

Masibambane II is a Water Services Sector Support Programme led by the Department of Water Affairs and Forestry (DWAFF). The programme is a partnership between the Department of Provincial and Local Government (DPLG), DWAFF, the South African Local Government Association (SALGA), the European Union and its member states; Ireland, Flanders and the United Kingdom's Department for International Development (DFID).

Masibambane II, a Sector Wide Approach Programme (SWAP), works from the premise of joint decision making involving all players in the government led, civil society-supported, sector initiative.

MASIBAMBANE, meaning 'let work together' (isiZulu), is a multi-faceted water services sector support programme initiated by DPLG and DWAFF representing the South African Government in collaboration with SALGA and supported by the European Union and its member states.

Masibambane I, a three year programme which commenced on 1 April 2001, was successfully completed on 31 March 2004. The programme has been extended for another three years and **Masibambane II** will build on the achievements of Masibambane I and extend the reach of the programme to cover all the provinces.

The Water Supply and Sanitation Services landscape changed on 1 April 2004 with the introduction of a consolidated grant mechanism, referred to as the Municipal Infrastructure Grant (MIG). The MIG will be phased in over three years through the merging of the Consolidated Municipal Infrastructure Programme (CMIP), the Local Economic Development Fund, the Water Services Capital Grant, the Community Based Public Works Programme, The Building for Sports and Recreation Programme and the Urban Transport Grant. In the case of water services it affects the Water Services Capital Grant Fund and CMIP. The MIG has an overall target of removing the backlog with regard to access to basic municipal services over ten years. The MIG together with the local government equitable share and the capacity building grant are the primary funding mechanisms for service delivery in the future. Local government is therefore now able to adapt its delivery role to provide municipal infrastructure as mandated in the South African Constitution (Act 108 of 1996).

Individual national line departments will continue to lead the monitoring and support of implementation on their specific functions and priorities. The Department of Water Affairs and Forestry (DWAFF) has taken up its role as sector leader and focuses on water policy support to local government, regulation of the sector, maintenance of an information base and the dissemination of information as described in the Strategic Framework for Water Services (September 2003).

The Masibambane II sector support programme will comprise R21,8 billion (over three years) and is implemented as a Sector Wide Approach Programme (SWAP). It is managed by DWAFF who is responsible for financial accountability and reporting and has to ensure that the sector targets are met. The South African Government's contribution towards this programme is approximately 97.7% of the total budget over three years and donor funding comprises approximately 2.3%. About 21 % of this budget has been committed to DWAFF for completion of existing projects as well as for the funding of 'soft' issues such as support, capacity building, gender mainstreaming, civil society involvement and communications. The remainder of the R21,8 billion goes towards the MIG for implementation of basic water supply and sanitation infrastructure.

The objective of this support programme is to improve the quality of life of the people of South Africa and to contribute to the alleviation of poverty, in especially rural communities, by providing access to adequate, safe, appropriate and affordable basic water supply and sanitation services.

Sector wide focus

By following a sector approach decision makers are still taking decisions in their own right. However, through the sector approach they are informed, an integrated approach can be followed, duplication can be avoided and they have a better understanding of the viewpoint of others.

Decentralisation, institutional reform and transformation will be the key driving forces for the water services sector over the next few years. This creates a complex environment in which many institutions and role-players are involved. The principle challenge is to create an enabling and supporting environment which fosters collaboration, mutual support and learning. Much can be learned from experience to date with the Masibambane programme and initiative. This has taught us that sector collaboration is not merely about structures and joint programmes but is rather about a different way of working – Strategic Framework for Water Services (September 2003)

Reporting and Decision-making

The Masibambane programme requests regular reporting which is part of the conditions set by the European Union. The Water Services Sector Leadership Group (WSSLG), which is a national forum representative of sector partners, serves as the decision-making body for Masibambane. The purpose of the WSSLG is to guide the water services sector, to facilitate the building of a well informed and organised sector and to promote sector collaboration and the effective co-ordination of water services.

Principles

- Managed by DWAF but owned by the sector
- The programme content is determined by the sector – South African Cabinet, MTSOs, National Collated WS Sector Strategy and priorities, DWAFs WS Strategy and its KFAs and Provincial sector strategies (MAAPs)
- Extended from only three programmes (Masibambane I) to all provinces
- Sector-based decision making at the WSSLG and joint responsibility for its implementation
- Responsible management practice and reporting structures
- Empowering the sector and its people by sharing information, knowledge and best practices
- Maximising resources by collaborative programmes and avoiding duplication
- Flexible to adapt to an ever changing environment
- Committed to sustainability.

Expected outcomes

- Meeting Millenium Development Goals and South Africa Government targets for water services and sanitation
- Empowered Local Government
- Capacitated Water Services Authorities and Water Services Providers
- Support to municipalities in the roll out of Free Basic Water
- Support to the Transfer of Water Services assets process
- Orientation of the sector towards gender mainstreaming, civil society involvement and appropriate technology promoted
- Support the implementation of the Municipal Infrastructure Grant (MIG) and the Local Government Capacity Grant (CBG)
- Support to NEPAD

Sector challenges

- Emphasis is on sustainability
- Decentralisation of service delivery to local government
- Changing role of DWAF
- Institutional reform of water services provision
- Meeting sector targets