time due to the global supply chain challenges relating to COVID-19.

The first batch of spare parts was delivered in June 2022, which will enable the first AMD pump to be operational by August 2022, and a third of the AMD Plant production capacity to be brought online by August 2022. "TCTA is expediting the delivery of the remaining spare parts to ensure that the AMD Plant returns to full production by late this year," stated Mavuso.

With the added assistance provided through this partnership, TCTA is confident that operations at the AMD Plant will revert to normal later this year. Further, its availability will improve in the future, given the criticality of the equipment offered through this partnership.

Mavuso said that TCTA will take all reasonable steps to maintain the continuity of dewatering at the AMD Water Treatment Plant. He also added that, through the partnership, TCTA and NS 1186 will endeavour to ensure the continuous and stable operation of dewatering of the AMD Plant within one month after the equipment has been delivered to TCTA.

“TCTA is delighted with this breakthrough. It appreciates and understands the frustration this has caused affected and interested stakeholders; however, this was an unfortunate situation that couldn’t be avoided. The organisation commits itself to work tirelessly to ensure that it avoids similar incidents in the future,” said Mavuso.

TCTA continues to monitor the AMD water levels in the basin and is expediting the implementation of the remedial actions to ensure that the decant level is not reached. Whereas the Environmental Critical Level of 106 meters has been breached, with the water currently at 53.45 meters, the situation has not reached the dangerous level of a possible decant, which is set at 25 meters below the surface. “As reported previously, the danger of a decant is predicted to be only around December 2022 if the situation were to remain the same,” stated Mavuso.

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