



## water & sanitation

Department:  
Water and Sanitation  
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA



# LETTER TO THE EDITOR

11 July 2021

### **Water Use Licence, a catalyst and flywheel for economic growth**

To further improve communication between Government and potential Water Use Licence Applicants (WULAs), the National Department of Water and Sanitation (DWS) is hosting a webinar to explain and discuss Water Use Licence Application (WULA) processes on 23 and 30 July 2021. These WULA webinars target agriculture and other sectors and aim to;

- Educate potential water use applicants on Western Cape about water use and different permit types
- Explain the 90-day WULA and appeal period, including the different phases and requirements for current and potential water users;
- Communicate the responsibilities of potential applicants in the application process.

The National Water Act 36 of 1998 provides for only one right to water, namely the reserve. This is the water needed to sustain the ecosystem and basic human needs. With the exception of water needed for the reserve and basic human needs, all other uses of water must be approved by DWS or a Catchment Management Agency (CMA) through an authorization process..

As DWS, we have identified lack of information from applicants and lack of comments from professionals as some of the factors that delay the issuance of water use licences (WULs). Moreover, in recent months, government has highlighted WULs as one of the catalysts to revive the economy from the ashes of the COVID -19 pandemic. This has led to WULs occupying a prominent place on the agenda of government to drive the implementation of structural reforms.

Accelerating the WUL process is at the heart of DWS's strategy to promote growth. Accordingly, DWS recently revised its regulations on procedural requirements for water use licence applications and appeals to allow the WULs to be issued within 90 days.

As opposed to the previously required 300 days for processing, the time frames have been significantly revised. The revised timeframes for finalising the water use licence application ensure that DWS is an active and responsible participant within the economic and social sector.

The new reforms in the water use licence process can only be effective if there are solid and efficient lines of communication between government and potential water users.

The WULA webinar for the agriculture sector is scheduled for July 23, while the other sectors will be held together on July 30, 2021.



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As DWS, we want to ensure the quality of the virtual sessions, so each WULA webinar is open to a limited number of 200 people. Therefore, it is critical that interested parties confirm their attendance as soon as possible to receive the Microsoft invitation link.

Water use licencing as a catalyst for growth is a flywheel that DWS will use to help develop an inclusive economy from the ashes of the current COVID -19 pandemic.

For RSVP to be part of the WULA Webinars, kindly contact M.Mpofu on 082 370 6826 email [MpofuM@dws.gov.za](mailto:MpofuM@dws.gov.za) or T. Valashiya on [ValashiyaT@dws.gov.za](mailto:ValashiyaT@dws.gov.za) 072 368 0770

For more information on the WULA Webinars contact Malusi Rayi on 083 320 1249 Email: [RayiM@dws.gov.za](mailto:RayiM@dws.gov.za)

Water is Life, Sanitation is Dignity

**Ms Boniswa Hene: Acting Provincial Head, DWS Western Cape**