



INTERNET ARTICLE

Gauteng inputs to draft National Water and Sanitation Master Plan

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The process of developing the National Water and Sanitation Master Plan (NW&SMP) was given impetus when the Department of Water and Sanitation's (DWS's) Gauteng Provincial Office and key sector role-players held a second round of consultations following hot on the heels of the first one last year.

The consultation, which was held at Roodeplaat in Pretoria, on 19 January 2018, provided a platform for all stakeholders to make valuable inputs towards the finalisation of the plan.

On completion, the envisioned plan will serve as a coherent and coordinated blue print that will go to the heart of the myriad of challenges that continue to dog the sector, with a crippling impact on other sectors and the economy of the country.

During the launch of the NW&SMP at the National Dialogue in May last year, the Deputy Minister Pam Tshwete said the plan was about repositioning the water and sanitation business in South Africa.

She said working with all water sector partners was crucial towards achieving a high level actionable plan, adding that the formulation and success of the plan relied on strong partnership with all stakeholders.

Building on the first consultation, DWS's Provincial Head in Gauteng, Mr Sibusiso Mthembu, said there was a need to move with speed in finalising the plan given a number of challenges that adversely affected the sector, noting drought as one example that required an integrated approach.

Mr Mthembu pointed out that the second round of consultations was meant to present the key conclusions of the plan as well as providing opportunity for open stakeholder discussions and comments.

He said: "You all have a critical role to play in the attainment of a water security for South Africa. Your support in the finalisation of the draft NW&SMP and its implementation is momentarily valued."

Giving an overview of the draft NW&SMP, DWS's Deputy Director-General for Strategic and Emergency Projects, Mr Trevor Balzer said the NW&SMP provides an overall perspective of the situation in the water and sanitation sector as well as a consolidated plan of actions, to improve the current situation.

He said the plan was meant to position the sector in a healthy state as defined by Government's vision, goals and 2030 targets.

"The NW&SMP sets out an easy to follow framework for managing water resources and the provision of water and sanitation services in the short, medium and long-term," said Mr Balzer.



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The consultation process continues until 31 January 2018 with the final draft expected to be ready around March this year for submission to Cabinet.

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