

**10<sup>th</sup> Year Celebration of the EU Co-operation in the Water Sector in South Africa**  
**Speech by Minister BP Sonjica, MP, Minister of Water Affairs and Forestry,**  
**13 July 2004**

Deleted: Speech By Minister Buyelwa Sonjica at the

Deleted: ,

Deleted: ¶

Honourable Commissioner Poul Nielsen,  
Ambassador Lake of the EU,  
Premier of Limpopo, Mr Sello Moloto  
MEC for Housing and Local Government, Ms Rosina Semenya  
MEC for Agriculture, Dr Aaron Motsoaledi  
Executive Mayor of Vhembe District Municipality, Mr SE Moeti  
Mayor of Thulamela Municipality, Khosi Vho-Makumbane  
Members of the Diplomatic Community  
Traditional Leadership,  
Ladies and gentlemen, Good Morning.

Deleted: Honorable

Deleted: ,

Deleted: ,

Deleted: ,

It is a great honour for me to address you this morning to celebrate ten years of co-operation between the government of a democratic South Africa and the European Union (EU) and its Commission in meeting the most vital need of our people – clean water and safe sanitation.

Deleted: indeed

Deleted: honor

I need to begin by thanking the EU on behalf of South Africa for their continuous support to service delivery and poverty alleviation and as the largest donor to SA. The financial support from the EU to the water sector since 1994 has been €140 Million, more than one thousand million Rand.

Deleted: First and foremost I would like to

Deleted: r

Deleted: the

Deleted: to

Deleted: 1994

Deleted: cooperation

Deleted: today

Deleted:

Deleted: it

Deleted: ed four initiatives in

Commissioner Nielsen, I know you are not new to South Africa especially not to Limpopo Province. During WSSD in Johannesburg in September 2002, together with my predecessor, you visited Vergelen Village near Bochum and stressed the priority of providing safe drinking water and sanitation to all. As important, the EU's member governments were busy at the negotiating tables to ensure that sanitation was recognized as a global development goal. Political support for the sanitation goal is, just as much as your development support to us, a clear sign of the EU's commitment to helping the people of Africa attain a better life.

Deleted: . These include the NGO Rural Water Supply Programme implemented by Mvula Trust, the Sector Support programme for Community Water Supply and Sanitation in

The EU's involvement in South Africa's water sector dates back before 1994, when, as a contribution to the transformation and democratisation of the country, the EU supported the Kagiso Trust's rural water programme. The Mvula Trust, today a respected NGO, was founded as part of that far-sighted initiative, to implement the programme and lay the foundation for our co-operation today.

Deleted: , the Water Development Programme in

Following the achievement of democracy, the EU expanded its support to the sector, through the DWAF Community Water Supply and Sanitation programme in Limpopo and the Eastern Cape and with a continuation of support to civil society through the NGO Rural Water Supply Programme implemented by Mvula Trust. In addition, the EU provided direct support to SADC water sector projects involving South Africa.

Deleted: the Rural Services Development Network Programme. These programmes were concerned with infrastructure provision, capacity building, health and hygiene, environmental management and monitoring and evaluation

South Africa is fortunate to have enough resources to address most of its development challenges although additional donor assistance helps us to speed up the process as well as to do the job better. But we quickly learnt that co-operation with donors brings challenges. Based on what we learned in these initial projects, the Masibambane Programme was designed.

Deleted: cooperation

Deleted: with

A key challenge is to ensure that donor assistance is effectively designed and managed to support local development strategies rather than leading in different directions.

Deleted: p

Deleted: p

For this reason we sought with the Masibambane Programme to achieve co-ordination between the many bilateral donors who have so generously contributed to our transition from apartheid as well as to support South Africa's own water sector programme rather than to operate projects

Deleted: coo

parallel to it. The Sector Wide Approach harmonized donor requirements, minimised transaction costs and reduced delays, ensuring that more of the money reached those for whom it was intended.

