

NEWS

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THE AMENDMENT OF GENERAL AUTHORISATION (GA)

1199 SECTION 21 (c) AND (i) ACTIVITIES
IN TERMS OF THE NATIONAL WATER
ACT, 1998 (ACT NO. 38 OF 1998)

p3

CONGRATULATORY MESSAGE

p7

BGCMA HERITAGE
DAY CELEBRATION... p6

WORD SEARCH
WATER CONSERVATION... p8

BREDE-GOURITZ

Catchment Management Agency
Opvanggebied Bestuursagentskap
I-Arhente yoLawulo lomMandla nokungqongileyo

REVISION OF GENERAL AUTHORISATION

FOR TAKING AND STORING OF WATER: NOTICE 538 OF 2 SEPTEMBER 2016

By **Rudzani Makahane**

THE SUMMARY OF THE REVISED GENERAL AUTHORISATION

All water users or communities within and beyond the boundaries of the Breede Gouritz Catchment Management Agency jurisdiction are hereby informed that the General Authorisation (GA) for the taking and storing of water contained in Schedule 1 of Notice No. 399, published in Government Gazette No. 26187 on 26 March 2004, and the extension of the general authorisation, published in Notice No. 970 in Government Gazette No. 35909, published on 30 November 2012, are hereby withdrawn by the newly revised GA which will have effect 6 months from 2 September 2016.

According to Section 22(1) of the National Water Act, a person may only use water without a licence if that water use is permissible under Schedule 1 or if that water use is permissible as a continuation of an existing lawful use or if that water use is permissible in terms of a general authorisation issued under section 39 of the National Water Act.

The authorisations to take or store water given in the revised General Authorisation does not affect or replace the entitlements to take or store water given in Schedule 1 of the National Water Act, or given in section 34 of the Act to continue existing lawful water uses.

It is important to note that although the revised general authorisation will remain in effect for the period of 20 years from the date that it comes into effect, it may be withdrawn at short notice if it is necessary for the protection of water resource. For that reason, a water user who needs an entitlement with a firm duration may apply for a water use license.

Should there be need to withdraw this revised General Authorisation, a 6 months' notice will be given after the publication of the notice to withdraw in order to allow affected water users to apply for water use licences and for users to comply with the revised conditions.

This general authorisation does not and cannot exempt any water user from compliance with any provision of the National Water Act or any other legal requirement.

EXCEPT WHERE STATED DIFFERENTLY IN THE NOTICE THIS AUTHORISATION APPLIES TO ALL LAND AND ALL WATER RESOURCES IN SOUTH AFRICA, SUBJECT TO THE FOLLOWING EXCLUSIONS:

1. No water that is taken in terms of this authorisation may be taken within a 500 metre radius from the boundary (delineated edge) of a wetland, pan or estuary.
2. No groundwater that is taken in terms of this authorisation may be taken within a 500 metre radius from the boundary of a wetland or estuary, within a 100 metre radius from the delineated riparian edge of a water course or a state dam, within a 500 metre radius of a state dam wall or within 500 metres from the high –water mark of the ocean.

The revised GA restrict taking of water from water resource to maximum annual volume, maximum abstraction rate and from one season to another (i.e. dry and wet season). The maximum volume of water that may be taken from groundwater resources on each property in a drainage regions differ from one to another with the maximum volume of 40 000 m³. Raw water stored in terms of this authorisation may only be stored off-channel.

GENERAL CONDITIONS

1. The water that is taken in terms of this authorisation may only be taken at a rate that is not excessive in relation to the capacity of the water resource and the needs of other users.
2. A water user who takes surface water at more than 5 litres per second or who takes groundwater at more than 2 litres per second on a property or piece of land in terms of this authorisation must measure and record the volume of water that is taken. The volume of water taken must be measured and recorded at the end of each month. The volume of water stored must be measured and recorded at the end of each month. The records must be kept for a minimum of five years and must be made available to officials of the responsible authority upon request.

3. The water taken and stored in terms of this authorisation must be used efficiently.
4. The water user must investigate and apply all reasonable water conservation measures.

The water uses will be considered to be registered when the responsible authority has issued a document that proves that the application for registration has been received.



