

Report to the Portfolio Committee on Provincial visits to Kwa-Zulu

Natal, Northern Cape and Western Cape

General Recommendations:

Actions Taken

More assistance on the WSDPs plans are required	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> (a) Assistance is being given to WSA's on a continuous basis in updating their WS documents (b) Area planning is supported through M and DWAF guided Donor funding provide strategic guidance for preparation of WDSP documents (c) Funding is being granted by DLGTA professional investigations to enhance the information base required for reliable WSDP documents
Municipalities require assistance with development of the IDPs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> (a) Multi-disciplinary forum sessions being conducted to ensure completeness and integration of sector specific plans into IDP documents (b) Provincial departments and DWAF participating in IDP verification sessions (c) IDP reviews held recently where DWAF actively involved in all the Provinces
Flexibility should be applied in the application of policies; particularly in difficult topography areas and where settlement patterns are dispersed	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> (a) Flexibility is being applied by the DWAF regional offices in assessing and appraising project development proposals to cater for variation in topography and demographic specific nature of individual project sites. (b) Deviation from General Guidelines motivated and recommended to DPLG for consideration of MIG funding grants
The WSAs long-term decisions regarding water service provider arrangement must be finalised and suitable contractual arrangements put in place. Water Service Provider business plans should be prepared and regulation of WSP must be addressed	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> (a) WSA's are being supported by DWAF systems in finalisation of the Section assessments for water services delivery (b) Funding is being granted by DLG and DWAF for professional investigations to enhance the information base required for implementation of water services Section 78 recommendations
Support to be provided by Department of Water Affairs and Forestry (DWAF), the South	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> (a) A regional bulk water provision strategic intervention investigation has been initiated

<p>Water Affairs and Forestry (DWAF), the South African Local Government Association and Department of Traditional and Local Government Affairs (DTLGA) for adequate water services and water resources planning not covered by project specific feasibility investigation</p>	<p>intervention investigation has been initiated jointly by the bulk water utilities (Water Boards). The objective of this initiative is aligned to integrate resource and supply needs to facilitate sustainable long-term development, operation and maintenance of water service delivery. A similar initiative has been launched for regional bulk and individual household sanitation services. DWAF representation assists steering of this initiative.</p>
<p>A strengthening of the indigent support register was needed.- need for by-laws</p>	<p>Most municipalities are being supported to develop and finalise their indigent registers and with guidelines on Free Basic Service delivery to relieve the plight of the poorest of the poor.</p>
<p>A concerted effort was needed to accelerate the delivery of water and sanitation programme through considering whether the area was to be declared a disaster area. Long-term strategies were needed to minimise the impact of drought.</p>	<p>All districts in are being considered as equally affected by the current drought and disaster management and financial assistance interventions to mitigate the impact of the drought are being directed as per locally developed, provincially moderated needs analysis reports. Acceleration of water services delivery needs to be addressed, as in all other areas, by an increased MIG grant funding allocation, distributed equitably to all areas (Provincially and Nationally) Regional bulk water supply scheme development, linked to sustainable, reliable water sources are being investigated with support from DWAF structures.</p>
<p>There was a need to reduce debt, water loss and maintenance costs. Water Conservation and Demand management strategies to be put in place</p>	<p>Proper operations & maintenance planning, including billing systems, revenue collection and debt management is strongly promoted. Budgeting a problem. DWAF is funding and assisting municipalities in other regions to implement WU and Demand management strategies</p>

Issues of poverty need to be addressed-improvement in LED plans	<p>(a) Strategies to promote Local Economic Development through local product enhancement is strongly promoted.</p> <p>(b) All municipalities are being supported by DLGTA (KZN) to develop and finalise their indigent registers and with guidelines</p>
Free Basic Service delivery to relieve the plight of the poorest of the poor.	<p>(a) Policies need to be revised so that every household, in the future, would be provided with water.</p> <p>(b) In NC, there is not enough water to support the policy in other municipal areas</p> <p>(c) Infrastructure development programmes will be guided and regulated to ensure compliance with RDP norms and objectives to serve all households, as far as resources and practical constraints allow, with access to basic levels of water services.</p>
To undertake a detailed study to locate existing underground pipes, and standpipes.	Grant funding has been directed towards an expanded investigation into the nature, existence and functional state of existing infrastructure. This investigation is specifically being directed at the Nongoma area where major challenges are being experienced with serious cases of unaccounted for water consumption which results in the total demand exceeding the supply capacity of the current water supply systems.

Meeting with His Majesty, King Goodwill Zwelithini

The Committee had an interesting meeting with King Goodwill Zwelithini, who provided insights on some of the issues that impact negatively on the water, sanitation and forestry sectors in Kwazulu-Natal.

