



## water & sanitation

Department:  
Water and Sanitation  
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

### INTERNET ARTICLE

#### The Department of Water and Sanitation celebrates Enforcement Month

17 November 2014

*The Department of Water and Sanitation (DWS) has, as from Monday 17 November 2014, raided certain areas of the country to compel entities across all sectors that are abstracting water illegally from the rivers and other water resources to stop their activities or face the might of the law. Industries that are polluting the country's rivers will also be visited.*

*The raids/visits will form part of the **Focus Week** to mark the **Enforcement Month** since the beginning of November 2014 to remind all South Africans about the importance of using water legally and sparingly. In terms of the National Water Act of 1998 all water users in South Africa – whether for commercial or domestic use – must be registered through their municipalities and industries and must be issued with water use licenses.*

*Deputy Director General for Water Sector Regulation in the department, Mr Anil Singh, said '**Enforcement Month**' marks an important period in the government calendar because of the scarcity of water in South Africa.*

*"The National Water Act forms part of the pillars of South Africa's laws as it seeks to enforce good management of water and its conservation. We are among the 30 driest countries in the world; the country also runs the risk of becoming a desert in 20 years if we don't manage and use our water sparingly. It is unacceptable that some individuals and industries use our scarce resource for personal benefit without applying for water use licenses", DDG Singh said.*

*Singh said that an increase in unlawful water use activities, with an impact on the environment as well as negative socio-economic factors, called for a need to bring about public awareness regarding compliance. Accelerated enforcement means effective and enforceable control measures against the unlawful water uses as a result of the detrimental impact they have on the environment.*

*The country's Constitution lays the foundation for a more just and equitable society. Everyone is guaranteed the right to have the environment that is not harmful to their health or wellbeing, the right to have the environment protected for the benefit of the present and future generations through reasonable legislative and other measures, the right of access to water as well as the right of access to information.*

*Due to the constitutional obligations of the department, the Chief Directorate: Enforcement is responsible for ensuring that the constitutional mandate is met through different enforcement actions and to ensure compliance by transgressors who unlawfully use water from South Africa's scarce water resources. The proposed enforcement activities in the month of November will include pro-active and re-active administrative, criminal and civil actions.*

**Ike Motsapi and Sputnik Ratau**



## **water & sanitation**

---

Department:  
Water and Sanitation  
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

**Issued by the Department of Water & Sanitation**

**For more information contact : Medial Liaison Director Sputnik Ratau on  
082 874 2942**

**For media releases, speeches and news visit the Water & Sanitation portal  
at:[www.dwa.gov.za](http://www.dwa.gov.za)**