

Water and Sanitation in the News

Cabinet Pumps Resources into Municipal Infrastructure

Cabinet has made a key decision to plough more resources into municipal infrastructure, especially for maintenance, says Minister in the Presidency for Planning, Monitoring and Evaluation, Jeff Radebe.

Minister Radebe was briefing media on Monday in Pretoria following the Cabinet Lekgotla that was held last week. The Lekgotla, according to Minister Radebe, provided an opportunity for Cabinet to reflect on the implementation of government's programme of action and the implementation of the National Development Plan (NDP).

Minister Radebe said an action plan to ensure greater expenditure on municipal infrastructure maintenance and to enforce proper financial asset management will be developed and implemented to extend the lifespan and quality of the infrastructure assets.

"Approximately R1.3 trillion of assets are at jeopardy because of maintenance. The issue of maintaining the infrastructure that we have plays a key role in advancing the agenda of the NDP, so the financial asset management in municipalities must be strengthened," said the Minister.

In line with the proper management of municipal infrastructure, the Minister said water saving and minimising water losses continues to be government's priority.

"By September 2016, agreements are to be complemented with municipalities with high water losses ... and a clear funding model is to be completed," said the Minister...

Source: *AllAfrica.com*, 22 Aug. 2016

The **Municipal Assistant™** software system helps to prevent incidents of water and sanitation failures by facilitating the efficient management functions related to water treatment and supply.

The Municipal Assistant™ was developed as an operational information system to assist with the assessment (on component level including cost and lifespan), operations, **maintenance (preventive and reactive)** and management of water and wastewater facilities and related infrastructure.

Utilizing the system ensures that assets and people perform at optimal levels, which reduce service disruptions due to asset failure or human error, thereby reducing future maintenance costs.

The following elements were taken into consideration when the system was developed:

- provide a structured source of information and knowledge to ensure that **capacity building** is an ongoing process;
- create a mechanism to enhance the optimal and sustainable use of facilities (financially and technically) and achieve the primary aim, that is the **sustainable use of our water resources**;
- provide a **planning mechanism** in order to maintain and expand facilities for the delivery of appropriate services; and
- undertake planning for **water demand management** and **water conservation measures**.

ASSET CAPTURING AND ASSESSMENTS

- Field visit to assess assets
- Capture of data: Risk and evaluation of assets
- Reporting: Provision of Asset audit and Asset photo report

Before the Municipal Assistant™ system is implemented, or as a standalone service, **WAMTechnology** conducts **asset and/or risk assessments** in terms of a range of identified hazards including the impact on components of the infrastructure critical for water supply and sanitation. Among others, hazards associated with relevant infrastructure age, capacity and condition; as well as operations and maintenance status; floods or droughts; theft and vandalism; and socio-economic factors are assessed in order to determine a rating on a cumulative events matrix – indicating the likelihood and severity of a community's vulnerability to experience events related to water supply and public health.

In doing so, serious threats to community and ecosystems health are early identified along with priorities of preventive and reactive maintenance.

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WAMTech are specialists in implementing technology systems for improved governance, focussing on Water and Public Health Information Systems

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