



INTERNET ARTICLE

Deputy Minister Tshabalala reiterates the importance of effective management of water resources to ensure development in the country

20 April 2024

Water and Sanitation Deputy Minister Judith Tshabalala hosted a robust community engagement on Water User License Application (WULA) at the Westonaria Banquet Hall in the Rand West District Municipality, where she emphasised the importance of water user license as a means to ensure effective water resource management.

The WULA workshop, held on Friday, April 19, aimed to provide an in-depth understanding of the application process, engage in sustainable water management practices, facilitate networking opportunities, and empower disadvantaged communities.

The Deputy Minister was joined by the MEC for Corporative Governance and Traditional Affairs in Gauteng, Mzikayifane Khumalo, Deputy Mayor of the Rand West Municipality, Cllr Nontombi Dyase, Deputy Director-General for Compliance and Sector Monitoring at the Department of Forestry, Fisheries and Environment (DFFE), Vanessa Bendeman, and Chief Director of the Agriculture Farmers Support Programme at the Department of Agriculture, Land Reform and Rural Development (DALRRD), Eldah Mtshiza.

In her opening remarks, Deputy Minister Tshabalala highlighted the significance of the workshop and how it is supposed to benefit the public.

“The purpose is to allow you space to network, those who applied, those who have been on the waiting list, those who have been experiencing challenges in so far as this water licensing is concerned. This should be fruitful and should be focused on yourselves,” said the Deputy Minister.

Activities that require water use authorisation include the development of facilities or infrastructure for animal concentration such as pigs, rabbits, crocodiles, ostriches, poultry aquaculture, the development of facilities or infrastructure for animal slaughter such as poultry, game, red meat, and more.

Additionally, water use authorisation is required for the development and operation of hatcheries or agri-industrial facilities; for an area of 300 square meters or more of indigenous vegetation in specified geographical areas; and of 1 hectare or more of indigenous vegetation.

SOUTH AFRICA IS A WATER SCARCE COUNTRY





water & sanitation

Department:
Water and Sanitation
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA



During the question and answer session, community members and stakeholders alike commended the department for the initiative, saying that the workshop will make things easier for the disadvantaged when they undergo application process.

In the same breath, however, they expressed their concerns about water regulations in the country, requesting the government take immediate action against those who claim to sell purified water in their shops. Community members also asked for intervention in spaces where racism is rife and less-literate individuals are taken for granted and are unwittingly made to sign away their land and water use licenses.

In response to the queries, the Deputy Minister said each concern is noted and attended to. The Deputy-Minister promised that a follow-up meeting would be convened to provide feedback to the concerns raised.

Deputy Minister Tshabalala stressed the importance of effective management water resources in promoting development in South Africa.

"It is not the intention of the Department to make the lives of our citizens difficult by going through the tedious journey of having to apply for a water use licence. We do it because we have been entrusted with powers to ensure that water is managed in the best interest of all citizens.

"We welcome your input and complaints with open mind and we are very much resolute in our quest of addressing whatever challenge you have in water use licensing," Deputy Minister Tshabalala concluded.

Mashile Tshigofatso

SOUTH AFRICA IS A WATER SCARCE COUNTRY



Department of Water and Sanitation South Africa



DWS RSA