

**DEPARTMENT OF WATER AFFAIRS AND FORESTRY
DEPARTEMENT VAN WATERWESE EN BOSBOU**

No. 1468

17 October 2003

INVITATION TO SUBMIT WRITTEN COMMENTS IN TERMS OF SECTION 110 OF THE NATIONAL WATER ACT, 1998 (ACT 36 OF 1998) ON THE PROPOSED RAISING OF FLAG BOSHIELO DAM AND THE ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT RELATING THERETO

The Minister of Water Affairs and Forestry intends constructing a government water work as contained in the Schedule hereto.

In terms of section 110(1)(b)(iii) interested parties are invited to submit written comments on the proposed water work and the environmental impact assessment by 19 December 2003. Comments must be submitted to the Director General, Department of Water Affairs and Forestry, Private Bag X313, Pretoria 0001; Fax 012-336 7399 and marked for the attention of Mr OJS van den Berg, Chief Engineer Options Analysis North.

Signed by Acting Manager: Integrated Water Resource Planning on 9 October 2003.

SCHEDULE ON THE PROPOSED RAISING OF FLAG BOSHIELO DAM (A GOVERNMENT WATER WORK) AND SUMMARY OF THE ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT.

A. PROPOSED CONSTRUCTION OF THE SCHEME

In response to increasing water demand and managing the risk of shortages, the Minister of Water Affairs and Forestry proposes raising the existing 36m high Flag Boshieles Dam (FBD) by 5m. This is the best practical environmental option to increase the current storage capacity of 100 million m³ to 188 million m³ and so increase the current yield of 56 million m³/a to 72 million m³/a. The need for the raising is demand driven – largely in response to the projected increase in the importance of planned and existing platinum mines in the region. This projected increase, in turn, is in response to the increasing international profile and importance of platinum.

The Flag Boshieles Dam on the Olifants River was completed in 1986 and is situated about 30 km north-east of Marble Hall along the Mokopane – Marble Hall Road in the Limpopo Province. The dam is situated on the Farm Mooiplaats 355 JR and straddles the Mpumalanga and Limpopo Provincial boundary.

By way of background and contextualisation, increasing demands for water supply for domestic, industrial (most notably new mining developments), agricultural and ecological purposes triggered technical and environmental planning investigations with the objective