

Water and Sanitation in the News

Corruption allegations in South Africa's R26 billion water project

Water affairs and sanitation minister Nomvula Mokonyane is in the cross-hairs of the Public Protector after delaying South Africa's Lesotho Highlands Water Project, allegedly to award contracts to a company she has a long-standing relationship with. This is according to [a report by the City Press](#), noting that the Public Protector will meet with Mokonyane over the issue this week.

The project has been delayed by over a year due to Mokonyane's direct intervention, the report said, pushing its completion date to 2025, and pushing the price up to R26 billion (from an original price tag of R22 billion).

The entire project is being funded by taxpayers.

Senior officials told the City Press that the delay was forced by Mokonyane so that consulting firm, LTE Consulting, could get involved.

According to the City Press' findings, LTE has been awarded R5 billion worth of contracts in water and sanitation over the past year. It was also found that the company had donated as much as R3.5 million to the ANC in the past two months.

The standard fee for consultation is 10% of the total cost, the paper said, meaning a spot on the water project could net the company as much as R2.6 billion.

Executives from LTE have reportedly been contacting and paying delegates involved with the project, trying to convince them to give them tenders. When told by officials that the company had to bid for tenders, LTE CEO Thulani Majola allegedly said that he was not interested in bidding, and would approach Mokonyane directly.

Subsequently, the bids for a number of tenders – from other companies – were rejected by the department soon thereafter.

The City Press has detailed a number of hiring and firing practices undertaken by Mokonyane and her department, allegedly in a bid to get "favourable" people involved with the project. This included the removal of officials who had denied LTE tender opportunities.

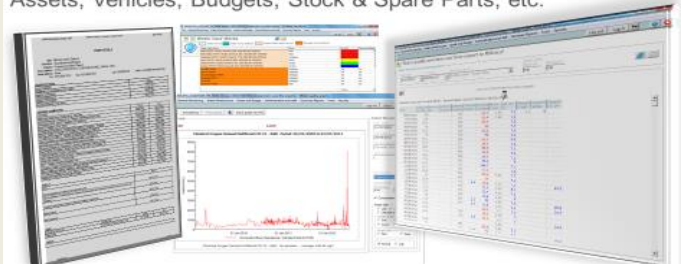
Mokonyane has denied any wrongdoing, calling the accusations false, malicious and speculative, saying the halt and delays in the project were to incorporate much-needed "transformation", to benefit black-owned companies.

Source: [Business Tech, 10 July 2016](#)

The **Municipal Assistant™** system makes provision for **record keeping of historical data**, which is important for doing investigations and analyses, tracking trends in operational performance and the enabling of better service delivery planning – an important component in helping WTW & WWTW adequately cope with current and future load/demand levels.

HISTORICAL DATA

This could be: WQ Data, Flow Data, Staff details, Suppliers, Literature, WTW Details, WWTW Details, Water Demand, Fixed Assets, Vehicles, Budgets, Stock & Spare Parts, etc.



The Municipal Assistant™ system supports local government and other water service providers by means of the following core functionalities:

- **Water quality and quantity monitoring** and management (including demand and loads)
- **Evaluating and reporting compliance** with regulatory water quality standards and criteria
- Assistance in the **compilation of various reports** (including a Blue Drop/Green Drop reporting facility)
- **Asset management** to ensure optimal performance of facilities to produce good quality drinking water and safe discharge to help prevent rivers becoming polluted
- **Operational and maintenance scheduling** of equipment and staff utilisation (helps prevent asset failures and water losses)
- Assistance with **routine and process control inspections** and **incident reporting**
- Compilation of **operational and maintenance budgets** to ensure timely preventative maintenance and replacement of equipment

Ultimately, the system creates a mechanism to enhance the optimal and sustainable management of facilities (financially and technically) and achieve the primary aim of sustainable use of our water resources.

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