



## water & sanitation

Department:  
Water and Sanitation  
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

### INTERNET ARTICLE

#### Global collaboration for water infrastructure development and governance

23 October 2014

*The development of new water infrastructure and the adaptation of the existing one took centre stage when different countries brought their heads together during the 6<sup>th</sup> Southern Africa Development Community (SADC) River Basin Organisation (RBO) workshop held from 15 to 17 October 2014. The workshop, which was held at the Birchwood Hotel in Boksburg, South Africa, was meant to augment synchronization amongst relevant institutions and optimise the readiness of river basins organisations with regard to floods and other climate change impacts.*

*During the workshop, where a number of delegates from various SADC member States convened, heightening water infrastructure was identified as the best tool to manage water resources as they allow to stock and distribute water when and where it is needed the most. This also allows breaking the dependency of societies on rainfall.*

*Delegates agreed that financial development assistance and sponsorship from international bodies would play a critical role in catalysing infrastructure development and improved water governance in SADC, as there is greater need for support towards improved asset management and financial capacity. Investment in water conservation and regulation can reduce investment costs once the minimum infrastructure platform is in place through funding of water resources management and governance.*

*Held under the theme “**Strengthening Regional Cooperation and Resilience in Water Related Disasters**”, the conference saw representatives from diverse states congregate in several break-out sessions amounting to discussions around strengthening the water supply and sanitation access in the SADC region.*

*Through these sessions, delegates cited that access to clean water supply and sanitation is a critical developmental challenge as it limits the productive and adaptive capacity of individuals, households and communities. Consensus was reached to pursue participation from the private sector in water resources development.*

*The SADC region takes pride in that it is recognised internationally as a role model for trans-boundary water resources cooperation, and that workshops of this nature confirm the secretariat’s commitments towards improving global water supply and access to dignified sanitation.*

**Maduvha Maseda**

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