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North West Provincial Government
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DEDECT hosts North West Climate Change Provincial Workshop

The North West Climate Change Provincial Workshop was hosted by the North West Department of Economic Development, Environment, Conservation & Tourism on 23 and 24 February 2026 at the Mmabatho Convention Centre, where the Department engaged a wide range of stakeholders on the draft North West Climate Change Strategy and Implementation Plan.

MMC Cllr Wesley Kgang, from the City of Matlosana Local Municipality, delivered the keynote address on behalf of MEC Bitsa Lenkopane. The workshop reflects the Department's commitment to strengthening coordinated climate action and building resilience in line with the newly enacted Climate Change Act, 2024 (Act 22 of 2024).

Key stakeholders in attendance include the Department's strategic partner, North-West University; the National Department of Forestry, Fisheries and the Environment (DFFE); the Department of Tourism; various provincial departments; and representatives from the South African Local Government Association (SALGA), as well as district and local municipalities.

Industry role players such as Africa Geo-Environmental Engineering and Science (AGES Alpha), the Environmental Assessment Practitioners Association of South Africa (EAPASA), and the South African National Biodiversity Institute (SANBI) are also participating and contributing to the discussions.

The draft North West Climate Change Strategy and Implementation Plan remains subject to the finalisation of the Technical Guidelines for Climate Change Needs and Response Assessments by DFFE, which will support the full implementation of the Climate Change Act. As the custodian of environmental management in the Province, DEDECT is committed to finalising this Strategy to guide institutions in integrating climate change considerations into planning and decision-making.

Stakeholders emphasised that climate change must be treated as a serious and systemic threat affecting human health, global security, infrastructure, and ecosystems. Its impacts are already visible in our communities — intensifying extreme weather events such as floods and droughts, worsening food and water insecurity, displacing communities, and reversing development gains.

Addressing climate change is therefore essential to safeguarding livelihoods and ensuring a sustainable future for all.

The second day of the North West Climate Change Provincial Workshop continued, building on the strong foundation established during Day 1 engagements.

The workshop deepened the discussion on the Draft North West Climate Change Strategy and Implementation Plan, from the presentation by DEDECT, providing stakeholders with an opportunity to engage constructively on its strategic priorities, implementation pathways, and alignment with national legislative frameworks.

A key highlight of the day was a presentation by the South African Local Government Association (SALGA), which outlined ongoing climate change initiatives being implemented at the local government level. These projects underscored the vital role municipalities play as frontline responders to the climate-related challenges facing communities.

The workshop also transitioned into plenary sessions facilitated by representatives from North West University. These sessions promoted collaborative engagement, enabling stakeholders to identify key priorities and contribute to solution-oriented discussions aimed at shaping a coordinated provincial response to climate change.

Discussions throughout the day reaffirmed that effective climate governance depends on integrated planning, shared accountability, and strong cross-sector partnerships.

Stakeholders, including DEDECT's Environmental Clubs, North West University (NWU), UniAppSA, Ramotse Services, and

Africa Geo-Environmental Engineering and Science (AGES Alpha) are also participating in exhibition activities alongside the formal programme. These exhibitions showcase innovations focused on the circular economy, sustainable materials, and digital solutions as key interventions for mitigating the impacts of climate change, while also providing educational insights on reducing environmental impact.

Ends.

Issued by the Department of Economic Development, Environment, Conservation and Tourism

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