

# VELTWATER DISTIL-LERY

## KEEP CALM, IT'S NOT SO SERIOUS

Volume 2 / Issue 3

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Topic #1 – Lemon & POPIA Seed Muffins...



Topic #2: Zip the Lip – Quite Literally



Topic #3: Jail time or Fine?

# #1: LEMON & POPIA SEED MUFFINS...

## What is the POPI Act?

*Do we comply? Here is what you need to know.*

Many inboxes were flooded prior to or on 1 July 2021 with messages from companies declaring that they will not misuse your private information ad nauseam.

POPIA stands for the following: The Protection of Personal Information Act.

Who remembers receiving one of these cards in the post (good old snail mail), not too long ago?



*TotalsPORTS*

These cards were usually accompanied by a very polite letter entitling you to all sorts of credit and dumping you even further into potential debt. Did you ever wonder where these companies got your details from? They were most likely freely shared under the guise of marketing purposes, but with no chance of opting out.

Nowadays, with the advancement of technology you can go onto certain websites and remove your phone number preventing companies to spam you with marketing phone calls. Some still sneak through the cracks and abruptly we try ending the phone call as quick as possible with our temper intact.

Here at Veltwater, we have a database containing your names, surnames, e-mail addresses, affiliations and how we know you.

This information is used ONLY when the new issue of our quarterly Distil-ery is distributed via our protected e-mail automation software and never shared.

Remember, should you wish to opt out of receiving our Distil-ery, you can do so at any time by simply scrolling down to the bottom of the automated e-mail and clicking on the 'Unsubscribe' link. The mailing list is routinely checked to see if anyone unsubscribed and updated accordingly.

**Also consider that the Subscribe option is still available on our website.**

We urge you to stick around a while and watch this space to see what we get up to next. It is the cheeky Veltwater way 😊.

We welcome healthy discussions, and if you have something you want to see in our next issue, please feel free to let us know.



**Join in the conversation:**

- Do you know where the ethical line is between innocently sharing someone's personal information and using that information to advance a marketing strategy?
- If so, would this not touch on confidentiality?

## #2: ZIP THE LIP – QUITE LITERALLY

### What does confidentiality mean in our profession?

*Have you ever wondered if a thing like doctor-patient confidentiality can also spill over to other fields of practice? Answer: Yes.*



As practicing hydrogeological professionals, the emoji is very suitable for some of the situations we can get into.

From signing confidentiality clauses to the often-unspoken rule of thumb to always protect our client's information.

**Only by the approval of the client, can the information be used and/or shared. After all, they pay for it.**

Many in the profession do not understand the implications of a simple thing like confidentiality, but bottom line is that it can become a major issue.

A hypothetical example of this:

Let us say farmer A wants to drill and test new boreholes on his farm because he wants to eventually get a license to use his water legally.

Farmer B just wants to spite farmer A by drilling close to where he drilled because he thought it would be a good place to drill and he would prevent farmer A from 'stealing' his water, with no initial intention to license the water he wants to use.

Farmer A started the process early on by employing a hydrogeological professional, so a good amount of data was already accumulated. Now, farmer B wants to also license the water from the borehole he drilled so close to farmer A and employs a hydrogeological professional to handle the licensing application.

The hydrogeological professional in the employ of farmer B contacts the hydrogeological professional in

the employ of farmer A to collect data for the area which will also be used in the geohydrological technical report for the license application process.

#### Was this ethical?



When signing a confidentiality clause, it is pretty straight forward, the cup illustrates this beautifully. This is a good motto to live by.

Insisting on information rather than asking for permission is a rabbit hole on its own. So let Alice go on her own 😊.

At the groundwater conference in 2019, it was advocated for scientific information to be used and shared freely. We are of the opinion that it would be great if this can come to fruition especially in areas where sparse amounts of data are available.

***BUT the question must be asked, how will confidentiality be affected?***



#### ***Join in the conversation:***

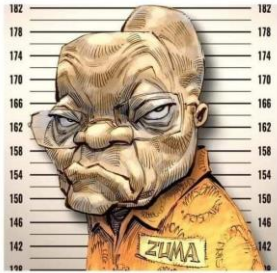
- Do you think scientific information should be freely available?
- If so, why?
- If by some miracle this comes to realisation, would it not open a whole liability of worms when contamination is questioned?

# #3: JAIL TIME OR FINE

## Wait, what about contamination / pollution?

*What will it be: An orange jump suit or waving goodbye to those coveted paper greens?*

### FROM HIGH COURT TO CONSTITUTIONAL COURT TO ESTCOURT



The social media sphere exploded and imploded after this guy received a guilty sentence. First the serious news was shared and then not very long after, the memes started to make the rounds. In South

Africa, it has become a sort of an expected reaction to make jokes of serious events.

This guy enjoys the attention and affection of many supporters advocating for his freedom, and then the polar opposite, groups condemned him and welcomed the sentence with open arms.

#### **Did you know?**

You as an individual, or you as a company, or you as an official or head of a company can be fined or jailed for breaching environmental legislation? This also applies to legal licenses and/or any authorisations granted with specific conditions or provisions attached to it.

What this means in layman's terms is that South Africa has a series of legal rules in place and enforceable at any time to protect and conserve the environment. The National Environmental Management Act (NEMA) provides the underlying framework for environmental law.

Depending on the nature and severity of the offence, a person can be liable under the Environmental

Conservation Act for a fine of up to a cool R 10 mil and/or imprisonment of up to 10 years.

#### **'The Polluter Pays Principle'**

This widely understood principle is analogous to the slogan "you break, you pay". It simply makes a specific party guilty of producing polluting agents and releasing them into the environment, and pay for the damage done to the natural environment.

NEMA echoes this: "The costs of remedying pollution, environmental degradation and consequent adverse health effects and of preventing, controlling or minimising further pollution, environmental damage or adverse health effects must be paid for by those responsible for harming the environment".

Based on experience, remedial projects are time and cost consuming, especially in the petrochemical industry. This of course is dependent on the bio-agents and remedial methods used.



#### **Join in the conversation:**

- All are judged equally, mining companies, industrial companies and farmers alike, agree?
- Were you naughty by getting rid of that pesky tree or wetland?