

Enquiries: Khomotso Letsatsi  
Tel : 012 369 8000  
Fax : 012 369 8001  
E-mail: KLetsatsi@salga.org.za



**CIRCULAR 21 / 2022  
NATIONAL SANITATION FRAMEWORK**

**FROM : LANCE JOEL  
CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER (ACTING)**

**TO : MUNICIPAL MANAGERS  
EXECUTIVE DIRECTORS / HEADS / DIRECTORS / MANAGERS: WATER AND  
SANITATION SERVICES**

**DATE : 1 AUGUST 2022**

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**URGENT REQUEST FOR MUNICIPAL COMMENTS ON THE DWS DRAFT NATIONAL  
SANITATION FRAMEWORK**

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**1 OBJECTIVE OF THE CIRCULAR**

To invite municipalities to submit written inputs to the Department of Water and Sanitation's draft National Sanitation Framework.

**2 BACKGROUND**

Access to adequate sanitation plays a critical role in personal dignity and security, social and psychological well-being, public health, poverty reduction, gender equality, economic development, and environmental sustainability. The Water Supply and Sanitation White Paper was approved in 1994. The White Paper on National Water Policy was approved in 1997, the White Paper on Basic Household Sanitation was approved in 2001 and the Strategic Framework for Water Services (SFWS) was approved in 2003. During this period (1994-2003), South Africa placed much focus on

Tel: 012 369 8000 | Fax: 012 369 8001

PHYSICAL: Block B, Menlyn Corporate Park, 175 Corobay Ave, Waterkloof Glen Ext 11, Pretoria 0181  
POSTAL: PO Box 2094, Pretoria 0001

reducing the sanitation backlog by ensuring universal access to sanitation. This resulted in the country advancing in addressing the sanitation backlogs and meeting the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs).

However, challenges in the delivery of sustainable sanitation services continued to exist, prompting a review of sanitation policies. In 2016, the development of the National Sanitation Policy (NSP) took into cognisance the various lessons learned in the past 22 years of implementation and purposefully addressed the gaps and challenges emanating from the previous sanitation policies.

The National Sanitation Framework (NSF) seeks to address the pillars of the SDGs and the African Ministers' Council on Water's (AMCOWs) recent Africa Sanitation Policy Guideline. The Minister also has the responsibility to coordinate sanitation in other sectors such as schools, health, and other institutions and may develop norms and standards in this regard.

### **3 DISCUSSION**

The slow pace of sanitation delivery, disparities and inequity in access to sanitation services, lack of maintenance and poor operational management of wastewater treatment works (WWTW), and sewage spillages into communities and into the environment has prompted the need for change in the sector. The National Sanitation Framework articulates South Africa's national vision for hygienic, sustainable, equitable and efficient sanitation services and management. The framework covers:

- a) Revisions to the national norms and standards for sanitation services;
- b) Effective monitoring of norms and standards;
- c) Compliance to norms and standards;
- d) Implementation of a range of support measures to Water Services Authorities and Water Service Providers in instances where there are lapses in the management of sanitation;

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- e) Forging, strengthening, and leveraging the capacity of partnerships to implement support measures;
- f) The removal of bucket toilets as a form of sanitation in all provinces, with its eventual eradication through regulations; and
- g) Leveraging and strengthening Sanitation Services Coordination Forums for improved planning and coordinated interventions between responsible sector departments.

The DWS is expected to consult on all policy matters, especially when the implementation of that policy will partly be for Local Government. Therefore, the objective of this circular is to source urgent inputs and comments from municipalities on the Draft National Sanitation Framework; in order to develop a consolidated local government position. This position will be tabled at a meeting with the Department of Water and Sanitation in September 2022. Detailed written comments are required by no later than 31 August 2022.

Should you have any queries or more information please do not hesitate to contact Mr. Lubabalo Luyaba at [LLuyaba@salga.org.za](mailto:LLuyaba@salga.org.za) or 076 294 1540.

Yours Faithfully,



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**LANCE JOEL**  
**CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER (ACTING)**