THE AMENDMENT OF GENERAL AUTHORITY (GA)

1199 SECTION 21 (c) AND (i) ACTIVITIES IN TERMS OF THE NATIONAL WATER ACT, 1998 (ACT NO. 38 OF 1998)

By Philisiwe Ntanzu

Section 21 (c) and (i) water uses constitute any activity that has the potential to pose a RISK to the resource quality characteristics that is Water quality, biota, flow regime, habitat and geomorphological.

On the 26th August 2016 DWS promulgated a GA 509 for (c) and (i) activities which replaced GA 199. The reason for the amendment is to improve the wording of the GA, due to the current GA 1199 often being misinterpreted and the time consuming process of issuing water use licences. The amendment included the adoption of and using a risk assessment matrix to determine the risks associated with each

particular water use. Also part of the amendment is the inclusion of an emergency protocol for emergency repairs etc., and the inclusion of maintenance activities on Existing Lawful Use (ELU), to streamline the authorisation process while not compromising on the integrity of the water resource quality characteristics, or the assessment / evaluation standards and information requirements.

COMPARISON OF THE OLD GA 119 (2009) AND THE NEW GA509 (2016)

GA 119 (2009)		GA 509 (2016)
No GA was allowed if the development was within the 500m of a wetland		GA is possible everywhere as long as the risk determined by the risk matrix is low
No GA was allowed in certain listed catchments		GA is allowed anywhere in South Africa
No provision for maintenance		Maintenance on existing lawful use can be generally authorised
GA provision for rehabilitation was only allowed for activities as contemplated in the GA1198		Rehabilitation other than that contemplated in GA 1198 can be generally authorised
No provision for storm Water River of storm water management plan		River or storm water management plans approved by the Department of Water and Sanitation can be used as General Authorisation
No provision for emergencies		Emergencies can be handled into emergency protocol and is a GA
No provision for specific activities like State Owned Companies and others		Specific activities were GA's outright only have to comply with conditions

An appropriate Risk Assessment Matrix has been developed to assist applicants in determining the risks of any (c) and (i) water use activities. When the result of the Risk Assessment is LOW, risk activities will be

authorised under the GA with conditions. Only moderate to high risk activities will then be required to go through a Water Use Licence Application Process.

LOOKING BACK AT 2016

By BGCMA





WATER USE AUTHORISATION IMBIZO 2016

By **Carlo Abrahams**

Mr. Anil Singh, Deputy Director General: Water Sector Regulation, hosted a three day Water Use Authorisation Imbizo from 07th to 09th September 2016 at Kloofzicht Lodge, Mulderdrift.

THE OBJECTIVE OF THIS IMBIZO WAS TO:

- Review and improve the Water Use Licence Application (WULA) business process
- To workshop the WULA regulations and E-WULAAS for implementation.
- Discuss the overall WULA report
- To obtain feedback (progress and challenges) from specialists supporting WULA processing, and
- Identifying challenges and solutions for WULA processing.

On day 1 several presentations took place namely the National Water Use Licence report, where we take a look at the current statistics with regards to Water Use Licences and especially backlog licences. Mr. T.B. Khosa stated that all backlog licences need to be cleared by March 2017 and that WULAs need to be finalised within 300 calendar

days as per draft WULA regulations. The purpose of the Regulations is to prescribe the procedural requirements for licence applications as contemplated in Chapter 4 of the Act as amended by the National Water Amendment, 2014 Act 27 of 2014, relating to preparation, evaluation, submission, processing, consideration of and decision on, applications for water use licences. The alignment of water use license processes for consideration of a water use license with the timeframes and processes applicable to applications for licences, permits or right for prospecting, exploration, mining and production in terms of the Mineral and Petrol Resources Development Act, 2002 (Act No. 28 of 2002); and environmental authorisations in terms of the National Environmental Management Act, 1998 (Act No. 107 of 1998) or Specific Environmental Management Act.

Other presentations also looked at the revised WULA business process (BP) and the WULA standard operating procedures (SOP). These processes are important as there are differing authorisation approaches amongst various Catchment Management Agencies (CMAs) and Proto

– CMAs, concerns within the Department and amongst the external stakeholders with regards to the time taken to make a decision, need to harmonise and streamlining of Water Use License process. Therefore a SOP is needed to define a procedure to be followed in the Department when dealing with WULAs, to provide a guideline to standardise the water use license application assessment process within the Department and to provide tools to be used by officials during the WULA assessment processing.

