



water & sanitation

Department:
Water and Sanitation
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

MEDIA STATEMENT

DWS and SALGA empower councillors in North West

09 March 2017

The Department of Water and Sanitation (**DWS**) in partnership with the South African Local Government Association (**SALGA**) conducted a Councillor Development Programme (**CDP**) seminar in an effort to empower councillors in Vryburg on Thursday, 09 March 2017.

The main aim of seminar was to help them have a better understanding of water and sanitation business processes so that councillors can make informed decisions on issues affecting water and sanitation services.

The seminar targeted all new councillors within the Dr Ruth Segomotsi Mompati District Municipality with a view to equip them to be conversant on water and sanitation business in their respective municipalities as well as assisting them to make the best possible council decisions on water and sanitation services.

Addressing the workshop, Mr Rabasotho Kolokoto from the Department of Water and Sanitation emphasised that the Councillor Development Programme is tailored for mainly new councillors in a bid to give them an understanding of their political role with respect to the water and sanitation business within their municipalities.

“We hope that this programme will provide you as new councillors with a vision to ensure that there are sustainable services and issues of public participation and accountability are looked at”, said Mr Kolokoto.

Through the seminar, the roles and responsibilities of the DWS and roles of councillors in the water service development plan and the water and sanitation value chain were clarified so as to ensure that there is efficient, affordable and economical sustainable access to water and sanitation services.

The seminar placed more emphasis on the water and sanitation value chain and roles and responsibilities of councillors relating to water and sanitation services with a view of empowering new councillors to be able to provide their communities with relevant answers on issues of water and sanitation provision.

According to Member of the Mayoral Committee (**MMC**) for Infrastructure at the Naledi Local Municipality, Councillor Lukas Ekketon, the seminar played a significant role in educating him about the water and sanitation business.

“What I learnt during this seminar will assist me as a councillor to educate the community which I serve on issues relating to water and sanitation services and this will assist to prevent service delivery protests on water and sanitation services”, said Cllr Ekketon.

Moreover, the seminar afforded councillors an opportunity to understand the role of SALGA in local government and the water sector to ensure that there is equal access to water and sanitation services and also to ensure that there is sustainable service provision and encourage constant public participation and accountability within municipalities.



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