



water & sanitation

Department:
Water and Sanitation
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

MEDIA RELEASE

Department of Water and Sanitation consults stakeholders on water tariffs increases

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The Department of Water and Sanitation engaged with various stakeholders to determine the increase of water tariffs for the 2020/21 financial year. This consultation is important as it brings the department and its customers closer, and decisions taken are broadly well received.

Stakeholders raised important issues for consideration prior to the finalisation, approval and implementation of the proposed water use charges.

Mr Anil Singh, Deputy Director-General for Water Sector Regulation, said water consultation affects various departments and role-players. It is crucial therefore that the tariffs be discussed because they also reflect on the challenges that the Department of Water and Sanitation faces and the importance of tariff regulation.

The proposed tariff hikes for Water Resource Infrastructure for both industrial and domestic users range from 0% to 16.5%.

Mr Tendani Nditwani, Chief Water Resource Planner, said South Africa invests R42 billion per year into water infrastructure and R13 billion for sanitation. He emphasised a need for properly managing water and sanitation services whilst ensuring financial sustainability. He said this can be achieved by implementation of accurate billing and effective revenue management systems in all entities, including for the agricultural, industrial, commercial and domestic users.

Mr Leonardo Manus, Acting DDG for Infrastructure Development highlighted that the department is working quietly behind the scenes to ensure that water supply is not disrupted. He said water sources and water volumes remain unchanged, and this is exacerbated by low rainfall across the country.

Water Quality is also a crucial aspect which has an effect on the setting of water tariffs. Mr Marius Keet, Acting Chief Director of Water Quality Regulation, lamented a declining water quality due to urban and economic development. He highlighted water pollution and compromised service delivery around water and sanitation. "Out of 186 monitored rivers, their ecological health varies from good to very poor. It is important that there is a good water quality for users. We can't increase water prices while water quality deteriorates", he said.

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