



INTERNET ARTICLE

Mines engaged on mine water management policy

12 October 2017

The Department of Water and Sanitation (DWS) engaged mines from around the Olifants and Inkomati-Usuthu water management areas in a consultation session to look and input at the draft mine water management policy to ensure that the final policy is inclusive of all concerns and inputs from all relevant stakeholders. The consultation session was held in Mbombela on the 10th of October 2017. In his opening and welcoming remarks, the Acting Provincial Head, Mr Masala Mulaudzi thanked the stakeholders for being active citizens and providing constructive inputs towards an inclusive policy.

Acid Mine Drainage (AMD) and related mine water impacts have in the past decade evolved to become a major environmental challenge. In consideration of the mineral wealth still locked across various parts of South Africa and the potential this deposit has for local economic development and attracting foreign investment, as well as recognising that other such mining-intensive areas may also manifest similar post-mining AMD impacts, it was prudent the DWS formulates a policy principle to support its response to mine water challenges.

The mine water management policy sets out the policy principles that strive to strengthen the protection of the water resources from mine water contamination from short to long term. The policy principles enshrined herein are informed by the current legislative framework on water resource management. This policy will provide basis for holding parties potentially liable for negative effects and damages of acid mine drainage (AMD) related pollution and/or any other negative impacts that can be related to AMD. The policy seeks to propose mechanisms that mining houses ought to explore to better manage their water. Intertwined to solution driven policy principles of the proposal, is the objective to open a room for the Department to proactively safeguard and promote accountable mine water management. The Department supports the polluter pays principle.



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The stakeholders made constructive inputs in the policy and thanked the Department for affording them the opportunity to make inputs into the policy for the better management of mine water for the protection of the water resources and the environment.

Themba Khoza