



INTERNET ARTICLE

DWS presents regulations for Unconventional Gas Resolutions to communities of Matatiele

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The Department of Water and Sanitation (DWS) conducted unconventional gas regulation public engagement meeting with communities of Matatiele to inform them of the regulations developed by the Department. Matatiele is a potential area that will be affected by unconventional gas drilling or “fracking”.

“The purpose of the Department of Water and Sanitation in conducting this public engagement on Unconventional Gas Regulation is to protect the water resources for those activities that are going to happen. Matatiele is one of the areas that is going to have hydraulic fracturing. The DWS has therefore developed regulations to ensure that underground water resources is not contaminated by unconventional gas activities that is going to occur in Matatiele”, said Mr Rendani Ndou of DWS.

The stakeholder engagement was attended by a ward councilor of Matatiele Local Municipality and community members. The community members were given an opportunity to engage with DWS presenters on the regulations drafted by the Department.

Cllr Kabelo Sephuhle of Ward 24 raised a serious concern about the dangers that may be caused by the drilling of the unconventional gases.

Cllr James Luthuli also highlighted the fact that the source of water at rural communities of Matatiele are boreholes. He said the drilling of the unconventional gases or “fracking” has a potential of contaminating the water sources, and it therefore important that DWS has developed these regulations to protect the communities from consuming water that has been contaminated by the unconventional gas activities.

Deon Ricketos from Department of Environmental Affairs says they agree with the Department of Water and Sanitation in developing regulations that will protect water resources in communities.

Lameki Jumba