



## water & sanitation

Department:  
Water and Sanitation  
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

### INTERNET ARTICLE

#### **Eastern Cape Water Committee meets to discuss water and sanitation issues**

27 August 2018

The Department of Water and Sanitation in Eastern Cape recently held the Eastern Cape Water Committee (ECWAC) in Bisho to discuss water and sanitation issues in the region in preparation for the upcoming Provincial Water Forum (PROWAF).

The ECWAC is chaired by the Provincial Head, Ms Portia Makhanya, who in her opening statement emphasized the need for all water stakeholders to work together in a concerted effort to make Eastern Cape a better place. She further said that ECWAC needed to prepare thoroughly so that when the PROWAF eventually meets, the ground work ought to have been done so that the two structures can complement each other in the implementation of water services programmes.

The meeting was attended by various municipalities, Amatola Water Board, South African Local Government Association (Salga), Water Research Commission, Office of the Premier and the Department of Cooperative Governance and Traditional Affairs (Cogta).

Municipalities were given a platform to share their experiences and challenges in their respective areas of operation. Most municipalities shared common challenges such as illegal connections, water leakages, ageing infrastructure, theft and vandalism of infrastructure and nonfunctioning of water schemes.

Mr Sabelo Tini, from the unit of Revenue Enhancement for Municipalities (Cogta), highlighted that most municipalities are struggling with the collection of revenue and this might have an effect on the delivery of basic services because of non-availability of funds in the municipal coffers.

Ms Makhanya highlighted that municipalities are failing to spend money allocated to them by the DWS through Regional Bulk Infrastructure Grant, and that the department resolved not to give money to such municipalities.

**Lameki Jumba**