



public works

Department:
Public Works
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

Issued by Chief Directorate: Communications

Enquiries: Thami Mchunu 079 519 6997

Issue Date: 17 January 2018

MEDIA STATEMENT

PUBLIC WORKS SETS THE RECORD STRAIGHT ON PARLIAMENT WATER SEEPAGE

The Department of Public Works would like to respond to an issue of water seepage that was in the media space in the Western Cape last week. We would like to state the facts and also to clearly state that the Department of Public Works is not being negligent and is not wasting water in the Parliamentary precinct.

The Department, as the custodian of state properties across the country, including the Parliamentary Precinct, has investigated the water seeping from an outlet in the Parliament precinct. Preliminary findings have revealed that the outlet is linked to various sump areas where non potable, underground, seepage water is being pumped out from. The water is being facilitated via a pump and piping system and is designed in a way that the water reaches the storm water channels outside of the Precinct.

The underground water was also tested and was found not to be fit for human consumption. Currently there is no infrastructure in place where this water can be re-routed to the buildings on the Parliament Precinct so that it may be used as grey water in toilets and other places.

The DPW is also looking into proposals on how best to take advantage of the water, including treating the water and putting infrastructure that will lead to the water being used at the Parliament precinct. Currently, blocking the water is out of question because it would cause flooding.

It is however important to note that the water issue is not linked to lack of maintenance or any negligence.

ENDS

Issued by: Thami Mchunu

National Department of Public Works

0795196997