



INTERNET ARTICLE

DWS held workshop to capacitate Councilors

26 July 2022

The Department of Water and Sanitation (DWS) in collaboration with South African Local Government Association (SALGA) conducted a Councilor Development Induction Programme for the newly elected councilors to the portfolio of water and sanitation or infrastructure in Sarah Baartman District Municipality (SBDM), Gqeberha on the 26 July 2022.

The Provincial Executive Council (PEC) member of SALGA, Cllr Wongama Gela said these inductions are very important for the new elected councilors to the portfolios of infrastructure or water because they will be able to understand issues of water and sanitation. He said the aim of the inductions is to empower councilors with information that will assist them in making informed decisions in their new roles.

The Department prepares for the induction with six (6) modules to empower councilors of SBDM. Among modules which were presented was Legislative Framework, Water Chart, Water Services Regulation, Social and Economic Regulation, Water and Sanitation Services Planning and Compliance Monitoring and Enforcement.

Siboniso Ndlovu from DWS presented a Legislative Framework module which informed councilors on measures that are needed to encourage community members to pay water and for the municipality to also be able to collect revenue.

Councilors got an opportunity to engage with the presenters and various issues were addressed. Councillor Mncedi Mali from Blue Crane Local Municipality said the workshop has clarified some of the confusing factors, especially with regard to the municipality that can either be a Water Service Provider (WSP) and a Water Services Authority (WSA).

Patrick Maunatlala from DWS Head Office explained to the workshop that any municipality can be WSP or WSA. He further said WSA is to ensure water access to the consumers, whereas WSP is to provide water services effectively and efficiently.

Executive Mayor of SBDM, Cllr Deon de Vos, said "as the District Municipality we have a major role to empower Local municipalities to perform excellent well this function of water and sanitation because



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we have a challenge of shortages of water to our areas. Therefore, this workshop is so important because it helped us to understand in depth the whole value chain of water and sanitation. Councilors should know that they are doing an oversight role in making sure that quality service delivery reaches our communities especially on water and sanitation”.

Lameki Jumba

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