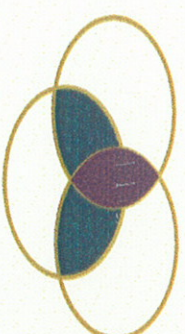




Water Affairs and Forestry
Provincial and Local Government



SALGA
South African Local Government Association

MUNICIPAL INDABA DECLARATION
11 September 2008, Johannesburg

We, the representatives of the Departments of Water Affairs & Forestry, Provincial and Local Government, and the South African Local Government Association having met with the water sector stakeholders and representatives of Local Government in Johannesburg on 11 September 2008; mindful of our Constitutional responsibilities and obligations in terms of Sections 24 (a) and (b) and 27 (b) hereby:


1. **Recognise** that water is a life sustaining resource that has to be well managed and equitably distributed to ensure sustainable economic growth and social development;
2. **Note** that more than 18 million people have been provided with adequate water supply and that more than 11 million people have been provided with safe sanitation facilities since 1994;
3. **Recognise** that more than 7,2 million people in South Africa still lack access to safe, accessible water supplies and more than 12,4 million people lack access to a safe, private sanitation facility;
4. **Acknowledge** that the delivery of these services requires adequate human and financial resources at all three spheres of government;
5. **Mindful** that we have committed ourselves to achieve integrated basic services, i.e. water, sanitation, electricity and upgrade informal settlements to all people by 2014;
6. **Acknowledge** the lack of implementation and exploration of alternative appropriate and cost effective dry and wet sanitation systems in addition to the provision of Ventilated Improved Pit latrines (VIPs) and conventional waterborne systems.
7. **Reaffirm** our commitment to the resolutions of the eThekweni Declaration made at AfricaSan Conference on 20 February 2008 and the subsequent South African Action Plan;
8. **Reaffirm** our commitment to accelerate the implementation of the 5 Year Local Government Strategic Agenda (2006 - 2011) and the latest Implementation Plan (2008 - 2011);
9. **Acknowledge** the great strides already made towards meeting these targets, including the bucket eradication programme and clinics water service programme;
10. **Note** the particular constraints faced in terms of water resources and finances in many municipal areas which will remain stumbling blocks unless we find innovative approaches to water conservation, water demand management and alternative financing;
11. **Acknowledge** the current shortcomings in terms of macro and implementation planning within many municipalities;
12. **Recognise** that the effective operation and maintenance of water services infrastructure is critical for efficient and reliable service delivery;
13. **Acknowledge** that ongoing skills development is key to the longer term sustainability of government's ability to provide services;
14. **Recognise** the need for effective regulation of the water sector so as to ensure compliance with minimum national norms and standards and good performance and efficient use of all resources; and
15. **Note** the role of the three spheres of Government in achieving the imperatives of the 5 year Local Government Strategic Agenda.

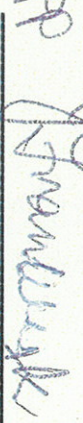
THEREFORE RESOLVE THAT;

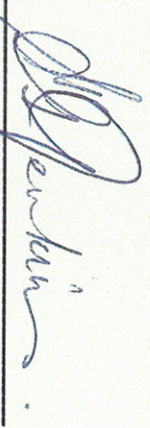
- We will take the necessary steps to address the water sector needs, in accordance with national targets and policies, and
- Call upon representatives of the three spheres of government to develop a Programme of Action as a key outcome of this Municipal Indaba on the 12th September 2008.

Signatories:


The Honourable Mrs Phumzile Mlambo-Ngcuka
The Deputy President of South Africa


The Honourable Mrs Lindwe Hendricks
Minister: Water Affairs and Forestry


The Honourable Mr Sydney Mufamadi
Minister: Provincial and Local Government


The Honourable Executive Mayor Amos Maseroko
Chairperson: South African Local Government Association