



**EMBARGO: FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**MEDIA STATEMENT BY THE SOUTH AFRICAN LAW REFORM COMMISSION  
CONCERNING ITS RELEASE OF DISCUSSION PAPER 141 ON STATUTORY LAW  
REVISION IN RESPECT OF LEGISLATION ADMINISTERED BY THE DEPARTMENT OF  
WATER AND SANITATION**

The South African Law Reform Commission (SALRC) hereby releases its Discussion Paper 141 on Project 25: Statutory law revision in respect of legislation administered by the Department of Water and Sanitation, for general information and comment. The discussion paper sets out the SALRC's preliminary recommendations for law reform regarding statutes administered by the Department of Water and Sanitation.

In 2003 Cabinet approved that the Minister for Justice and Constitutional Development coordinates and mandates the SALRC to review provisions in the legislative framework that may result in discrimination as defined in section 9 of the Constitution. This section prohibits unfair discrimination based on race, gender, sex, pregnancy, marital status, ethnic and social origin, colour, sexual orientation, age, disability, religion, conscience, belief, culture, language, and birth. In 2004, the SALRC included Project 25: Statutory Law Revision in its law reform programme for the purpose of revising all statutes from 1910 to date. The focus of the statutory law revision project, at present, is the constitutionality of legislation in light of section 9 of the Constitution, and the repeal of redundant and obsolete provisions.

The methodology adopted in this investigation is to review the statute book by government department. The SALRC identifies a department, reviews the national legislation administered by that department for constitutionality in terms of section 9 and redundancy, sets out the preliminary findings and proposals in a consultation paper, and consults with that department to

verify the SALRC's preliminary findings and proposals. Next, the SALRC develops a discussion paper in respect of the legislation of each department, and publishes the discussion paper for general information and comment. Finally, comment on the discussion paper is reflected in a report which contains a draft Bill proposing amending legislation where necessary.

After having reviewed the statutes administered by the Department of Water and Sanitation, the SALRC is of the opinion that no provisions in these statutes contravene section 9 of the Constitution and that the statutes are current and should be retained. Obsolete provisions were identified in a number of statutes. Proposed amendments in the latter category are reflected in the Water Related Matters Amendment Bill included in the discussion paper.

The SALRC invites comments on the proposed amendment of the legislation concerned. **The closing date for comments is 31 March 2016.** All comments and representations must be sent to the following address:

The Secretary  
South African Law Reform Commission  
Private Bag X668  
Pretoria  
0001  
E-mail: [ahavenga@justice.gov.za](mailto:ahavenga@justice.gov.za)

Discussion Paper 141 is available on the Internet at the following site:

<http://www.justice.gov.za/salrc/dpapers.htm>. The discussion paper can also be obtained free of charge from the SALRC on request; please contact Mr Jacob Kabini at (012) 622-6327.

Contact for enquiries in respect of media statement: Ms Anna-Marie Havenga (email [ahavenga@justice.gov.za](mailto:ahavenga@justice.gov.za))

**ISSUED BY THE SECRETARY, S A LAW REFORM COMMISSION, CENTURION**

**DATE: 28 JANUARY 2016**