On issues pertinent to the forestry sector, the King highlighted the following:

- The tea plantations that worked well in the past were financially funded and created job opportunities for the communities living in the area. However, DWAF in taking the initiative to cut down large plantations of trees and carting it to sawmills in Vryheid instead of utilising local infrastructure is disadvantaging this community.
- The rationale for moving timber from Kwazulu-Natal to other parts of the country to process was highly problematic. This increased the unemployment and takes projects away from communities.
- There is a need for the government to allocate funds to black people to own projects and expertise is needed to empower these communities.

- Not much has been seen of Black Economic Empowerment (BEE) initiatives, as outlined in the Forestry Charter, in this region.

On issues pertinent to water resources, the King highlighted the following:

- An input in July 2005 on the Water Allocation Reform from the monarchy reflected some of the concerns of water distribution in this region. DWAF experiences problems in that although water is allocated for a specific number of households, the movement of people and the creation of settlements challenge the resources.
- In one instance, R3 million was allocated to the building of a dam in Invuma. Although the developers were warned of the prevailing unsatisfactory conditions, such as build up of soil and sand from the banks of the Invuma River, went ahead and built the dam. In a short space of time, the dam was filled with sand and soil.
- Although the St. Lucia area has been declared a World Heritage Site, oil pollution in this area is a major problem.
- The skewed distribution of water to communities as opposed to one commercial farmer, Mr Senekal, accessing the bulk of the water needs serious attention. Poor people queue through the night to fill buckets.

Response to His Majesty, King Zwelithini by the Chairperson of the Portfolio Committee:

- The Portfolio Committee on Water Affairs and Forestry plays a critical role in the passing of laws pertinent to water, sanitation and forestry issues. In terms of the Committee's oversight functions, it is necessary to also critically examine the changing responsibilities of DWAF, in terms of transference of obligations with service delivery.
- It is also crucial that the Portfolio Committee understand the difficulties experienced by the Municipalities in translating new functions. These issues can be raised at Parliament with the Minister, and timely interventions can be undertaken.
- The Constitutional right of people to services does not necessarily transform to water allocation reform, but incorporates other sectors on the question of a better life for all citizens in South Africa.

Umzinyathi District Municipality

General Challenges

- Financial constraints – eradicate backlogs against current MIG annual allocations.
- Dispersed consumers and difficult topography – supply areas.
- Operation and maintenance resources – resources in-house to operate and maintain infrastructure.
- Local government capacity constraints – capacity in-house for planning and improving capital projects.
- Lack of funds for bulk supply and higher levels of services – capital investments; expansion of existing infrastructure.
- Higher levels of service of funding – top-up funding for the provision of HLOS.
- Inadequate water resource planning – scheme failures.

Detail Report on individual Municipalities

Recommendation	Action Taken
Increase resources – financial and human	Acceleration of water services delivery needs to be addressed, as in all other areas, by an increased MIG grant funding allocation, distributed equitably to all areas (Provincially and Nationally)
Development of a WSP monitoring model.	DWAf guided Donor funding grants have been allocated to development of WSP monitoring systems in the uMzinyathi DM. A system monitoring the drinking water quality of services provided by the WSP has already been initiated.
Support by DWAf and DTLGA for water services and resource planning.	<p>Assistance is being given to WSA's on a continuous basis in updating their WSDP documents</p> <p>Area planning is supported through MIG and DWAf guided Donor funding to provide strategic guidance for preparation of WSDP documents</p> <p>Funding is being granted by DLGTA (KZN) for professional investigations to enhance the information base required for reliable WSDP documents</p>
Financial support required of R9, 5 million for the current short-term measures	Available infrastructure directed Donor funding guided by DWAf has been allocated and is being utilised for short-term interventions in the district.

Umkhanyakude District Municipality

Key Challenges

- Maintenance and operation plans are needed.
- Water services rollout is inadequate.
- There are a number of backlogs and access to services needs improvement.

Recommendations

Recommendations	Action Taken
Assistance with regard to IDP and WSDP plans.	<p>Assistance is being given to WSA's on a continuous basis in updating their WSDP documents</p> <p>Area planning is supported through MIG and DWAF guided Donor funding to provide strategic guidance for preparation of WSDP documents</p> <p>Funding is being granted by DLGTA (KZN) for professional investigations to enhance the information base required for reliable WSDP documents</p> <p>Multi-disciplinary forum sessions are being conducted to ensure completeness and integration of sector specific planning into IDP documents</p> <p>Provincial departments and DWAF are participating in IDP verification sessions.</p>
An immediate intervention to allow communities access to their basic water rights	<p>The uMkhanyakude DM is being assisted by the NIRT, consisting of DWAF, DPLG and SALGA, to reach agreement with uMhlathuze Water to act as bulk WSP manager on all bulk schemes and assist the WSA in the development of operations and maintenance plans for its entire are in line with interim Section 78 directed resolutions.</p> <p>Acceleration of water services delivery needs to be addressed, as in all other areas, by an increased MIG grant funding allocation, distributed equitably to all areas (Provincially and Nationally)</p>

