

Water for Growth and Development

The Minister's announcement of the water sector theme, Water for Growth and Development, and the launch of ASGISA (Accelerated Shared Growth Initiative of South African), has shifted the focus of the water sector *beyond* the provision of basic services.

The focus now:

- developing the water sector;
- ensuring that water resource management and the provision of water services meet both economic and social priorities (national, provincial and local levels) over the next 5 years – 2007/08 to 2011/12.

This is vital in a water-scarce South Africa that is aiming for 6% annual growth and first world services, whilst addressing rampant poverty and the HIV/AIDS pandemic.

Water Sector Challenges

The critical challenges facing the water and sanitation sector are:

- massive urbanisation and rapid development leading to growing demand for water and appropriate sanitation infrastructure;
- increasing backlogs;
- challenges of water quality, pollution and health and hygiene;
- effective delivery while developing greater capacity in Water Service Authorities and Water Service Providers;
- continuing institutional reform, moving beyond addressing basic services only, and planning services to underpin economic growth and social development;
- meaningfully meeting the needs of the indigent and responding to the massive HIV/AIDS challenge;
- ensuring sound regulation of the sector and appropriate benchmarks for quality of delivery; and,
- perhaps the most urgent of all, building the institutional and human resource capacity of the sector.

The Sector Wide Approach (SWAP) adopted through Masibambane has placed the sector on a strong footing to meet these challenges and adjust to such changes while continuing to deliver.

The Masibambane Programme

Masibambane – *lets work together* has become known for its achievements in institutional support and development, fruitful sector collaboration and fulfilling national strategic objectives. The programme was recognised for its excellence in 2002 when it won the **Water Globe Award** and again in 2006 when it was awarded the **CPSI Public Sector Innovation Award**. In addition, DWAF won the coveted **Vuna Award** for Best Sector Department in 2006, as recognition for support to municipalities in delivering water and sanitation services.

The European Union 2005 Annual Report claimed that “The programme (Masibambane) has been successful and can even be termed “exemplary”, possibly beyond expectations. This is partly due to the timing of introducing a sector-wide approach...”). Overall management of Masibambane is vested in DWAF, whose efficient oversight has earned it the respect of the international community.

Masibambane's Successes

Some of the noteworthy successes of the programme include:

- a single Water Services reporting format and system that produces quarterly reports across 4 quadrants, ensuring sector accountability;
- a Sector-Wide Approach resulting in one strategy and an integrated work plan for the sector; and
- Civil Society collaboration in the development of a strategy through a series of summits.

In the past 3 years, Masibambane's role in the implementation of national and provincial water strategies at provincial and local government has been primarily focussed on building capacity at local government level, sector collaboration, cross-cutting issues and institutional reform.

The focus of Masibambane III over the next 5 years

- Developing stronger inter-governmental relations
- Interface between Water Resources and Water Services
- Local government capacity building for economic growth and development
- Skills development and knowledge sharing
- Addressing the needs of civil society and indigent communities.

Masibambane's Sector Wide Approach

The SWAP engendered by Masibambane is a first in the water and sanitation sector and has been highly innovative in its application. It facilitates donor co-ordination, bringing resources together in a consolidated budget allocated to the achievement of sector goals and objectives.

Through this process Masibambane has created a platform for addressing “soft issues” related to the quality and sustainability of delivery, which are commonly noted but frequently fall by the wayside. These include:

- appropriate technology,
- environmental impact management,
- gender mainstreaming, and
- greater civil society engagement.

Lesson sharing is key to best practice and good governance. Masibambane has assisted in the formation of the Water Information Network - South Africa (WIN-SA), which actively facilitates lesson sharing and knowledge exchange across the sector and globally. WIN-SA has and continues to play a critical role in brokering sector collaboration. It has built strong networks across a wide range of South African, African and international organisations.

Inter-governmental Relations

Masibambane has also made significant strides in developing Inter-governmental Relations (IGR) to facilitate collaboration between various government departments. Strong IGR is critical for the achievement of South Africa's social and economic Growth and Development goals.

Water Services and Water Resources Interface

An integral aspect of the development of a Water Sector is the interfacing between Water Services and Water Resources which will positively impact efficiencies in water service delivery and water management at both national and local levels.



Masibambane received the CPSI Public Sector Innovation Award in 2006

Masibambane III is led by the Department of Water Affairs & Forestry and funded by international donors such as the European Union. Over the next 5 years, Masibambane is focussed on strengthening the water sector and building inter-governmental relations towards the provision and management of water for economic growth and social development.



Department Water Affairs & Forestry

Skills Development and Support

Increased capacity building, training and support to local government are key focuses for the sector over the next five years. Some of the goals set out in the Local Government 5 year Strategic Agenda are to:

- empower councillors to actively participate in water services development and planning;
- develop leadership and professionalise management; and
- address the shortage of technical skills.

The role of DWAF's Regional Offices is to provide implementation support to municipalities and other sector partners. To this end, DWAF has adapted a "one stop shop" concept supported by a national Call Centre and proposed appointment of Regional Support Managers as a way of implementing the recently approved Water Services Sector Support Strategy.

Direct support is given to forums, municipalities and key role players, such as SALGA, dplg, and their provincial counterparts. Through this support, SALGA has played a pivotal role in ensuring local government is informed and actively participating.

Institutional Reform

The Strategic Framework for Water Services (SFWS) of 2003 aims at institutional reform through the creation of efficient and viable regional water service providers. The objectives of the Institutional Reform Strategy are to:

- Ensure the provision of appropriate levels of water and sanitation services;
- Improve the performance of water services providers;
- Improve the financial viability and sustainability of the water services sector;
- Improve the accountability of water services providers to water services authorities and to consumers;
- Use existing water services capacity, skills and resources in an integrated and optimal way;
- Improve the efficiency of water use; and
- Improve regulation of water services providers.

Water Service Delivery

All municipal infrastructure is now funded through the Municipal Infrastructure Grant (MIG) and managed by municipalities, and DWAF plays a support role.

Structures and Planning

Masibambane spearheaded improved planning: the *joint* development of strategies and plans – rather than mere consultation. Plans are reported against on a quarterly basis throughout the sector. A key innovation was the inclusion of reports from departments and programmes that are not specific to water services, such as the MIG, Municipal Systems Improvement Grant, Project Consolidate, Presidential Imbizos, and Health and Education departments. This has led to a holistic and comprehensive view of the sector by the sector. As a result, water services practitioners, especially those in municipalities, are better informed, able to make links and access funding or support as needed. It has also resulted in the national level, which is often top down in nature, having a better sense of what is needed on the ground.

Funding for 2007/8 to 2011/12

The sector budget reflected in Masibambane was donor R 798 831 143 and DWAF R3 412 757 591 for the first three years (2001-2004) and is estimated at donor R563 870 605 and DWAF R4 364 885 000 for the next three years (2004-2007). The Masibambane II Programme is due to end in March 2007 (**figures to be verified**).

DRAFT:

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Look for more information about Masibambane on <http://www.dwaf.gov.za/masibambane>