



INTERNET ARTICLE

DWS conducts an orientation course on Integrated Water Resource Management

18 September 2023

The Department of Water and Sanitation (DWS) conducted an intensive orientation course on Integrated Water Resource Management (IWRM) from the 11th to the 15th of September 2023 at the Roodeplaats Training Centre.

The five-day course was intended to orientate and capacitate the new officials and provide the current officials with developments and new initiatives in IWRM within the DWS Head Office, Regional Offices, Catchment Management Agencies (CMA) and Proto-CMAs. Approximately forty officials attended over the five days.

The course covered different and fundamental topics such as: water use authorisation, technical and engineering water related concepts, waste management, pollution incidents, legislative tools. All officials who attended had to undertake an intensified assessment on the fifth day. Successful officials will receive credits from the South African Council for Natural Scientific Professions (SACNASP) if they are registered.

One of the course presenters, Ms Avhashoni Nefale, who is a Deputy Director in Compliance Monitoring, presented on irrigation. She advised that one of the roles of Compliance Monitoring is to ensure that Water User Associations (WUA's) or Irrigation Boards (IB's) comply with their entitlements within the area of operation. This means that WUA's and IB's must comply with the limits and conditions of their entitlements, which can be in the form of Approved Schedules, Permits and Licenses, Water Court Orders and Limits and Conditions given in the National Water Act.

DWS, acting through the Minister, has the power and mandate to the following:

- To regulate the allocations, use, flow and control of all water in the Republic of South Africa through the implementation of the National Water Act;
- Expects full compliance with legislation by all irrigation water users to whom these statutes apply;
- Compliance with all authorisations issued under DWS legislation (National Water Act and relevant);

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- To ensure that the regulated community or irrigators obey the laws.

In a case where the department discovers that there is non-compliance to entitlements, depending on the seriousness of the non-compliance, the following may occur:

- The water user may be advised on how the uncertainties could be removed and how the matter could be taken forward; or
- The case may be handed over to the Enforcement section for enforcement actions to rectify the non-compliance where non-compliance has been found.

The attendees were given an opportunity to ask questions and address concerns, especially matters that they encounter while executing daily tasks within the work environment. This enabled the course to be a powerful tool as they will go back to their work environments with better knowledge.

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