



water & sanitation

Department:
Water and Sanitation
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

INTERNET ARTICLE

Department Of Water and Sanitation Accredited Water Sector Councillor Development Programme

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In a bid to strengthen the support provided to Water Services Authorities (WSAs), the Department of Water and Sanitation (DWS) through Strategic Water Sector Support (SWSS) Directorate developed the Accredited Water Sector Councillor Development Programme which is aimed at capacitating local government councillors. This initiative is response to a request from councillors who attended the DWS Councillor Induction Programme after the 2011 local government elections.

The purpose of the Accredited Water Sector Councillor Development Programme is to empower councillors by educating them on the water and sanitation business including institutional roles and responsibilities that help them to make constructive decisions affecting their water services in their area of jurisdiction. This training is implemented as a pilot project to redress future accredited councillor development intervention.

114 councillors from all nine Provinces attended the training that was facilitated by Portable Water Institute (PWI) Cooperate Training, a training provider appointed by DWS and accredited with the Energy and Water Sector Training Authority (EWSETA). The training programme exists of two unit standards which are at NQF level 3 and 5. These are registered on the South African Qualification Assurance (SAQA) database. The two unit standards were identified by SWSS in consultation with DWS Regional representatives, SALGA and PWI Corporate Training.

The selected unit standards focuses on community development, determining water and sanitation requirements for communities, promote issues of water and sanitation; provide knowledge of water related legislation and the responsibilities of management in terms of the water sector legislation.

The Units standards selected are:

- Demonstrate knowledge of water related legislation and the responsibilities of management in terms of the acts*
- Determine water and sanitation requirements for a community*

The first training began in July 2014 and October 2014 and was done over a period of four months. It started with a Pre Course work in which the Councillors were expected to conduct a Community Needs Analysis to ensure that Councillors investigate the water and sanitation needs in their various communities and to use the investigation to support the theoretical training. The Pre Course work was then followed by a four days intensive training. During the training, councillors were expected to attend classes. They were given activities and assignments to complete on a daily basis. Councillors submitted Portfolios of Evidence at the end of the training for summative assessments.



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Councillors were excited about the programme and they were looking forward to the rewarding opportunity presented to them. Commenting about training programme, some stated that the training was an eye opener for them and adding that the short course was very informative and relevant to the daily challenges they face in the executing their mandate.

All councillors who demonstrate competency will be presented with certificates of competence and will be able to use them for accreditation towards attaining a full qualification. Recently, Quarterly National steering committee meetings were held with DWS Regional coordinators to track progress and mitigate challenges. This has made contributions to the successful implementation of the programme.

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