



water & sanitation

Department:
Water and Sanitation
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

INTERNET ARTICLE

Distressed KZN Municipalities to Have Water and Sanitation Forums

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Distressed KwaZulu-Natal municipalities will now be having Water and Sanitation Forums to articulate grievances on water and sanitation service delivery. This follows a call by the Minister of Water and Sanitation, Nomvula Mokonyane, for communities to establish the forums as a way of addressing grievances on the ground. At present there are 27 dysfunctional municipalities in South Africa, which are also known as “hotspots” that need urgent attention on various socio-economic issues.

The forums are largely community-driven and they empower upset residents to have a say on the management of water and sanitation matters. The department has helped the local communities, municipalities with the establishment of a broad-based Water and Sanitation Forum to ensure that the supply of water in the area is sustainable. The foundation of Water and Sanitation Forums is driven by the DWS Regional Office, under the Directorate: Water Sector Support -Intergovernmental Relations (IGR) with district and local municipalities as well as water boards.

The Forum includes a diverse team that includes local ward councilor, community development worker (CDW's), public utilities, environmental groups and individuals who play a key role in the community. Four (4) districts within KZN are now having water and sanitation forums with engagements on other district such as uThukela and Amajuba district are ongoing for their establishment.

Some of the forums that have been established include eMthonjaneni under uThungulu district; uBuhlebezwe under Harry Gwala district; Greater Mtubatuba, Hlabisa and Jozini under UMkhanyakude district and Nongoma and Abaqulusi local municipalities under Zululand district.

Some of these municipalities are affected by protests on service delivery on water and sanitation and more forums will be formed particularly to municipalities where there are violent service delivery protests.



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The roles and responsibilities of the community Water and Sanitation Forum are to represent the interests of the community during meetings, ensure feedback to respective communities, attend to water and sanitation community grievances and concerns as and when they arise, act as water and sanitation ambassador and participate in water and sanitation awareness campaigns to reduce infrastructure vandalism.

The forum meet once a quarter or when necessary to discuss matters pertaining to water and sanitation. During the meetings, the Forum will work together to adopt ideas that would help assure that water and sanitation needs within the municipality and districts are met. Ideas will be presented, discussed, and debated.

With the formation of Water and Sanitation Forums, the Minister expects that the need for education and awareness cannot be undermined and thus the important role that the community Water and Sanitation forum continues to play must be highlighted.

KwaZulu-Natal Department of Water and Sanitation