



water & sanitation

Department:
Water and Sanitation
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

INTERNET ARTICLE

DWS's Gauteng region gears for improved service in new financial year

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The Gauteng Region's Department of Water and Sanitation strategic planning session became a theatre of ideas as officials mapped out ways of stepping up their endeavours towards improving the living conditions of the public.

The two-day session, which took place on 23-24 March 2017 at the department's Roodeplaat Training Centre, took stock of the performance of the various units for the soon-to-end financial year and to craft a plan for the new year.

Addressing officials at the planning session, provincial head Sibusiso Mthembu, said it was vital that officials pulled together in one direction to make the Gauteng region one of the regions to be reckoned with.

Mthembu said although officials may have different outlooks in the way the goals of the department could be achieved, they needed to work as a team because no one person could arrogate to themselves all the knowledge to deal with the challenges facing the public.

Emphasising the officials' adherence to the legislative prescripts, Mthembu encouraged them to always strive to operate within the prism of the law in discharging their work, citing acts inconsistent with professional ethics as undesirable in the public sector.

Amongst the presentations that drew a lot of reaction was the issue of paying suppliers within 30 days. The meeting unanimously agreed that a lot more still needed to be done to comply with this requirement as non-compliance with it only serves to cast the department in a bad light.

Transport and Fleet Management's Richard Mkhabele made a presentation which gave officials something to think about as he cautioned about misuse of government vehicles that was increasingly taking root.

Judging by the mixed bag of responses from the officials, it was clear that they had taken Mthembu's remarks to heart.

Director of Water Sector Regulation, Donald Mabada, likened the planning session to a process of purifying and shaping gold, saying the planning session provided them a platform to come up with innovative ideas which they should refine to incisively address issues of development.

"This planning session is an opportunity of all of us to participate in shaping the course as we plan for the new financial year. It is also an opportunity to debate, disagree but eventually come up with a solid plant that will take the department to the next level in terms of delivering services to the communities," said Mabada.



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Corporate Management acting deputy director, Lucky Manqele, said the planning session provided him a vehicle through which to deal with the issue of office space because for officials to be productive they required a conducive and an enabling environment.

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