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DEPARTMENT OF WATER AND SANITATION

NO. 8143 **6 November 2026**

MINISTER
WATER AND SANITATION
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA
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Private Bag X9052, Cape Town, 8000, 120 Plein Street, Tel: +27 21 464 1500, Fax: +27 21 465 3362

Nominations for Chairperson, Deputy Chairperson and additional members of the Water Tribunal

Section 146 and Item 3 of Schedule 6 of the National Water Act, 1998 (Act No. 36 of 1998) as amended (the Act) empowers the Minister to call for Nominations for appointments to the Water Tribunal (Tribunal). The Honourable Minister of Water and Sanitation Ms Pemmy Mjodina, MP hereby invites nominations for the position of Chairperson, Deputy Chairperson and Additional Members of the Tribunal to fill the vacant positions in the Tribunal.

CHAIRPERSON OF THE TRIBUNAL

The Judicial Service Commission (JSC) shall receive nominations; shortlist and interview suitable persons qualified in law and make a recommendation of at least two (2) such persons for the Minister to consider and to appoint as the chairperson of the Tribunal.

The Water Research Commission shall receive nominations, shortlist and interview suitable persons qualified in law, water resource management, engineering or related fields and make recommendation of suitable persons for the Minister to consider and appoint as the Deputy Chairperson and Additional Members of the Tribunal.

GENERAL

All appointments will be for a period to be determined by the Minister in terms of section 146 and Item 3 of Schedule 6 of the Act.
The conditions of appointment and the remuneration of the chairperson, deputy chairperson and additional members are determined by the Minister of Water and Sanitation in consultation with the Minister of Finance.

FUNCTIONS

The activities of the Tribunal will mainly consist of hearing appeals against decisions on entitlements to use water and appeals against directives to remedy a wrongdoing or prevent pollution of water resources. It may also determine compensation when required to do so in terms of the Act. Functions will also include perusing of case files, undertaking research, hearing of cases and writing rulings.
The chairperson will also perform administrative tasks, particularly the allocation of cases to Tribunal members and monitoring their progress, and writing of reports for Minister, and shall be assisted by the Registrar of the Tribunal in these tasks.

REQUIREMENTS FOR APPOINTMENT

Nominees must be South African citizens, possessing the recognized academic qualifications and applicable experience, and be members of the registered professional bodies. The chairperson will also perform administrative tasks, particularly the allocation of cases to Tribunal members and monitoring their progress, and writing of reports for Minister, and shall be assisted by the Registrar of the Tribunal in these tasks.

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DISQUALIFICATION OF MEMBERS
No person may hold office as a member of the Tribunal:-
 if that person is an unrehabilitated insolvent, or
 If that person has been convicted of any offence involving dishonesty or has been sentenced to imprisonment without an option of a fine. A disqualification under the above ends three (3) years after the sentence has been served.

Nominations must be accompanied by full curriculum *vitae*, certified copies of the Identity document, valid driver's licence and academic qualifications of the nominee and the acceptance of the nomination must be in writing. Every nomination must be signed by a proposer and a seconder, neither of whom may be the nominee. The nominations for the Chairperson must be sent directly to the JSC and the nominations for the Deputy Chairperson and Additional Members must be sent to WRC at the addresses below. Kindly ensure that copies of all nominations are simultaneously forwarded to the Registrar of the Water Tribunal, Ms Thelma Kgomotso Paulus, for record-keeping purposes.

Enquiries can be directed to the Department of Water and Sanitation, Deputy Director–General: Corporate Services, Ms Nthabiseng Fundakubi, at 012 336 7485, e-mail FundakubiN@dws.gov.za or the Chief Director: Legal Services, Mr Mpho Ratshisusu, at 012 336 7705, email: RatshisusuM@dws.gov.za or the Registrar of the Water Tribunal, Ms Thelma Kgomotso Paulus at 012 336 8756, email: PaulusT@dws.gov.za

The closing date for receipt of the nominations is Friday the 11 December 2026,

Nominations for Chairperson of the Water Tribunal must be emailed or sent to:
The Secretary for the Judicial Service Commission (JSC)
Ms. Mbali Songca
Office of the Chief Justice
Private Bag X10, Marshalltown
Johannesburg, 2017
Tel: 010 493 2575
Email: MSongca@judiciary.org.za and SMthombeni@judiciary.org.za
CC: JSC@judiciary.org.za

Nominations for Deputy Chairperson and Additional Members of the Water Tribunal must be emailed to:
Office Manager: Office of the CEO of Water Research Commission (WRC)
Ms Ndileka Radebe
Email: nominationowtc@wrc.org.za
Tel: 012 761 9301

Copies of both Nominations for Chairperson, Deputy Chairperson and Additional Members must emailed or sent to:
The Registrar of the Water Tribunal
Ms Thelma Kgomotso Paulus
Water Tribunal
Private Bag X316
Pretoria
0001
Tel: 012 336 8756
Email: PaulusT@dws.gov.za