



Internet Article

DWS Western Cape swift response to COVID-19 pandemic

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The National Institute for Communicable Diseases (NICD) confirmed the first COVID-19 case on 05 March 2020. Pro-actively, the Department of Water and Sanitation (DWS) in the Western Cape heeded to the call made by the President, Cyril Ramaphosa that Government departments must implement co-ordinated interventions to reverse the scourge of COVID-19.

Under the leadership of the Western Cape Director: Administration Ms. Lydia Peter, a Work Place Preparedness Committee (WPPC) was established and its core mandate is to ensure that the workplace is conducive to minimize the spread of the novel Coronavirus.

Peter says that while DWS mandate in providing sustainable water supply is critical in the face of COVID-19, it became important to strike the balance between service delivery and safeguarding the health of personnel. "It is for this reason we adopted a **Safety first** approach in executing our daily duties", says Peter.

The DWS Western Cape WPPC has to date achieved the following;

- The establishment of WPPC is composed of representatives from the Bellville's main office, other satellite offices, and Labour Unions (NEHAWU and PSA)
- Development and implementation of a comprehensive checklist to pro-actively monitor the provincial COVID-19 workplace interventions.
- By now, all DWS Western Cape personnel have received COVID-19 protective kits including face masks, shields, sanitizers, etc.
- Communication through various platforms including visible posters in all DWS buildings is used to educate employees about the pandemic. The messages related to COVID 19 are updated from time to time to profile different messages.

"I salute Provincial officials serving in the WPPC and Occupational Health and Safety (OHS) personnel for their selfless contribution and dedication in safeguarding the health and wellness of all employees", says Peter.





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The DWS Western Cape Provincial office through its management will continue to observe health and safety protocols related to COVID-19 pandemic.

Malusi Rayi



Department of Water and Sanitation South Africa



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