



## water & sanitation

Department:  
Water and Sanitation  
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

### INTERNET ARTICLE

#### **DWS final consultation on raw water charges for next financial year ends on high note**

31 August 2016

The Department of Water and Sanitation held its final consultation meeting on raw water tariffs for the next financial year ended in which various role players pledged to work cooperatively with it to ensure compliance.

The overarching aim of the final consultation, which took place at Birchwood Hotel in Ekurhuleni, was to inform role players about the raw water use process and the proposed raw water use charges.

The consultation process started on the 04<sup>th</sup> July to 15<sup>th</sup> August 2015 and 26 consultation meetings were held in provinces.

During the consultations various issues were raised with water quality, drought and the affordability by small scale farmers ranking as the most critical.

Sections 56 to 60 of the National Water Act require DWS to establish a pricing strategy for raw water charges.

DWS Chief Financial Officer (CFO) for Water Trading Entity, Mr Mpho Mofokeng said the pricing strategy recommends higher increases on the tariff but due to economic climate the department considered a lower tariff.

Mofokeng said the consultation was a worthwhile exercise as this is the final stage where the views coming out of the various sectors will be presented to the Minister.

“What we have achieved is that today’s concerns raised by the users and even “those from the preliminary consultations were all addressed; we can safely say 90 percent of them were addressed. However there are still some of them that could not be addressed fully,” said Mofokeng.

He said although some issues still needed to be addressed most users were happy about progress in the issues that they previously raised.



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The concerns ranged from some users feeling that they were overcharged above the inflation rate.

Said Mofokeng: “The tariff increase ranges between 0 to 17 percent. This is even though there are those that do not have an increase because they have reached a full costing recovery. For instance if you were listening to the person from forestry he was saying why do we let them be charged above 17 percent whilst in actual fact this is going to create negativity for the people who are in the business of forestry.”

Mofokeng said the users were encouraged to write formally to his office and he in turn will make recommendations to the Minister based on the pricing strategies.

The minister will then apply her mind and make the final decision on the strength of the recommendation made by the CFO as regards the proper tariffs to implement.

**Malope Matlou**