



## water & sanitation

Department:  
Water and Sanitation  
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

### INTERNET ARTICLE

#### **DWS in Limpopo holds LIMCOM Stakeholder Workshop**

**15 November 2018**

The Department of Water and Sanitation in Limpopo together with the Climate Resilient Infrastructure Development Facility (CRIDF) on Tuesday, the 13<sup>th</sup> November 2018 held the Limpopo Watercourse Commission (LIMCOM) stakeholders workshop at The Ranch Protea Hotel in Polokwane.

The LIMCOM was established after the Southern African Development Community (SADC) Revised Protocol on Shared Watercourses was signed on August the 7<sup>th</sup> in 2000, with the objective to foster closer cooperation for judicious, sustainable and coordinated management, protection and utilization of shared watercourses and advance the SADC agenda of regional integration and poverty alleviation.

The Protocol came into effect in 2003 and called for the need to establish river basin institutions, such as river basin commissions, joint water commissions and water sharing agreements. It is within this framework that the riparian states of the Limpopo river basin, namely Botswana, Mozambique, South Africa and Zimbabwe, signed the Agreement for the Establishment of the Limpopo Watercourse Commission (LIMCOM) in 2003, to among other objectives advise the Contracting Parties and provide recommendations on the uses of the Limpopo, its tributaries and its waters for purposes and measures of protection, preservation and management of the river.

The workshop was held with the objective to increase the understanding of the benefits for trans-boundary water cooperation in the Limpopo River Basin. To also engage national stakeholders to understand their aspirations towards updating the LIMCOM vision, for the sustainable development and management of water resources, that accommodates perspectives from each of the Riparian States. The consultation workshops are led by the LIMCOM Technical Task Team (TTT) with the support from CRIDF and bring together the government representatives and key stakeholders in the basin to initiate, inform and discuss issues affecting the basin.

“The aim is to update the Integrated Water Resources Management (IWRM) strategic plan vision and develop a long term basin wide shared joint vision for sustainable development



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and management of the Limpopo Basin to guide planning and implementation in the basin. The shared joint vision is based on the existing tradition of good neighbourliness and close co-operation, and also the need to provide the people of the region with access to sufficient water supplies”, said Mr Charles Reeve of the CRIDF.

Addressing the workshop, Limpopo’s Acting Regional Head, Mr Lesiba Tloubatla indicated that it is important for delegates from different countries to participate as that will help in finding long lasting solutions for the water crisis facing the Limpopo Basin.

“The objectives that will be discussed by the workshop will contribute to the long-term process of enhancing long term basin resilience. Each of the objectives will be addressed through collaborative approaches that draw on national stakeholders’ experiences and understanding of localised issues,” said Mr Tloubatla.

“Collaboration with regard to the utilisation and the development of the Limpopo as a water resource of common interest could significantly contribute towards the mutual benefit, peace, security, welfare and prosperity of the peoples of the Region”, concluded Mr Tloubatla.

**Malope Matlou**