Ilembe District Municipality

<p>Whilst the Portfolio Committee visited Wards 8 and 10 in the Sonkombo region, falling under the Ilembe District Municipality, there is an urgent need to investigate the conditions of service delivery in the entire Sonkombo region.</p>	<p>Assistance is being given to WSA's on a continuous basis in updating their WSDP documents</p> <p>Area planning is supported through MIG and DWAF guided Donor funding to provide strategic guidance for preparation of WSDP documents</p> <p>Funding is being granted by DLGTA (KZN) for professional investigations to enhance the information base required for reliable WSDP documents</p> <p>Multi-disciplinary forum sessions are being conducted to ensure completeness and integration of sector specific planning into IDP documents</p> <p>Provincial departments and DWAF are participating in IDP verification sessions.</p> <p>Acceleration of water services delivery needs to be addressed, as in all other areas, by an increased MIG grant funding allocation, distributed equitably to all areas (Provincially and Nationally)</p>
<p>The construction of a big dam by blocking Usuthu River Water and thereby pumping water into NODAL water reservoirs at the following headmen constituencies in Ward 14, 15 and 17 of Inkosi Mathenjwa and Inkosi Mngomezulu, respectively.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Ekuhlehleni Area. Emanyiseni Area. Engonyameni Area. Nkungwini Area. 	<p>Development of the Usutu River, which at the point forms the international boundary between South Africa and Mozambique, is governed by international treaties between the two countries and Swaziland as the third Usutu River Basin state. These treaties currently does not allow for further storage to be developed by South Africa on the Usutu River. The solution to water supply in this region would come from future extensions of the existing Shemula Scheme on the Phongolo River.</p>
<p>Another dam can also be built by blocking the Ingwavuma River at the Esiweni area.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> The water could assist the farming communities of Inkosi Nyawo, Inkosi Mngomezulu and Inkosi Mathenjwa. 	<p>Development of the Ingwavuma River is governed by an international treaty between South Africa and Swaziland. This treaty currently allows for full utilisation of all available flow of the Ingwavuma River by Swaziland. Flow in the river, downstream of</p>

	<p>the Swaziland border, is therefore not sustained to accommodate an expensive storage dam on the river (the dam will be empty for prolonged periods during years of average and below average rainfall in its catchment area).</p> <p>Farming opportunities need to be developed on the Makatini Irrigation scheme to support all people from the area.</p> <p>Due to erratic rainfall patterns and prolonged dry periods small local community storage dams on tributary valleys will not be sustainable and therefore prohibitively expensive in terms of the benefits to be realised from such schemes.</p>
Water supply systems can also be installed in the Western part of Inkosi Nyawo through Hlathikhulu Forest or Esihlangwini Area. This will help the local community and that of Ingwavuma Town.	The solution to water supply in this region would come from extensions of the existing Shemula Scheme on the Phongolo River which are currently being implemented.
Need a limited amount of funding, to link the Shemula Scheme to this area. If funds are given to upgrade the scheme and utilise bigger pumps, the area will be supplied with water.	These extensions of the existing Shemula Scheme on the Phongolo River are currently being implemented.
Although the terrain is difficult to negotiate on an engineering level, there are options, such as utilising closer sources to water to service the area.	Certain areas within the larger Lower Phongolo River basin can be supply by extension of water supply infrastructure at the Pongola Poort Dam (Jozini), which is the topic of current planning initiatives that will be implemented within the foreseeable future.
Sustained studies need to be undertaken in this area to utilise and tap into the water resources that are available in this area.	The WSA will be supported to link existing studies to develop the potential of the lower Phongolo River Basin for large scale irrigation on the Makhatini Flats and studies to render domestic water services into a comprehensive development plan for the area.
The bulk of the water from the Jozini Dam is being utilised by a big commercial farmer, Mr Senegal. Large consumption of water for irrigation purposes is needed, but a skewed distribution of this vital source to the community needs immediate address from the Departments of Land, Agriculture, Water Affairs and Forestry.	This statement is completely misguided. The allocation to Senekal Boerdery, which is only 5% of the total available water from the Pongola Poort Dam, is the rightful allocation from the dam designated for development in the adjacent Mkhuze River basin. This allocation includes provision of bulk raw water supply, at the cost of Mr Senekal, to be developed locally for domestic water provision

	<p>farming downstream of the dam.</p> <p>The Department has recently approved a municipal domestic water supply scheme upgrade uMkhanyakude DM to the value of R12,9 million to be sourced from the dam, for improvement of rural domestic water supply in the area.</p> <p>Further refinement to reduce the flood release for maintenance of subsistence type farming the communities around the pans along lower Phongolo River and re-negotiation of volume to be released to Mozambique to make further volumes of water available for irrigation development along the Makatini Flats. All irrigation development will be linked to domestic water services provision of communities on the Makatini Flats.</p>
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