



water & sanitation

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Eastern Cape officials committed to treasury regulations

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The Department of Water and Sanitation's (DWS's) Eastern Cape Region showed its commitment to financial prudence and accountability when it held a finance workshop on Friday, 11 May 2018, in King Williams Town.

The aim of the workshop was to educate employees about the policies and processes of finance, risk management and avoiding irregular expenditure in the workplace.

One of the issues that were highlighted during the workshop related to working overtime without prior approval, leading to irregular expenditure.

The Director: Loss Control, Mr Duncan Ntuli, said: "The workshop is a means to encourage all employees to comply with treasury regulations and to avoid committing irregular, fruitless and wasteful expenditure."

He said the workshop would be beneficial to employees because they have to ensure that they comply with the prescripts of the Public Finance Management Act which is an Act guiding all employees to avoid financial misconduct.

Mr Ntuli added that irregular expenditure was mostly evident on projects, saying this trend was low on goods and services.

He advised that irregular expenditure could be dealt with if officials stuck to applicable financial prescripts.

"One way to avoid irregular expenditure is that if one is not delegated to sign contracts, they should not sign them. Officials must know their delegated powers," said Ntuli, adding that the Supply Chain Management officials should not process any payment unless they have certified that all documents required have been submitted and processes and procedures have been followed.

He further indicated that officials should avoid committing fruitless and wasteful expenditure on issues such as:

- Purchasing soccer team for employees under the banner of wellness;
- not taking advantage of a discount offered by PSP;
- officials not attending training, must inform supervisor and PSP;
- interest charged on overdue accounts, i.e. payment over 30 days.

In his closing remarks, Mr Andrew Lucas, who is the Director: Water Regulation and Use, said the workshop was fruitful judging by the pertinent questions the officials had asked regarding irregular, fruitless and wasteful expenditure, reiterating that they showed an appetite to comply with government's financial prescripts.

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