



MEDIA STATEMENT

DWS will appear before the Portfolio Committee on Water and Sanitation

7 November 2017

The Department of Water and Sanitation (DWS) will tomorrow, Wednesday, 8 November 2017 appear before the Parliamentary Portfolio Committee on Water and Sanitation in Cape Town to brief it on new developments in the Department.

The first briefing will centre on a report of progress achieved since the launching of the National Water and Sanitation Master Plan in May this year. Following the launch by Deputy Minister, Pamela Tshwete, the Department held a series of provincial consultative workshops in an effort to solicit inputs from the various stakeholders across the country.

During the appearance before the Portfolio Committee, the Department will give an outline of the process to develop National Water and Sanitation Master Plan and announce when the final plan is expected to be ready.

The National Water and Sanitation Master Plan sets out the framework for managing water resources and provision of water and sanitation services in the short, medium and long-term. It will include a schedule of interventions, actions and investments, required to enable the achievement of these targets, specify the roles and responsibilities, the specific actions, the intermediate and final targets and deadlines and how performance will be monitored.

The Department will also brief the committee on the need for the establishment of an independent Economic Regulator within the sector to effectively address the following challenges, among others, insufficient investment in maintenance, refurbishment and replacement of infrastructure. The National regulatory function lies with the Minister and the Department is responsible for policy-making, support and the regulation of the sector.

The implementation of these functions by the Department created a conflict of interest, which affects the decision-making process. DWS's management believe that the overall intention of the stewardship process is to run a structured collaboration process that will undertake appropriate scanning of infrastructure opportunities and develop projects for water sector investment while building partnerships to address sustainable and developmental investment in the sector.

Thirdly, the Department will also brief the Committee on the formation of the National Water Infrastructure Agency and Regional Water Utilities (NWIARWU). The NIARWU is set to, among others, make much better use of scarce financial resources by enabling each Water Board to be financially viable and to raise debt finance, releasing scarce government funding for other important purposes in the water sector.

These are some of the efforts that the Department of Water and Sanitation is initiating, to ensure that the water sector is run effectively and delivers on its mandate of ensuring access to water and sanitation services.



water & sanitation

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