



INTERNET ARTICLE

DWS held a consultative workshop on integrated water quality Management

06 September 2017

The Department of Water and Sanitation (DWS) hosted a public consultation session on the Integrated Water Quality Management (IWQM) Policy, in King William's Town, on the 06 September 2017.

The purpose of the consultation session was to give the relevant stakeholders a platform to engage and forward inputs on the draft Integrated Water Quality Management Policy.

The Integrated Water Quality Management (IWQM) Policy has been updated to be progressive and is now adopting an approach to include new and emerging challenges such as climate change.

Mr. Luvuyo Ziganga presented a paper on norms and standards for domestic water and sanitation services, where he indicated that people's needs are for potable water in an equitable and integrated way while making the most efficient use of water and other resources.

Norms and standards of water services outlines issues such as the reasonable walking distance in getting the resource at an approximate distance of 100m. Households are expected to utilise water volumes of 1500 litres per week, said Ziganga.

Stakeholders engaged Ziganga on the use of greywater. He responded by saying that the DWS is busy formulating the greywater guidelines.

According to Mr Divan Van Niekerk who presented a paper on mine water management policy, this process aims to strengthen the protection of water resources from mine water contamination for both the short to long term period. The policy on mine water aims to address issues such as mine closure, responsibility for water resource protection and dutiful care of South African rivers, said Van Niekerk.

Ms. Nombuyiselo Mgca asked a question about when the DWS will be liable to close the unattended or abandoned mines. The issue of mine closure resides with the Department of Mineral Resources.

In his closing remarks, Director for Water Regulation and Use, Andrew Lucas said one of the challenges around water quality is threatening human health, food production, reducing ecosystem functions, and delaying economic growth.

Lameki Jumba