



water & sanitation

Department:
Water and Sanitation
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

INTERNET ARTICLE

Etwatwa Water and Sanitation Forum ready to tackle pressing issues

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The Etwatwa Water and Sanitation Forum in Ekurhuleni Metro has its work cut out for it after its members took part in a workshop on various aspects of their daily work to stamp out challenges in the community.

The workshop, which took place on Friday, 31 March 2017, was organized by the Department of Water and Sanitation (DWS) to impart vital information on a number of issues that should form part of the forums' activities.

Amongst the issues that were presented are water and sanitation policies, illegal connections and its implications, water tariffs and billing system and Water Restrictions and licencing.

Setting the scene for the workshop, DWS's Water Sector Support Deputy Director, Fikile Mokonoto, said forums across the country were being established to be at the coalface of development issues in communities and to work speedily to address challenges relating to water and sanitation.

Mokonoto said members of the forums had a responsibility to work hand in hand with the public to ensure that they were informed about what government was doing and what they planned to do. She reiterated that the very existence of the forums was to plug the void between government and the public.

Tenda Rasikhanya who is a Deputy Director in DWS's Chief Director: Water Policy, gave a detailed presentation on the department's policies, cautioning that at some point the forum would have to take unpopular decisions.

"Sometimes decisions that you will have to take will be unpopular. But then, you will have a peace of mind knowing that those decisions are based on the law. These decisions must be based on the Constitution as the supreme law of the land," said Rasikhanya.

He said it was helpful for members of the forum to understand that the departmental policies were meant to fix the imperfections of the past and to chart a way forward towards a transformed society.

Rasikhanya, however, advised that given the unlimited resources government had to take reasonable measures to progressively achieve its goals, calling on the members of the forum to communicate this to the public.

Mokonoto, who also made a presentation on behalf of DWS's Planning and Information, informed the forum about the lifting of restrictions in Gauteng, highlighting the importance of the role of the forum in urging to public to use water sparingly.

A member of the forum, Mandla Dlamini, it was clear that the forum had a lot of work to do given the number of pressing issues that came out in the workshop. Amongst other these included paying for accessing of toilets in public spaces and local malls, non-payment of rates and



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“As a forum we need to have a consolidated list of activities which includes plans of the department and those of other important stakeholders such as East Rand Water Care Company (ERWAT) so as to make an impact in the community,” Dlamini concluded.

Hosia Sithole