

MEDIA RELEASE



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REGULATIONS ON COMPULSORY NATIONAL STANDARDS FOR THE PROVISION OF WATER AND SANITATION

The publication of regulations on compulsory national standards for the provision of water and sanitation is another milestone in the Government's commitment to ensure the efficient, equitable and sustainable delivery of these services.

While aiming to be flexible for our wide diversity of local circumstances, these regulations now set certain minimum service levels and management principles for water institutions. All consumers should in future be made aware of these minimum levels.

The national standards will also assist municipalities in their role as Water Services Authorities when contracting Water Services Providers or providing water and sanitation by themselves.

The compulsory national standards, published in the Government Gazette on 8 June 2001, apply to all municipalities, water service providers and

water boards. The regulations will set a first benchmark for the Department to monitor the performance of all water service institutions.

The regulations define the basic minimum standards of water supply and sanitation, the need to measure and control services supplied and the quality standards for potable water.

Municipalities will in future be required to complete annual water services audits and to set up a consumer service for reporting non-compliance with the regulations.

Several regulations will also promote and enforce sound principles to conserve water. Furthermore, these regulations will strengthen the legal framework to implement Government's free basic water policy.

The Department places great emphasis on supporting all water service institutions in the implementation of these regulations. In this regard, simple, easy-to-use guidelines are being developed to explain the purpose of each regulation and to provide options on how they can be implemented. Local governments have been informed of the regulations through workshops in all provinces.

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