This budget support approach is, we believe, what we should be striving towards elsewhere in Africa if we are to achieve the Millennium Development Goals of safe water and sanitation throughout the continent. This is why we have been working with our fellow Africans to put in place the African Water Facility, which was launched at the African Development Bank water week in Tunis earlier this month.

The Masibambane Programme has also highlighted our approach of "learning by doing". It included the development of sector institutions with a particular focus on local governments, which are responsible for service provision. But this capacity development has been accompanied by programmes of infrastructure provision so that all concerned gain practical experience of the planning, construction and operation of water service schemes. This is the approach that we are promoting more broadly in Africa through the African Water Facility.

The project we are opening today, the Xikundu Water Treatment Works, is a good example of the kind of support that has been provided. The project forms part of the Luvuvhu River Government Water Scheme which includes the Nandoni Dam, built to provide a reliable supply of water, even in drought years. It can produce 20 Megalitres of pure water every day and will provide a reliable supply to 183 500 people once all have been connected to the system.

Already the plant has begun to supply water to villages that did not have access to safe drinking water before, including Xikundu Village. A connection to the existing Malamulele-Mhinga pipeline has dramatically improved supply reliability for 60 000 people previously receiving water from the overstretched Malamulele Water Works. When the distribution pipeline to the Tshifudi Area is commissioned within the next few weeks, it will supply another 36 500 people. Finally, another 81 000 people will be supplied in the Malamulele East area, by October.

However, the challenges of providing water services to all are not yet over.

There is still a massive sanitation backlog in this area although good progress has been made as we will see in Xikundu Village where there has been a programme to build VIP toilets. I am pleased to say that health and hygiene promotion have been part of the programme. I would like to commend Vhembe District Municipality for appointing Mrs Tshioli as its dedicated District Sanitation Co-ordinator to address health, hygiene and sanitation.

Our new water schemes must also be managed properly so that people get a reliable supply. Recent surveys indicate that on any one day, as many as 2% of South African households are not getting water from their normal source due to supply interruptions. This is not good enough and local government's management capacity must be improved, a key focus for my Department in the next few years.

As part of Government's programme to empower local government, funding for infrastructure development is now being channelled directly to municipalities through the Municipal Infrastructure Grant. Departments like DWAF will support Local Government to plan and implement water supply and sanitation programmes.

To take this ambitious programme forward, we are fortunate to be able to count on the ongoing support of the EU. I understand that a committee is sitting in Brussels, as we speak, to consider a further three year programme of support to South Africa's Water Services Sector valued at €50 million (fifty million Euro = three hundred and seventy five million Rand).

If - I would rather be hopeful and say WHEN - this is approved, the funds will be used to support Local Government to use the Municipal Infrastructure Grant to further reduce the basic

Deleted: Facility which

Deleted: Together with Masibambane 1, the support received from the EU is estimated at €140 Million. This can be easily translate to over ONE THOUSAND MILLION RAND at today's exchange rate. In addition to this, EU provided €7 m for direct support to SADC water sector. We have also taken a Sector Wide Approach thus harmonizing donor requirements in Government process, minimizing transaction costs and delays. This will ensure that most of the money reaches the deserving

Deleted: Through

Deleted: p...governments which

Deleted: T

Deleted: 1, the following were achieved with generous support from the EU; Development of the Water Services Sector Strategic Framework

Deleted: h...e

Deleted: is part of ...This plant ...a ... and is already supplying water to sever

Deleted: Recently a connection was done on the

Deleted: exisiting

Deleted: that saw almost this scheme. These people were previously receivin

Deleted: DWAF together with Vhembe District Municipality still needs further suppo

Deleted: Our National Government has also streamlined budget support to

Deleted: channeled

Deleted: . The ... (mostly referred as MIG) is now a big pool of funding for

Deleted: On this day, EU through its SA Committee will be ...assessing ...financ

Deleted: r

Deleted: funding of €50 million.

infrastructure backlog and to achieve reliable and sustainable services. The programme will be led by DWAF together with our key local government partners, SALGA and DPLG. It will complement and support the investment by government of approximately R22.5 billion over the same period.

