



water & sanitation

Department:
Water and Sanitation
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

INTERNET ARTICLE

Public consultations on Climate Change & Sustainable Hydropower Generation continue

21 SEPTEMBER 2016

The Department of Water and Sanitation (DWS) conducted 'further public consultations to source inputs and comments on the draft policies of climate change and sustainable hydropower generation in order to come up with holistic policies that take all the stakeholders inputs into consideration. Public consultation is crucial as public participation is an important pillar for building and sustaining democracy, and it provides a platform for critical engagement between the citizens and the government. The public consultations provide the public, interested parties and stakeholders the opportunity to play an active role in influencing policy for the benefit of all. The consultation session in Mpumalanga took place on 20 September 2016 in Mbombela.

The objective of the Climate Change policy is to provide a sector policy position aligning the water and sanitation sector strategy on Climate Change to the National Climate Change Response (NCCR) White Paper; therefore the policy position echoes and reaffirms the objectives of the NCCR White Paper within the context of sustainable water resource management and sanitation in the country.

Water is the primary medium through which climate change is most likely to impact on people, livelihoods, ecosystem, as well as all sectors. The primary objectives of the policy include informing effective management of inevitable climate change impacts on the country's water sources through interventions that build and sustain South Africa's social, economic and environmental resilience, emergency response capacity, as well as making a fair contribution to the global and regional effort to promote further the application of integrated water resource management as a priority tool to reduce climate change vulnerability. Another objective is to ensure that water management systems are well adapted to cope with increased climate variability.

The Sustainable Hydropower Generation policy is aimed at addressing the need for power generation in the country in support of the NDP and other development objectives, whilst ensuring sustainable water resource management and use; therefore it provides a policy



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position for the Department of Water and Sanitation (DWS) on the establishment and development of hydropower at existing DWS infrastructure as well as within the water resources of South Africa. This is part of long term interventions by the department to support sustainable power supply in South Africa. As a policy principle, the department will support the development of hydropower as part of both social and economic development within the context of water scarcity and water infrastructure challenges; this must be without compromising sustainable protection of water resources and sanitation services provisions. The policy also addresses dam safety in relation to hydropower generation.

It is crucial for the public to embrace our democracy and be active citizens in the crafting and finalizing of policies as the policies and laws affect our everyday livelihoods.

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