



INTERNET ARTICLE

DWS regions make valuable input into the National Water and Sanitation draft Bill

08 March 2018

The nine regions of the Department of Water and Sanitation (DWS) converged under one roof to get the wheels turning to take the process of drafting the National Water and Sanitation Bill forward.

The consultation session took place on 08 - 09 March 2018 at Roodeplaat.

The draft Bill will collapse both the National Water Act and the Water Services Act which are currently governing the sector into a single legislation. The envisaged legislation will do away with cross reading of the two legislations.

Officials from different units of the department were provided with an opportunity to make inputs and also critique the draft Bill so that it falls within the constitutional confines and reaches its object and purpose.

Acting Chief Director: Water Use Authorisation from Head Office, Mr Siphosiso Skosana, said the consultation was meant to gather inputs for streamlining the legislative regime of the department and ensure that the business of the department found resonance with one consolidated piece of legislation.

Mr Skosana said: "This consultation therefore provides the platform for the DWS officials to advance practical implementation experiences necessary to inform and couch the content of the Bill."

Ms Thobile Mthiyane from Policy Directorate: Head Office said the consultation session played a vital part in capturing the different voices within the department to produce legislation that is comprehensive and all inclusive.

"I find the session very useful in ensuring that the department as a whole speaks with one voice and a common understanding is created in terms of what goes into the Bill that will be implemented by everyone in their areas of responsibility," said Ms Mthiyane.

The Bill has already passed through a number of milestones towards being passed into law. For instance, the Bill has gone past the preliminary certification stage which is done by the State Law Adviser after which further refinement on the Bill were immediately undertaken.

Some of the significant stages that are still to be undertaken include presentation of the Bill by the Director-General for discussion and recommendation at Social Protection Community and Human Development (SPCHD) and Economic Sector Employment and Infrastructure Development (ESEID) Clusters and another



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presentation at Cabinet by the Minister for gazetting for public comments. Public consultation will take place over a 90-day period which is still to be defined.

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