Commissioner Nielsen is serving his last term in office as the Commissioner for Development and will leave his post at the end of this year. I would like to take this opportunity to thank him for all the support provided and, on behalf of the people of South Africa, to wish him all the best in his future.

To the diplomatic community from the EU member states present here, I would like to thank you for all your contributions in providing financial and technical support to the water sector in South Africa. Your support is highly appreciated.

To my brother Premier Sello Moloto, to MEC Semenya and Mayor Moeti, I am delighted to come to this part of the "far north" and find that the poorest people are already receiving Free Basic Water and that the Vhembe DM is implementing an Indigent Policy to target that free water supply to all households with an income of less than R1 100 a month. This giant step will assist these poor communities to focus their limited financial resources on other needs such as food and education, demonstrating that water really can wash away poverty.

To the traditional leadership in the area, you lived and worked together before the apartheid government separated you; now we need to pull together again, as in our Masibambane Programme, and lead our communities to improve their lives. I know that my officials have a very good working relationship with all of you and I would like to appeal to all Mahosi and Tinduna to participate and encourage your people to participate in all water development activities. This will help us to make sound decisions about our use of this life-giving resource.

Finally, I would like to thank the community of Xikundu Village and the other villages around for helping to ensure that this event, like this project, is a success. We are working for you but, through your co-operation and commitment, you are showing other communities in the country how to make development happen.

- Deleted: is
- Deleted: new
- Deleted: be for 3 years ending 31 March 2007. This programme would
- Deleted: , DPLG and SALGA as
- Deleted: The governme ... [9]
- Deleted: ing
- Deleted:
- Deleted: .
- Deleted: in the Water ... [10]
- Deleted: and I would l ... [11]
- Deleted: . His term expires
- Deleted: also wish hin ... [12]
- Deleted: and Mr
- Deleted: have also lea ... [13]
- Deleted: in area
- Deleted: also
- Deleted: and
- Deleted: has in some ... [14]
- Deleted: for
- Deleted: people
- Deleted: households
- Deleted: combi
- Deleted: ed
- Deleted: Such a
- Deleted: also
- Deleted: in
- Deleted: to
- Deleted: . This is a fur ... [15]
- Deleted: ¶ ... [16]
- Deleted: I know that y ... [17]
- Deleted: d
- Deleted: quality of life
- Deleted: assist in mak ... [18]
- Deleted: around
- Deleted: scarce
- Deleted: In conclusion,
- Deleted: also
- Deleted: facilitating in ... [19]
- Deleted: cooperation
- Deleted: and
- Deleted: ¶

Page 2: [1] Deleted	BDG	14/07/2004 14:31:00
---------------------	-----	---------------------

p

Page 2: [1] Deleted	BDG	14/07/2004 14:25:00
---------------------	-----	---------------------

governments which

Page 2: [2] Deleted	zza	08/07/2004 09:55:00
---------------------	-----	---------------------

1, the following were achieved with generous support from the EU;

Development of the Water Services Sector Strategic Framework

Capacity of Local Authorities has been built

Free Basic Water and sanitation has been provided to over 50 %

Establishment of Sector Collaboration structures such as COLLACOM in Limpopo

The programme also exceeded the targets in KZN, EC and Limpopo for:

Water target 2.4 million reached 2.8 million

Sanitation target 106 000 reached 130 000

Page 2: [3] Deleted	BDG	14/07/2004 14:26:00
---------------------	-----	---------------------

h

Page 2: [3] Deleted	BDG	14/07/2004 14:26:00
---------------------	-----	---------------------

e

Page 2: [4] Deleted	zza	08/07/2004 09:56:00
---------------------	-----	---------------------

is part of

Page 2: [4] Deleted	zza	08/07/2004 10:09:00
---------------------	-----	---------------------

This plant

Page 2: [4] Deleted	zza	08/07/2004 14:26:00
---------------------	-----	---------------------

a

Page 2: [4] Deleted	zza	08/07/2004 10:12:00
---------------------	-----	---------------------

and is already supplying water to several villages that did not have access to safe drinking water before. About 6000 people of Xikundu Village have been receiving water from this scheme since 2003.

