
GENERAL NOTICES • ALGEMENE KENNISGEWINGS

PARLIAMENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA**NOTICE 4144 OF 2026****MR M. MANYI, MP****NOTICE OF INTENTION TO INTRODUCE A PRIVATE MEMBER'S BILL
AND INVITATION FOR COMMENT ON THE DRAFT STATISTICS
AMENDMENT BILL, 2026**

Mr M. Manyi, MP, acting in accordance with section 73(2) of the Constitution of the Republic of South Africa, 1996 ("Constitution"), intends to introduce the Statistics Amendment Bill, 2026 ("draft Bill"), in Parliament. An explanatory summary of the draft Bill is hereby published in accordance with Rule 276(1)(c) of the Rules of the National Assembly (9th Edition).

Current official statistics on drinking water access, as reported in the General Household Survey published by Statistics South Africa, which is aligned with United Nations and World Health Organisation standards, classify yard taps as "improved on-premises sources". However, frequent dry taps, interruptions and contamination create a gap between reported and actual access to drinking water.

The draft Bill seeks to require the Statistician-General to develop, compute and publish an annual Potable Water Access Indicator, which is intended to more accurately reflect actual access to potable water, specifically water that is reliably available, accessible on-premises, or nearby, and verified as safe in accordance with applicable national standards, including SANS 241.

A Potable Water Access Indicator will provide a more accurate and objective measure of potable water delivery which will support policy, budgeting and constitutional obligations without replacing international benchmarks. The draft Bill further seeks to address the persistent and material gap between reported access and lived reality arising from intermittent supply and infrastructure failure, as well as water quality concerns. A Potable Water Access Indicator will be published alongside existing United Nations and World Health Organisation Joint Monitoring Programme metrics within the General Household Survey published by Statistics South Africa.

In addition, a Potable Water Access Indicator will seek to address a fundamental deficiency in the manner in which access to water is currently measured in the Republic South Africa. At present, official statistics frequently rely on the presence of water infrastructure (such as a household tap or piped connections) as a proxy for access to potable water. This approach has led to the conflation of

the concepts of water infrastructure, water availability and potable water, which concepts are in fact distinct.

Existing indicators may overstate access to potable water, as those indicators primarily measure infrastructure rather than whether water is consistently available and suitable for human consumption. A Potable Water Access Indicator is therefore intended to distinguish between infrastructure, service reliability and water quality, thereby providing Parliament, government and the public with a scientifically robust and policy-relevant measure of the constitutional right of access to sufficient water. In summary, the draft Bill seeks to shift the focus from measuring access to infrastructure, to measuring access to water which is continuously available and safe for human consumption.

Interested parties and institutions are invited to submit written representations on the proposed content of the draft Bill to the Speaker of the National Assembly within 30 days of the publication of this notice. Representations can be delivered to the Speaker, New Assembly Building, Parliament Street, Cape Town; mailed to the Speaker, P O Box 15 Cape Town 8000, or emailed to statisticsab@parliament.gov.za and copied to mmanyi@parliament.gov.za

Copies of the draft Bill may be obtained by mmanyi@parliament.gov.za