

INTERNET ARTICLE

DWS in Northern Cape to expedite issuing of Water Use Licences

03 February 2022

The Department of Water and Sanitation (DWS) in the Northern Cape is seized with its drive to eradicate backlog in the issuing and finalisation of Water Use Licences to applicants in the province.

According to the Director responsible for Institutional Establishment in the Northern Cape Provincial Office, Tenda Rasikhanya, they are working on a new strategy to speedily eradicate the backlog and issue as many licences to the applicants as possible.

“The backlog will soon be the thing of the past and we will implement our new strategy to meet the targets as set out in the new turnaround time, which is 90 days to process applications and issue licences”, he emphasised.

Rasikhanya says the new turnaround time, from 300 days to 90 days has not been easy, however, he added that, necessary decisions have had to be taken to ensure that the set objectives are achieved to drastically address the backlog issue.

“We have suspended all nonessential travel to ensure that we have maximum capacity of officials to eradicate the backlog. The only exception to travel will be in instances where an official cannot reasonably process a water licence without face-to-face interaction with a client or having to visit a specific location”, he stressed.

Furthermore, he outlined other challenges they face in speedily issuing licences, saying they include delays from the applicants in supplying all the necessary documentation on time as required.

“Sometimes we struggle with basic information from the applicants such as personal information and technical reports that we need from them. We are also looking at doing more to enhance stakeholder relations with other role players to expedite the process of finalising a Water License Applications”, he concluded.

Amogelang Moholoeng

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