



MEDIA STATEMENT

DWS reinforces ethical behaviour at the International Fraud Awareness Week commemoration in Limpopo

18 November 2025

The Department of Water and Sanitation (DWS) commemorated the International Fraud Awareness Week, a global campaign led by the Association of Certified Fraud Examiners (ACFE) on 17 November 2025, in Tzaneen, Limpopo.

The International Fraud Awareness Week serves as an important reminder of the collective responsibility to combat fraud, corruption, and unethical conduct. DWS recognises the critical need to uphold the highest standards of integrity, accountability, and transparency.

On the commemoration day, the Department reaffirmed its ongoing commitment to promoting an ethical culture, improving awareness among employees, and strengthening internal controls to mitigate fraud risks. Officials were encouraged to continuously uphold values that protect public resources and strengthen trust in the department.

Through such gatherings, the Department remain dedicated to building a working environment that actively resists fraudulent behaviour and supports integrity-driven public service. Whilst DWS made meaningful strides in detecting and responding to corruption, it is evident that the Department requires constant vigilance and collaboration.

DWS recommits to its founding values of integrity, accountability, and transparency. The Department pledges to remain open, rigorous, and unrelenting in the fight against fraud, to safeguard public resources, and to deliver equitable, sustainable water and sanitation for all.

Ms Toto, who is part of the Forensic Investigations Unit at the Department, explained that strategies of dealing with fraud at the Department includes: training & awareness, clear policies & procedures, physical and information security, timely & thorough employee vetting, risk management, strong internal controls, investigation, and cooperation with agencies. "Preventing fraud is a team effort, don't sit on the sidelines. If you see something, say something and save our tomorrow," she added.

Ms Roelofs, who is part of the Compliance Audit Unit, spoke about the importance of government compliance. She listed the reasons for compliance as follows: legal obligation, public trust, accountability, prevention of corruption, and efficiency & credibility. She further explained that compliance in government applies to everyone involved in public service. "Trust takes years to build, seconds to break and forever to repair," she said to the audience.



From the 18th to the 20th of November, the team will continue its outreach efforts by conducting a series of fraud-prevention presentations across Limpopo. This is to ensure wide coverage and accessibility. The team will be divided into four groups – Team A, Team B, Team C, and Team D – each deployed to different sites to engage officials through targeted fraud-awareness sessions.

DWS remain committed to rooting out corruption, reaffirms its zero-tolerance policy on fraud, ethical breaches, and misuse of public resources. Furthermore, the Department is committed to strengthening accountability, transparency, and integrity in every facet.

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Issued by the Department of Water & Sanitation For more information, contact DWS Head of Communications, Dr Mandla Mathebula on 083 235 8675/ MathebulaM@dws.gov.za

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