

MEDIA STATEMENT

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TCTA Completes Maintenance Work on LHWP Tunnel North and Ash River Outfall

Trans-Caledon Tunnel Authority (TCTA) announced today the successful completion of maintenance work on the Lesotho Highlands Water Project (LHWP) Tunnel North and Ash River Outfall, meeting the scheduled deadline of 31 March 2025.

TCTA Chief Executive Officer Percy Sechemane confirmed that maintenance on the South African side of the delivery tunnel was concluded as planned. “From the outset of this project, TCTA maintained steady progress despite numerous challenges that could have caused delays, such as elevated moisture levels in the tunnel,” he said.

“As TCTA, we take pride in our commitment to serving the nation with diligence and distinction. We are immensely proud of our consistent ability to deliver projects within budget, on time, and according to specification,” he added.

The six-month maintenance programme on the LHWP Delivery Tunnel began on 1 October 2024. At the time, in a joint statement between South Africa and Lesotho, the Minister of Water and Sanitation, Honourable Pemmy Majodina, expressed her satisfaction with the preparations for the tunnel closure and the work to follow.

Commenting on the project timeline, Sechemane said, “While work on the South African section has been completed on schedule, the Lesotho Highlands Development Authority, which is responsible for the Lesotho side, has requested an extension due to earlier implementation challenges that led to delays. We commend their efforts to accelerate progress and minimise the impact of these delays on water delivery to South Africa.”

The full maintenance programme on the LHWP Tunnel North is expected to be completed by the end of April 2025. “Although there will be a delay of a few weeks before water can resume flowing through the LHWP Tunnel, this is not expected to affect water availability in Gauteng negatively,” said Sechemane.

According to the latest update from the Department of Water and Sanitation, dated 03 April 2024, the Vaal Dam was at 107.3% capacity.

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