



public works & roads

Department:
Public Works and Roads
North West Provincial Government
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

Where does our diesel go...?

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The department has initiated a full audit of all its diesel storage tanks in all the four districts following assertions that substantial fuel is lost due to leakages. But disturbing reports are emerging pointing to wanton theft and siphoning of diesel. The shock revelation have also been confirmed by Directorate Security Services of the department who have since opened a criminal case following the recent theft of diesel at Kameeldoring, Lehurutshe recently. This version has now added fuel to speculation that the acute shortage of diesel, may not only be attributed to purported extensive leakages of the fuel storage tanks.

Theft on a grand scale seems to be a primary cause, with speculation that a syndicate maybe involved. Head of Department (HoD) Moses Kgantsi ordered an immediate investigation and audit of fuel storage facilities. Confirming one of the bizarre incident of diesel theft, in Dr Kenneth Kaunda District; District Director, Collette Anthony related an incident to us in a WhatsApp message:

“... indeed the tanks are very old, and one in Wolmaranstad is leaking. But overall in Wolmaranstad and Klerksdorp we have a serious problem of theft!

“There are two investigations I requested because we cannot continue blaming the security on site in Klerksdorp the circumstances required a deeper investigation because the diesel was delivered one Thursday, the very next day, Friday, it was all stolen by a truck (thousands of litres).

“... the tank was still at the Road Camp on the outskirts of Klerksdorp ... so we closed the Camp, transferred the site back to its owners (Matlosana Local Municipality) and moved our assets (equipment), tank, staff and security guards to town where the sub-district office is based.”

“In Wolmaranstad it's clear the operators of the Tank (our attendants) are involved ... and “have now “created” a leak in the pump” ... but I'm awaiting the outcome of the case ...” With regard to the leakages from some of the diesel storage tanks, it is still unclear, how much of it is lost.

Furthermore, it appears the department has overlooked the serious environmental challenges diesel leaks may pose over time. As an intervention, and provided the infrastructure is indeed old and leaking, Kgantsi proposed that they be replacement with modern diesel storage facilities, which can be properly monitored. A review of the transversal contract tailor made by National Treasury (RT46) which the department uses to purchase diesel is also is being re-looked at with a view to review it. It has emerged that the department entered a five-year agreement.

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