



water & sanitation

Department:
Water and Sanitation
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

COMMISSION 3

Water Shortages – Delivery Mechanisms By Municipalities and Water Boards

AIMS OF THE SESSION

- Understand risks associated with lack of water.
- Map out how the municipalities and the water boards can work together to address water shortages.
- Deliberate on the importance of planning and proper grant optimization for effective and efficient delivery of services.
- Discuss skills development in the water sector.
- Understand the benefits of storm water management and urban runoff.
- Discuss plans to deal with disasters.
- Discuss the importance of Public Private Partnerships in ensuring effective and efficient water supply.
- Understand the importance of water reuse and optimization of Non-Revenue Water.
- Discuss how desalination can form part of municipal water supply.
- Discuss disaster risk mitigation, responses and recovery to ensure that there is sustainable and reliable supply of water.

ANTICIPATED OUTCOMES

- a. National, Provincial, and Local Governments, including water boards, to commit to addressing water shortages and ensure water use efficiency with an action plan
- b. Describes the skills needed by the sector and how the professionalisation of those skills will be regulated
- c. A commitment for Municipalities to come up with a plan of managing their stormwater as per schedule 4 of the constitution and understanding the benefits of properly managed stormwater in addressing water shortages
- d. Development of a plan for grant optimisation to enable efficient and effective water supply
- e. A commitment to ensure that municipalities verify compliance with Disaster Risk Management Framework, Disaster Management Act and ensures that Disaster Management Plans are in place and operational and they are continuously updated.
- f. A commitment for bulk metering and calculation of Non-Revenue Water
- g. Plans in place to address the disaster management challenges experienced by the water sector and water services authorities.

OUTCOMES EMANATING FROM THE SESSION

It was agreed that there is a need for:-

- Community participation in decision-making using community led initiatives.
- A review of powers and functions of Water Services Authorities in order to improve their capacity to deliver effective and efficient services, this will be done in line with Water Services Act, National Water Act, Municipal Structures Act and Municipal Systems Act.
- A revision of National Norms and Standards to establish the Constitution's 'basic services' goal and improve efficiency of approach including achieving uniformity
- Fasttrack the establishment of an Independent Regulator (to monitor technical standards and pricing).
- A differentiated approach to Water Boards reform.
- Water Boards to develop capacity to support municipalities in undertaking their retail business
- Upgrading technical and business skills across the Water Sector value chain.
- Augmenting access to services through innovative technologies such as Desalination and water re-use.
- Improvements in the MISA Model to ensure sustainable transfer of skills.
- More investment in Meteorological and Hydrological collaboration to ensure disaster risks reduction, and cascaded down to local authorities

OUTCOMES EMANATING FROM THE SESSION

- Development of Innovative Public and Private Partnerships delivery mechanisms.
- COGTA and National Treasury to ringfence a certain portion for Operation and Maintenance within the Municipal Infrastructure Grant (MIG).
- A review of the fiscal mechanisms for water and sanitation and possible inclusion of conditions to the equitable share to ensure that the proportion earmarked for water services is used for that purpose.
- A review of other municipal grants mechanisms to address chronic under expenditure. .
- Municipalities to encourage building of community managed small schemes which could be later linked to large bulk schemes.
- A financial comparison between water reuse and desalination to identify the most cost effective approaches.
- There is a need to put mechanisms in place that will strike a balance between an investment on new infrastructure and old infrastructure.
- An investigation of the challenges of municipal stormwater management and potential contribution to addressing water shortages.

Key challenges and proposed solutions

No	Challenge	Proposed Solution	Responsibility	Time Frame
1.	<p>Review allocation of WSA responsibilities.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Arguments made that there are too many WSAs that some are not capable of carrying out the WSA responsibility. • Arguments were also made that the review should consider the need for cross subsidization and the need to have economies of scale to provide services efficiently and to be able to attract talent. • Concerns were raised about the situation where municipalities are both WSAs and WSPs 	Review will reduce numbers and clear roles and responsibilities using current legislation	Led by COGTA and supported by DWS	November 2022

Key challenges and proposed solutions

No	Challenge	Proposed Solution	Responsibility	Time Frame
2.	Powers and functions for WSAs and water boards to be aligned.	DWS and COGTA to collaborate . COGTA currently reviewing Structures Act DWS amending the WS Act and National Water Act	DWS and COGTA	June 2022
3.	Broader norms and standards for water services including minimum skills sets required by WSA's and WSP and tariffs	DWS to include in the current revision of norms and standards	DWS Regulation Branch	December 2022
4	Community participation in decision-making using community led initiatives.	Involve communities in planning i.e. IDPs and WSDPs	COGTA Municipalities	Ongoing

Key challenges and proposed solutions

No	Challenge	Proposed Solution	Responsibility	Time
5.	Cost reflective tariffs and transparency in decisions on tariffs	Proposal of the establishment of an Independent Regulator (for technical and pricing).	DWS	December 2022
6.	Water Boards business model only focusing on bulk supply (wholesale)	<p>Will be addressed as part of reconfiguration .</p> <p>Proposal for a differentiated approach to Water Boards reform</p>	DWS Water Resource Branch	December 2022
		Water Boards to develop interest in working with municipalities to sort out dysfunctional retail business as this affects revenue stream for the entire water value chain		

Key challenges and proposed solutions

No	Challenge	Proposed Solution	Responsibility	
7.	Technical skills challenge	Water is a business There is a need to address technical as well as business skills(finance, governance) across the Water Sector value chain	Guidance to be provided by Energy SETA on planning for new job requirements	June 2022
		There is a need for transfer of skills through the MISA Model to ensure sustainability	COGTA	Ongoing
8.	Water scarcity: Coastal interventions	Utilize the oceans economy as an opportunity to augment access to services and innovative technologies such as Desalination Coastal water boards to lead on these innovation and technology.	Coastal water boards to lead on these innovation and technology. Water Research Commission	November 2023

Key challenges and proposed solutions

No	Challenge	Proposed Solution	Responsibility	Time Frame
9.	Collaboration across the Water Sector.	Revive collaboration structures like WSLG and participate in DDM at local level.	DWS COGTA	June 2022
10	Disaster Risk Reduction	Meteorological and Hydrological collaboration is needed for disaster management. Information obtained to be cascaded down to local authorities to enhance decision making.	DWS COGTA	June 2022
11.	Transformation of the Water and Agriculture sector to include women and youth.	Commission 8 to take the proposal forward	DWS DALRRD	AS Soon As Possible

Key challenges and proposed solutions

No	Challenge	Proposed Solution	Responsibility	Timeframe
11(b)	Public and Private Partnerships should explore other service delivery mechanisms.	<p>Build on current support programmes and learn from them :</p> <p>Metros: Current City Support Programme needs to be sustained and perhaps given more technical capacity</p> <p>Intermediate cities: The presently conceived Intermediate City Support Programme must be ramped up</p> <p>Small towns : The current SALGA small towns project requires a full restructuring to greatly increase its scale</p> <p>Rural towns : The Regional Management Support Contract programme must be re-instated and ramped up</p>	<p>COGTA</p> <p>DWS</p> <p>SALGA</p>	December 2023

Key challenges and proposed solutions

No	Challenge	Proposed Solution	Responsibility	
13	Access to water in Ephraim Motseloeng , villages residing around Loskop Dam	Provincial Head of DWS will investigate the issue	DWS	March 2022

A black and white photograph of a hand-drawn 'Thank you' message. The words 'Thank you' are written in a cursive, handwritten style. A grey marker is shown at the end of the word 'you', as if it has just finished writing. The background is plain white.

Thank you