



INTERNET ARTICLE

National Integrated Water Information System within DWS celebrates two years of existence

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The Department of Water and Sanitation (DWS) celebrates two years of ensuring easy access to water sector information to the public as its National Integrated Water Information System (NIWIS) celebrated two years of existence since its launch in 2015. The NIWIS which serves as a national dissemination tool developed by the Department to facilitate the sharing and accessibility of water related information was launched in 21 July 2015.

As various sector stakeholders reflected on how far the system has come, they engaged in a knowledge sharing session and shared ideas on how the system can be enhanced and what can be improved to ensure that it is more user friendly and that the right information is disseminated to the right people at the right time.

Njabulo Ngema from the Umngeni Water praised the system, saying it is easily accessible from most browsers. "Another amazing thing about this system is that it can also be accessed through mobile gadgets, so it is accessible from almost everywhere in the country", he said. He added that the NIWIS allows for an interactive environment and is user friendly but agreed that there is room for enhancement in terms of data value.

DWS's Scientific Manager for information programmes Mr Andy Sambo shared the same sentiments and appealed to water and sanitation sector partners to assist in filling data gaps through more collaboration and improved data exchange/sharing mechanisms. "Let's keep the system alive by feeding it with data", Sambo said.

The system is an ongoing one and as the Department transforms, so does the NIWIS.

The NIWIS project was conceptualised to meet the objectives of serving as a single extensive, integrated, accessible water information system.

The system has been designed to assist in addressing challenges related to unsynchronised reporting due to existence of many data silos and lack of system integration. The overall objective of establishing the NIWIS system is to provide universal accessibility to required



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integrated water related information and to assist the decision making process with end user enquiries, analysis and reporting.

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