



water & sanitation

Department:
Water and Sanitation
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

INTERNET ARTICLE

DWS strengthens enforcement

19 February 2015

Following the successes of enforcement week, the Department of Water and Sanitation is now strengthening its clamping down on unlawful water users. The DWS is implementing a zero tolerance approach towards unauthorized water use by anyone to ensure permissible water use.

According to Compliance, Monitoring and Enforcement (CME), the section tasked with enforcement, they have to monitor and enforce compliance for infractions of stated rules, with the intention of eliminating undesirable conduct. Consequences of the infringement could be a fine, imprisonment or both.

The Department of Water and Sanitation as the custodian of South Africa's water resources has to promote effective and efficient water resource management to ensure sustainable economic and social development.

The department's mandate is met through different enforcement actions on transgressors who use water outside of the authorisations received or even without authorisations. The unit has been set up to curb water transgressions, to ensure the protection of all water resources in the country and to ensure compliance with water legislation and enforcement where non-compliance is identified.

The following is an example of unlawful water use infringements that DWS is confronted with on a daily basis:

Illegal abstraction of water from a water source: an example would be a farmer who has a river that is passing through their farm and would choose to illegally erect sprinklers to water their fields. The sprinkler would be used round the clock, day and night. This would then put other farmers downstream at a disadvantage, without water.

Storing water illegally (illegal dams): this would be where a user who without a licence or permit, constructs a dam on his property, impacting on the natural flow of the river or stream, and privately storing huge quantities of water on his/her property. The dam would then be operating without a permit.

Waste disposal: where pollution of a water course occurs by dumping animal carcasses and fat remnants from an abattoir, effluent from an industrial or mining operation, irrigation or other flows from farms, or even municipal dump sites in close proximity.

Impeding or diverting flow of water: this would be by constructing illegal dams or canals in the middle of a river, thus other users downstream not receiving enough water because the course of the river had been altered.

Illegally using water for recreational purposes: in most cases a boat or canoe needs a permit, for example, on any land adjacent to a watercourse in order to continue boating. Consideration on what effect this use could have on the quantity and quality of water is essential. This water use needs to be managed and controlled, however certain people risk operating illegally.



water & sanitation

Department:
Water and Sanitation
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

All of the citizens of this country have a responsibility to safeguard the very critical and scarce resource that the DWS is mandated to ensure is always available for all socio-economic development.

Report water crime to Enforcement@dwa.gov.za

Thabang Molai

Issued by the Department of Water & Sanitation

For more information contact Sputnik Ratau, Director Media Liaison, DWS, at 082 874 2942

**For media releases, speeches and news visit the Water & Sanitation portal at:
www.dwa.gov.za**