



## water & sanitation

Department:  
Water and Sanitation  
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

### INTERNET ARTICLE

#### **Water management challenges plenty in SADC Regions**

**29 July 2015**

*Ministers responsible for the Water Sector from the Southern African Development Community (SADC) - Member States are working hard to tackle water management challenges experienced by the regional states including South Africa.*

*The SADC members have regular meetings to plan and review progress including providing guidance on the implementation of the third phase of the Regional Strategic Action Plan on Integrated Water Resources Management and Development (RSAP III) 2011-2015.*

*Ministers noted that the implementation of the SADC Water Programme continued to register remarkable progress despite human resource capacity challenges at the Secretariat and urged Member States to continue facilitating the implementation of programmes that were lagging.*

*These officials noted that three out of the 15 programmes in the RSAP III did not receive resources to facilitate their implementation. The three programmes are on water quality and environment, economic accounting for water use and assessment of surface water resources.*

*They also adopted the report on the Mid-Term Evaluation on the implementation of the RSAP III and the Protocol on Shared Watercourses which was conducted in 2014 by independent consultants. The report highlights achievements and challenges faced in implementing the RSAP III and describes the SADC Water Programme as a unique regional programme that helped to build and instil a spirit of cooperation in trans-boundary water resources*



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*management and development, as well as facilitated discussions and engagements between riparian states at the basin level and across the region through Water Weeks and Multi-Stakeholder Water Dialogues.*

*As part of their responsibilities, Ministers reviewed and approved the draft structure and content of the Fourth Phase of RSAP. This is currently being developed and directed by the SADC Secretariat. The idea is to finalize the strategy in collaboration with the Water Resources Technical Committee (WRTC) members. The RSAP IV will run from 2016 to 2020.*

*They also encouraged Member States to participate in on-going consultations on thematic topics to be included in the RSAP IV.*

*Consultations on issues to include in the RSAP IV are on-going during the SADC National Water Weeks which have so far been conducted in 11 of the 15 Member States. The SADC National Water Weeks are scheduled to take place during the month of July in the outstanding four Member States. South Africa is currently holding a SADC National Week in the country from 29 to 31 July 2015.*

*Ministers also reviewed and approved the list of priority intervention areas for the water sector programme for the 2016/17 budgeting and planning year.*

*They also reviewed the status of implementation of projects in the various river basins in the SADC region namely, the Okavango, Limpopo, Orange-Senqu, Buzi, Save, Ruvuma, Zambezi, Kunene, Cuvelai, Inkomati/Maputo and Pungwe. They also commended the state parties of the basins for the progress made in implementing various projects.*

*On water projects in the Regional Infrastructure Development Master Plan, Ministers noted that the Secretariat continued to promote the Regional Infrastructure Development Master Plan (RIDMP) and its associated Projects through various means including investor conferences. The Secretariat has prepared a list of priority projects from the Master Plan which are ready for investment financing and those that still required development and packaging so that they are easily accessible when promoting them to potential financiers.*

*Ministers urged Member States to continue supporting the process of promoting projects to financiers by availing information to facilitate project development, packaging, financing and subsequent implementation.*

*The gathering further noted that the SADC Secretariat continued to support implementation of the Lomahasha/Namaacha joint cross-border water supply project between Mozambique and*



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*Swaziland. The project aims to provide sustainable water supply and sanitation services to the communities living in the border towns of the two countries.*

*The House further noted that the SADC Secretariat and GIZ were exploring different avenues for funding support of the Member States to undertake construction of the water supply schemes once feasibility assessment is completed for the Lomasha/Namaacha project.*

*On Joint Cross border water initiatives, the Ministers noted that the SADC Secretariat in close collaboration with the governments of DRC, Zambia and Tanzania, was conducting a study for cross-border water supply and sanitation schemes for the border towns of Kasumbalesa (DRC/Zambia) and Nakonde/Tunduma (Zambia and Tanzania). The study which is supported by the German government in delegated cooperation with Australian and UK governments is scheduled to be completed by the end of July 2015. Ministers urged the participating Member States to continue supporting the project and consider setting aside some funds as contribution, since some of the funding sources were likely to require a certain proportion of country contribution.*

*Regarding the Regional Water Supply and Sanitation, Ministers noted that a two-year Regional Water Supply and Sanitation project that was supported by African Water Facility of the African Development Bank (AfDB) was successfully completed in September 2014. The objectives of the project included establishment of a collaborative regional framework for effective planning and management of water supply and sanitation to enable the Member States to improve the provision of water supply and sanitation at country level.*

*On the Kunene Trans-boundary Water Supply and Sanitation Project, Ministers noted that implementation of the Kunene Trans-boundary Water Supply and Sanitation Project, which is a SADC pilot involving southern Angola and northern Namibia slowed because of changes in the project scope. They urged the two Member States and SADC Secretariat to fast-track the project implementation in view of the time already lost and the delayed benefits to the intended communities. The project entails development and rehabilitation of water supply and sanitation infrastructure for communities and towns in the project area. Another important component of the project is to establish and build the capacity of a water entity in the Kunene province in Angola.*

**Ike Motsapi**