



## water & sanitation

Department:  
Water and Sanitation  
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

### INTERNET ARTICLE

#### DWS Service Delivery Improvement Plan 2014 - 2017

24 November 2014

*The Department of Water and Sanitation (DWS) must provide leadership and support to the water sector in the utilisation of appropriate technologies, especially given the growing concerns regarding the escalating cost per capita of providing water and sanitation to consumers.*

*This also means DWS has to improve on levels of operation and maintenance of water supply and sanitation systems.*

*According to the DWS Service Delivery Improvement Plan 2014-2017, this need is further underscored by the fact that sustainable water resources management in South Africa is becoming increasingly challenging as: **demands** on South Africa's finite water resources increase, making less water available to serve competing agricultural, industrial, mining and household needs; the **quality** of both surface and groundwater deteriorate due to urban, mining and agricultural activities, dysfunctional sewage treatment works and growth of settlements; **climate change** models predict radically changing precipitation, evaporation and transpiration rates and variation in rainfall distribution patterns for South Africa; the **cost** of obtaining new supplies of potable water increases as more distant sources are tapped; and the **cost of treatment** water supply and waterborne sewage increases due to the growing demand for water as South Africa is a water-scarce country.*

*According to the Strategic Framework for Water Services (SFWS) published in 2003, the South African government commits itself to supporting the development and dissemination of appropriate and environmentally friendly technologies and approaches in the water sector. The National Water Act, No. 38 of 1998, (NWA) stipulates that equity, sustainability and efficiency are the guiding principles of water resources management in South Africa. The Second National Water Resources Strategy, as well as the Water Allocation Reform Strategy (2008), makes specific reference to innovative, unconventional and creative options in addressing inequalities in access to water for productive purposes.*

*The vision guiding the National Strategic Framework for Water Services (2003) is access to adequate, safe, appropriate and affordable water and sanitation services. The National Water Resource Strategy (2004) supports this vision by encouraging equitable access to water services, the efficient and sustainable use of water resources, and the maximising of benefits of use. This is further supported by the National Water Resources Strategy 2 (NWRS-2) of 2013 in its focus on sustaining water resources through good governance, improved management of resources, improved institutional frameworks, strong sector capacity and various other mechanisms and concepts (DWA, 2013).*

*The country's Vision 2030 including the state's National Government Outcomes notes that for its vision for 2030, the South African government in its National Development Plan (NDP)*



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*states that poverty should be eradicated and inequality reduced through job creation and expansion of infrastructure.*

*The actions towards transition to a low carbon economy, transformation of urban and rural spaces, improvement in education and training, quality healthcare, accountability, building a capable state and uniting society are paramount. The government's resulting New Growth Path (NGP) concentrates on inclusive growth and development in a vibrant and growing economy through diversification and wide participation of all citizens to reduce poverty and inequality.*

*The plan notes that in 2010 the Cabinet Lekgotla adopted 12 Government Outcomes as key indicators for the National Government's Programme of Action for 2010-14. A number of these outcomes impact on the water sector and therefore on the implementation and use of Appropriate Technology in the water sector, such as: **Outcome 2: A long and healthy life for all South Africans; Outcome 5: A skilled and capable workforce to support an inclusive growth path; Outcome 6: Provision for investment in water infrastructure to support economic development; Outcome 7: Vibrant, equitable and sustainable rural communities with food security for all and Outcome 8: Sustainable human settlements and improved quality of household life.***

*In terms of Outcome 9, this means the process should be a responsive, accountable, effective and efficient local government system. Outcome 10 pertains to environmental assets and natural resources that are well protected and continually enhanced.*

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