Different specialist units within the Department of Water and Sanitation also had the opportunity to present and provide their input into the processes.

Breakaway sessions namely; WULA regulations, BP and SOP, Specialist



Breakaway session: One of the breakaway teams discussing challenges faced with WULAs

Input and Challenges took place on day 2. At these sessions different discussions took place and each session needed to come up with way forward procedures.

On this day certificates were awarded to Assessors, CMAs and Proto-CMAs in respect of appreciation and good work. On the Final day Dr. W Roets had the opportunity to present the revised GA for section 21 (c) and (i).

THE BGCMA WAS PRESENTED BY:

Mr. Phakamani Buthelezi – CEO

Miss. Prudence Ngwenya – Water Use Manager

Mr. Carlo Abrahams – Water Use Specialist

Ms. Coreen Rautenbach – License Clerk



Breakaway session BP and SOP: Mr Khosa is having a heated discussion with members of this session



HERITAGE DAY CELEBRATIONS

By BGCMA

BGCMA staff members in the George Office celebrated the Heritage Day with special multicultural regalia and food. It was also adorned with delicious food ranging from umngqusho (samp), mala mugodu (tripe), creamy spinach and beef stew. A desert of malva pudding with

golden custard was added as part of showing diversity.

The event did not disturb day to day work as it was performed during lunchtime.



"Your Culture, My Culture ... Our Culture!!!"

CONGRATULATORY MESSAGE

To Zintle Tutuse

The BGCMA would like to congratulate Ms Zintle Tutuse, who graduated with a Bachelor of Accounting Sciences qualification from the University of South Africa (UNISA) in September 2016.

Zintle previously graduated with a National Diploma in Taxation and is very passionate about Accounting and Finance. "Gratitude goes to Lord Jesus for giving me strength and courage to complete my studies and my family for support." she said.

Focus, commitment and determination are some of the elements that also kept her going over the years to ensure that she completes her studies.

"Education is the passport to the future"

Malcolm X said "Education is the passport to the future, for tomorrow belongs to those who prepare for it today." She fully concurs with this statement as she believes education is the key element in broadening her horizons as she climbs up the career ladder.



NEW STAFF MEMBERS



Ntombizanele Feni
Water Use Officer



Vhengani Ligudu
Water Use Officer



Siyabulela Lupa
Water Use Officer



Sello Mokgoetsi
IT Technician

BIRTHDAYS

THE FOLLOWING CELEBRATED THEIR BIRTHDAYS

By THE BGCMA CREW

- Kathleen Makgatho - 01 October
- Jan van Staden - 05 October
- Thuliswa Tafeni - 07 October
- Zanele Mngoma - 13 October
- Langa Twaise - 14 October
- Buyelwa Dlabazana - 16 October
- Gerhard de Bruijn - 22 October
- Rudzani Makahane - 23 October
- Aureca Jansen - 25 October
- Andiswa Sam - 05 November
- Ogwang Okoth - 29 November
- Fabion Smith - 23 December

WORD SEARCH

WATER CONSERVATION

I C H B E V A S O T T C E L E R R M J
J Q P C L O W F L O W P Q G D E W I J
R B G O M S H O W E R H E A D H N R D
Z G J F F A Q E V J T Z O G V S G S M
U N J M A P R J C A R W A S H A I T R
X O S P E T E T H E B E A K R W A E A
D I E A V S D Q R B T R Z X V H P L O
E T Y T O O T H B R U S H D X S M I E
L A R X U R P N C T V F F Z X I A O A
Z V D N G E E S A M Q K X W P D C T C
Z R N W F M Z Q G L X Q C L G L Q U N
O E U U E M M Q N T P C B W P Y X G N
N S A R B U X O U M G T S I N K W X T
Y N L C J S E L Q S X D R F D L A X H
A O O Z U L L Z P J J S L E H J T B J
R C P S P I R D P O T S X M S N E Q J
P D Y H T E C U A F Y J N N X E R U E
S Z G D S E N O S C U T D F A R D B G
G S X F J D N O I T A G I R R I V N V

campaign
carwash
conservation
desertplants
dishwasher
electosave
faucet
irrigation
laundry
lowflow
petethebeak
showerhead
sink
spraynozzle
stopdrips
summer
toilet
toothbrush
tucson
water