Page 2: [5] Deleted	zza	08/07/2004 10:14:00
---------------------	-----	---------------------

that saw almost

Page 2: [5] Deleted	zza	08/07/2004 10:14:00
---------------------	-----	---------------------

this scheme. These people were previously receiving water from

Page 2: [5] Deleted	zza	08/07/2004 10:14:00
---------------------	-----	---------------------

Malamulele Water Works, which was

Page 2: [5] Deleted	zza	08/07/2004 10:15:00
---------------------	-----	---------------------

to the limit

Page 2: [5] Deleted	zza	08/07/2004 10:15:00
---------------------	-----	---------------------

Currently

Page 2: [5] Deleted	zza	08/07/2004 10:15:00
---------------------	-----	---------------------

,

Page 2: [5] Deleted	zza	08/07/2004 10:15:00
---------------------	-----	---------------------

in

Page 2: [5] Deleted	zza	08/07/2004 10:15:00
---------------------	-----	---------------------

being

Page 2: [5] Deleted	zza	08/07/2004 10:15:00
---------------------	-----	---------------------

. This

Page 2: [5] Deleted	zza	08/07/2004 10:15:00
---------------------	-----	---------------------

more

Page 2: [5] Deleted	zza	08/07/2004 10:15:00
---------------------	-----	---------------------

within the next few weeks

Page 2: [5] Deleted	zza	08/07/2004 10:15:00
---------------------	-----	---------------------

Another

Page 2: [5] Deleted	zza	08/07/2004 10:50:00
---------------------	-----	---------------------

pipelines are being installed

Page 2: [5] Deleted	zza	08/07/2004 10:16:00
---------------------	-----	---------------------

and this will be commissioned towards

Page 2: [5] Deleted	zza	08/07/2004 10:51:00
---------------------	-----	---------------------

2004

Page 2: [5] Deleted	zza	08/07/2004 10:16:00
---------------------	-----	---------------------

This will bring another 81 000 people served on board at various levels of service.

Page 2: [6] Deleted	zza	08/07/2004 10:29:00
---------------------	-----	---------------------

DWAF together with Vhembe District Municipality still needs further support to supply water and sanitation to other villages within the vicinity.

You will recall that in July 2003, our President led all of us in Kwazulu Natal to celebrate the 9 Million mark in provision of potable water in South Africa. Last year we also made a commitment of reaching the 10 Million mark this year. We will reach this target 17 years ahead of MDGs for full coverage.

It is also noted that in this area,

Page 2: [6] Deleted	zza	08/07/2004 10:29:00
---------------------	-----	---------------------

substantial

Page 2: [6] Deleted	zza	08/07/2004 10:30:00
---------------------	-----	---------------------

towards reaching targets for basic sanitation has been made.

Page 2: [6] Deleted	zza	08/07/2004 10:30:00
---------------------	-----	---------------------

is one of the beneficiaries of the Sector Support Programme that saw the provision of

Page 2: [6] Deleted	zza	08/07/2004 10:30:00
---------------------	-----	---------------------

for basic sanitation

Page 2: [6] Deleted	zza	08/07/2004 10:30:00
---------------------	-----	---------------------

have also learnt

Page 2: [6] Deleted	zza	08/07/2004 10:30:00
---------------------	-----	---------------------

has

Page 2: [6] Deleted	zza	08/07/2004 10:38:00
---------------------	-----	---------------------

and we will be visiting some households in the area to see all these

Page 2: [6] Deleted	zza	08/07/2004 10:31:00
---------------------	-----	---------------------

the initiative from

Page 2: [6] Deleted	zza	08/07/2004 10:31:00
---------------------	-----	---------------------

to

Page 2: [6] Deleted	zza	08/07/2004 10:31:00
---------------------	-----	---------------------

appoint a

Page 2: [6] Deleted	zza	08/07/2004 10:31:00
---------------------	-----	---------------------

person

Page 2: [6] Deleted	zza	08/07/2004 14:28:00
---------------------	-----	---------------------

