



## INTERNET ARTICLE

### **DWS's officials lay down the law to ensure proper water use activities**

15 March 2017

The Department of Water and Sanitation (DWS) has placed the role of monitoring and enforcement at the heart of proper water resource management and accountability for social and economic well-being of both the industry and communities.

This commitment was reaffirmed at an event on Wednesday, 15 March 2017 at Rand Water in Glenvista, Johannesburg that was attended by people from diverse backgrounds, including government and civil society organisations.

Officials of the department, Sinayethina Mbeki and Anza Mabayi, informed the participants about the need for proper management and control of water resources by implementing applicable legislation whenever water use disregard the prescripts of the law.

Mbeki said the Compliance and Monitoring Sub-directorate was a vehicle through which her department was coordinating and monitoring compliance to standards, regulations and other regulatory tools across the full water value chain.

Emphasising the need to protect water resources, Mbeki said: "What the department seeks to achieve by conducting compliance and monitoring is to ensure the prevention of pollution of water resources and to ensure sound management and control of water resources."

She also said failure water licence use was issued by the department based on the fulfillment of certain conditions by the water user, adding that failure to comply with these conditions could result in the restriction or suspension of the water use licence.

Mbeki's colleague, Mabayi, said their work was to ensure that appropriate legal action was taken against all unlawful water users and that their functions included investigations, issuances notices and/or directives and opening of criminal cases with the police.

Mabayi said some of their enforcement actions included formal and informal warning in the form of letters of non-compliance and administrative enforcement such as statutory notices, compliance notices and directives or court applications to enforce such notices or directives.

She said there were a number of offences which result from the contravention of, amongst others, section 151 of the National Water Act.

Mabayi said "These offences include failure to provide books, accounts, documents, failure to comply with the licence or permit under the National Water Act, failure to comply with the directive,"

She said the core function of monitoring and enforcement was to ensure compliance and to monitor water use activities and to enforce when there is non-compliance.

**Hosia Sithole**