

REGISTER YOUR WATER USE MEETING THE NEEDS OF CURRENT & FUTURE GENERATIONS

SUSTAINABLE & EQUITABLE ALLOCATION OF WATER USE [CHAPTER 4 OF THE NATIONAL DEVELOPMENT PLAN]

The Constitution mandates government to promote social and economic development and address basic needs. The National Development Plan (NDP) 2030 sets a vision for a sustainable and secure water sector, aiming to ensure that water resources are managed efficiently to support economic growth.

REGISTRATION OF WATER USE [SECTIONS 26(1)(C) OF THE NWA]

Registration of water use is crucial for the sustainable management, protection, and equitable allocation of water resources. Water users taking water from boreholes, rivers, or dams must be registered with Catchment Management Agencies to ensure it complies with National Water Act (NWA).

To this end, the Department of Water and Sanitation will be publishing government notice in April 2026 to instruct unregistered water users to register their applicable water use(s).

WHAT IS REGISTRATION NOTICE? [REGULATION 3 OF R1352]

A government registration notice is an official announcement made by Department of Water and Sanitation published in a government gazette, to instruct water users to register their water uses. A registration notice is the requirement of Regulation 3 of R1352 published under Section 26(1)(c) of the National Water Act, 1998 (NWA).

Anyone who fails to comply with the published notice will be guilty of offence as provided in section 151 of NWA and is liable on conviction to fine or imprisonment for a period not exceeding 5 years.

Key Focus Areas of the Unregistered Water Use Notice

The government notice will only affect the following water use(s) as set out in Section 21 of the National Water Act, Act 36 of 1998:

- 1) Taking water from a water resource (i.e. river, borehole, dam, spring etc.) [Section 21(a) of National Water Act, 1998].
- 2) Engaging in a stream flow reduction activity contemplated in section 36 [Section 21(d) of National Water Act, 1998].

For the purpose of this government notice, an unregistered water users will refer to -

- a) Water user(s) who bought property/properties from a registered water user(s) but never informed the responsible authority about the change for the substitution of the name.
- b) Water user(s) who acquired property/properties through the land restitution process, but the change of ownership was never reported to the Responsible Authority for the substitution of the name.
- c) Water user(s) who are leasing on the property of another water user and/or property owner, where the owner did not register the water use.



- d) Water user(s) who changed contact details (postal address, physical address, email address, landline, cellphone, fax number) but never informed the responsible authority about change.
- e) Water user(s) who change their registered name as appeared on their registration certificate but never informed the responsible authority for the substitution of the name.
- f) Water user(s) who has/have boreholes and are using it for commercial purpose but the borehole(s) is not registered.
- g) Water user(s) who registered their agricultural water use but never registered their resulting industrial water use(s).

What is unregistered successor in title?

A successor in title is a person or entity that legally inherits or acquires property rights from a previous owner or party to an agreement. This can happen through various means, including purchasing the property, inheriting it via a will or operation of law, or through assignment. Thus - all water users who bought properties from a registered water users must register their water use – if never registered.

REGISTRATION PROCESS & PROCEDURES [REGULATIONS 1352]

The Registration Notice will be published in February 2026. The duration of the notice will be 90 days (April 2026 – June 2026).

Registration will be free i.e. no cost attached. Late Registration fee will be charged for application forms received after closure of the Notice.

Registration certificate will be issued to all successfully registered water users

The following application forms will be used –

- 1) Unregistered Successors-In-Title (all sectors). Only DW811 Amendment Form will be required
- 2) Unregistered Industries: The following application forms will be required:
 - a) Water User Details forms(DW756 - DW759)
 - b) Water Use Application Form (DW760 & DW764) & related supplementary forms
 - c) Property Details Forms (DW901 & DW902)

Title Deed and ID or Company Registration certificate copy of the applicant will be required for all registrations.

The water use start date will be deeds registration date of the property where water use take place or lease agreement.

General queries and requests should be channeled to register@dws.gov.za.

Completed application forms should be emailed to the CMAs customer care email address to be provided in the gazette.

REGISTRATION SUPPORT SYSTEMS

The Department of Water and Sanitation (DWS) or your local Catchment Management Agency (CMA) office website will –

- 1) contain application forms and related registration guides
- 2) offer application form filling support to requesting water users
- 3) use local catchment management forum and/ or stakeholders gatherings (on request) to market the notice.

Stakeholders will be requested to –

- 1) Post the published notice to its website
- 2) Distribute the published notice and applicable forms to WhatsApp group of its clients.
- 3) Invite DWS or CMAs to present during stakeholders' meetings with clients

For more information please contact the Department of Water & Sanitation or local Catchment Management Agency office @ <https://www.dws.gov.za/Projects/WARMS/contacts.aspx>. or

Register @[dws.gov.za](https://www.dws.gov.za) or call Toll Free Line: 0800 200 200 and ask for WARMS office.

