



INTERNET ARTICLE

Gauteng DWS acts tough on unauthorised water use

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The Department of Water and Sanitation Gauteng Provincial Office has moved swiftly to address the flouting of one of the critical pieces of legislations which are meant to protect and guarantee proper management of water sources.

The Directorate Water Regulation at Gauteng Provincial Office is mandated to ensure compliance with the National Water Act 36 of 1998 in the Upper Vaal Catchment Management Area. According to this Act, water users who do not comply with section 22 of National Water Act 36 of 1998 are issued with unlawful water use notice.

The Directorate Water Regulation Acting Director, Nondumiso Mabe, said a farmer in Leandra, Mpumalanga, has been found to have contravened section 22 of National Water Act 36 of 1998 by obstructing the river flow in the area.

“The person concerned built a dam along the river and closed the flow of water that drifts to other users. The downstream users objected to this and consequently complained to the Department as they were not receiving any water from the upstream,” Mabe said.

Mabe said upon investigation by her directorate and national office personnel, it was deduced that the owner of Haasfontein belggings closed the stream without authorisation or a license.

She said officials from Water Regulation together with national office and Dam Safety officials visited the area on 30 November 2016 to conduct a preparatory inspection in order to implement section 53(2) which is “caring out the works”.

Mabe said the culprit could not adhere to the instructions given to demolish the dam in order for the stream to flow naturally as before, adding that the department would now take the necessary steps of demolishing the dam walls and disconnect the electrical supply that has been made to draw water from the stream in terms of section 53 (2) of the Act.

The demolition of the dam structure is scheduled to take place in January next year.

Sydney Nevhorwa