



water & sanitation

Department:
Water and Sanitation
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

MEDIA STATEMENT

Municipalities are failing to collect revenue

24 August 2018

The Department of Water and Sanitation (DWS) in the Eastern Cape Province and stakeholders in the area met to synergise the implementation of water services programmes in the Province.

The gathering consisting of DWS officials and the Eastern Cape Water Committee (ECWAC) was held in Bhisho, on Thursday, 23 August 2018. The main purpose was to create channels of discussions and joint planning with key stakeholders.

Key among those who attended the gathering were other different key stakeholders such as Water Service Authorities, i.e. municipalities, South African Local Government Authority (SALGA), Water Research Commission (WRC), Office of the Premier (OTP), Amatola Water Board and Cooperative Governance and Traditional Affairs (COGTA).

The ultimate long-term strategy was to find common ground for prioritizing issues that should be brought to the attention of the political leadership through the seating of Eastern Cape Provincial Water Forum (PROWAF) led by the Member of the Executive Committee (MEC) of Cooperative Governance and Traditional Affairs.

Water Service Authorities shared their experiences by utilising knowledge and experience of staving off challenges in their areas of operation, especially on water-related matters. Municipalities raised common issues that hinder the delivery of water to the communities. Issues of non-functioning water schemes, illegal connections, theft and vandalism of infrastructure, water leaks and water wastage in rural areas were also debated.

Officials from Cogta raised the issue of municipalities failing to collect revenue in their areas of operation.

As agreed, DWS will consolidate and package issues raised for presentation during the seating of the Executive Council (EXCO) led by the Premier of the Province.

The matters raised will also be presented during the PROWAF seating.



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