



BRIEF REPORT ON MCC **(Masibambane Coordinating Committee)** **May 21-22 2009**

Water Sector Leadership Group
17 – 18 June 2009





WHAT IS MCC?

- Sector wide approach necessitates reporting & accountability of sector partners & programmes
- MCC established as a platform for quarterly reporting of progress, budget (re)allocation & for sharing of experiences & lessons, especially across provinces
- Over time the reporting expanded to cover DWAF WS & WR & water related reporting of other players/sectors
- One national and nine provincial quarterly reports are drawn up and made available on CDs. An overview report is presented and covers too wide a range of activities and programmes to mention. The presentation to the MCC is available as a handout for information & reference
- ***Perhaps WSLG members would like to receive?***



WHAT IS MCC?

- In covering the sector as a whole it was determined to call it Water Sector Coordinating Committee – but MCC stuck as preferred choice of participants!
- It is the most comprehensive view of sector expenditure against programmes, but challenges remain – information gaps, difficulty in accessing data, reliability & validity of facts & absence of one coherent reporting system or standardised format within sector
- Hence the focus of deliberations at last MCC being ***Sector Reporting & Progress Analysis***



SECTOR REPORTING & PROGRESS ANALYSIS

What exists

- Tools developed to measure WSA & WSP functionality. 149 WSA Checklist received thru Regional Offices, giving a 'picture' of the municipalities, but insufficient for in-depth or qualitative analysis. RPMS (Regulatory Performance Monitoring System) now taking over, and attempting to align with other reporting systems.
- Electronic Water Quality Management System (EWQMS) is working – useful for municipalities who know how to use it



SECTOR REPORTING & PROGRESS ANALYSIS

What exists

- National assessment of municipal Waste Water Treatment Works is installing reporting & risk analysis system for appropriate intervention in areas of highest risk. Also practical & useful for municipalities



SECTOR REPORTING & PROGRESS ANALYSIS

What exists

- DEAT faced similar reporting problems of lack of monitoring & enforcement systems, lack of cooperation between departments & weak legal instruments, requiring legislative enforcement thru NEMA amendment
- Green Scorpions focused on sectors known for high levels of pollution. Collaboration with DWAF was essential.



SECTOR REPORTING & PROGRESS ANALYSIS

What exists



- 2 National Compliance & Enforcement Reports published; 2006/7 & 2007/8. Thru agreements with SAPS, NPA and Judicial system (Magistrates) 2614 arrests with 748 convictions
- **NB** As from 01 July, Waste Water Act will come into being, which will require reporting, including municipalities
- All above mentioned reporting processes face similar challenges of capacity constraints, poor response, unreliable data, lack of coordinated and uniform reporting systems and lack of enforcement instruments



SECTOR REPORTING & PROGRESS ANALYSIS – Group Discussion Recommendations

- Strategic inputs are needed in water sector finance to influence allocation rather than expenditure
- Critical issues requiring more attention are water pricing, asset management, skills development & retention and reporting of Municipal Indaba action plan.
- For better progress & risk analysis, need stronger focus on quality information showing impact & sustainability beyond statistics. Key to understand what is happening at community level
- Define principles & procedures for collection of information, clarifying what is required from whom.



SECTOR REPORTING & PROGRESS ANALYSIS – Group Discussion Recommendations



- Alignment & harmonisation of reporting systems with standardised formats
- Single point of contact & coordination, especially at provincial level to collate info from local level and feed to national. (Municipalities cannot report to a plethora of national departments). EC has established multi-partner M&E team. Other provinces to explore similar mechanisms
- Reports must benefit municipalities and they to be informed on how to manage and use



SECTOR REPORTING & PROGRESS ANALYSIS – Group Discussion Recommendations



- Targeted support required. Currently confused multiplicity of support activities.
- Often poor alignment between the IDP & WSDP therefore enforcement is required.
- Influence policy so information reporting becomes enforceable.
- Civil society is the '*eyes & ears on the ground*'. Important to harness them as monitors and structure & facilitate their reporting.



SECTOR REPORTING & PROGRESS ANALYSIS – Group Discussion Recommendations

- CSOs can assist with water quality monitoring at sub-catchment level & water leaks & failures at service level
- Need to link in with environmental NGOs and CBOs
- The New National Planning Commission and Performance, Monitoring and Evaluation in the Presidency will give direction and provide reporting framework into which to make input
- Nevertheless water sector must be well prepared!





KEY ISSUES & HIGHLIGHTS EMANATING FROM MTE

- **Key recommendations from the Masibambane mid-term Evaluation:**
- Regulatory Performance Management System (RPMS) should be fully implemented across all WSAs.
- Capacity for operating and maintaining municipal services is the largest challenge facing the sector.
- The national roll-out of the WSP Support programme is a real priority that must receive adequate support and financial resources.
- If effectively implemented, it could be instrumental in improving the management of drinking water quality, as well as in improving O&M overall.



KEY ISSUES & HIGHLIGHTS EMANATING FROM MTE

- Poorly performing & strongly performing WSAs should not be treated equally re the disbursement of grants for new water & sanitation infrastructure.
- Support mechanisms and funded programmes in support of the establishment of the CMAs is urgently needed.
- Policy direction in terms of WAR implementation via Compulsory Licensing to be provided and followed with an implementation strategy.
- Draft strategy on appropriate technology needs to be consulted for adoption & mainstreaming



KEY ISSUES & HIGHLIGHTS EMANATING FROM MTE



- The challenges of CSO sustainability within the sector need to be looked at: in the absence of donor funding could DWEA sustain a CSO support programme?
- Appointment of a champion to oversee and monitor roll-out and implementation by all sector partners of the HIV& Aids strategy
- The true value of MSB needs to be restated and recognised in order to position it correctly so that it can effectively facilitate the implementation of WfG&D



KEY ISSUES & HIGHLIGHTS EMANATING FROM MTE

- The drive and energy of MSB is still Water Services focused despite efforts to be fully inclusive of the water sector.
- This comes in part due to misperception that MSB is a separate donor programme rather than a collaborative way of working that should be adopted & implemented
- Reconfiguration of both national & regional collaboration structures should be speeded up, with emphasis on implementation protocols (collaboration agreements) as a way of managing relationships with sector partners.
- Process should focus on clarification of the relationship of formal IGR structures within the water sector as well as informal forums in order to broaden & enhance the quality of collaboration



KEY ISSUES & HIGHLIGHTS EMANATING FROM DISCUSSION

- Funding cuts and delays have had some dire consequences, such as sector partners/IAs having to terminate contracts
- In face of global recession & diminishing donor funding exit strategies are paramount. Of particular concern is funding to non-govt sector partners & their activities such as (SALGA, WIN, CSO support)
- WIN-SA knowledge sharing programme predominantly funded by SDC (SWISS) and progress is affected by withdrawal therefore partners need to commit resources to sustaining the programme
- In response to government call to 'tighten our belts' and reappraise budgets in light of strategic impact and effectiveness, sector partners should be party to the decisions on sector funding
- Role of Civil Society was emphasised as critical to people-centred development & sustainable delivery



KEY ISSUES & HIGHLIGHTS EMANATING FROM DISCUSSION

- Need to articulate, commit and institutionalise meaningful participation of civil society – particularly at local level
- Weak and diminishing institutional capacity is now an endemic constraint to the sector delivering on its mandate. Support is critical – but there is confusion over roles.
- Urgently need to define & distinguish between Regulatory and other Support and clarify where responsibility lies, ensuring that it is taken up.