(Mrs Tshiololi, Vhembe DM Sanitation Coordinator)

Page 2: [7] Deleted	zza	08/07/2004 10:35:00
---------------------	-----	---------------------

. The

Page 2: [7] Deleted	zza	08/07/2004 10:35:00
---------------------	-----	---------------------

(mostly referred as MIG) is now a big pool of funding for infrastructure development in South Africa

Page 2: [7] Deleted	zza	08/07/2004 10:37:00
---------------------	-----	---------------------

. Other d

Page 2: [7] Deleted	zza	08/07/2004 10:51:00
---------------------	-----	---------------------

now have to provide

Page 2: [7] Deleted	zza	08/07/2004 10:39:00
---------------------	-----	---------------------

to

Page 2: [7] Deleted	zza	08/07/2004 10:39:00
---------------------	-----	---------------------

in the delivery of essential services such as Water and Sanitation.

Page 2: [7] Deleted	zza	08/07/2004 10:40:00
---------------------	-----	---------------------

The Extended Public Works Programme (EPWP) is also another major initiatives by the Government of South Africa to fight poverty and unemployment. This programme will provide opportunities for social and skills development in the country

Page 2: [8] Deleted	zza	08/07/2004 10:41:00
---------------------	-----	---------------------

On this day, EU through its SA Committee will be

Page 2: [8] Deleted	zza	08/07/2004 13:53:00
---------------------	-----	---------------------

assessing

Page 2: [8] Deleted	zza	08/07/2004 10:41:00
---------------------	-----	---------------------

financial proposal from South Africa's Water Services Sector for

Page 2: [8] Deleted	zza	08/07/2004 10:42:00
---------------------	-----	---------------------

Page 3: [9] Deleted	zza	08/07/2004 10:43:00
---------------------	-----	---------------------

The government would be

Page 3: [10] Deleted	zza	08/07/2004 10:43:00
----------------------	-----	---------------------

in the Water Sector, which will include over R400 million from the EU

Page 3: [11] Deleted	zza	08/07/2004 10:44:00
----------------------	-----	---------------------

and I would like to give the assurance that every cent will be accounted for and maximize the benefit for the people. Most of these resources would be utilized to support Local Government with the implementation of the MIG. The new programme would also focus more on sustainability issues.

Commissioner Poul Nielsen is not new to South Africa especially Limpopo Province. During WSSD in JHB 2002, Commissioner Nielsen together with my predecessor visited Vergelen Village near Bochum. In his speech he stressed the issue of provision of safe drinking water and sanitation to all. During that time, governments were busy negotiating around tables the inclusion of sanitation in the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) of which EU was on our side. Support provided so far by the EU is a sign of the EU's commitment to the attainment of the MDG's.

It should also be known that

Page 3: [12] Deleted	zza	08/07/2004 14:00:00
----------------------	-----	---------------------

also wish him all the best in his future

Page 3: [13] Deleted	zza	08/07/2004 14:02:00
----------------------	-----	---------------------

have also learnt that our

Page 3: [14] Deleted	zza	08/07/2004 14:03:00
----------------------	-----	---------------------

has in some parts progressed well with the implementation of

Page 3: [15] Deleted	zza	08/07/2004 14:04:00
----------------------	-----	---------------------

. This is a further demonstration that

Page 3: [16] Deleted	zza	08/07/2004 14:01:00
----------------------	-----	---------------------

To the other EU member states diplomatic community present here, I am aware of all your contributions and some of your countries are even providing parallel financial and technical support to the water sector in South Africa. To mention the few, Ireland, Netherlands, France and the UK, your support is highly appreciated.

<b>Page 3: [17] Deleted</b>	<b>zza</b>	<b>08/07/2004 14:46:00</b>
I know that you have been staying together for years		
<b>Page 3: [18] Deleted</b>	<b>zza</b>	<b>08/07/2004 14:47:00</b>
assist in making informed		
<b>Page 3: [19] Deleted</b>	<b>zza</b>	<b>08/07/2004 14:48:00</b>
facilitating in ensuring		