

Water and Sanitation in the News

South Africa May Force Municipalities to Budget for Water

The South African government is preparing a draft law to force municipalities to devote 15 percent of their annual budgets for the maintenance and operation of water infrastructure, its water minister said. "We are working with the National Treasury to see how this can be done as there are serious issues with aged infrastructure at local authorities that have not been properly budgeted for," Water Affairs and Sanitation Minister Nomvuka Mokonyane said Thursday in Cape Town.

Issues around local access to water have been at the centre of delivery protests. Among the most serious were those in January in Madibeng in the North West province. The province has accounted for 10 percent of South Africa's service delivery protests, according to a January report from MunicipallQ. Of these 42 percent raised water as a grievance, it said. Municipalities are responsible for the supply of water to South African residents. Many municipalities, especially those in rural areas, have failed to maintain aging infrastructure or build new water supply facilities though as the population expands. The municipalities have also struggled to supply areas during the apartheid era that had no running water. "The drought in some provinces, such as the North West, KwaZulu-Natal and Limpopo, have added to the infrastructure problems and the quality of water has also deteriorated," Mokonyane said.

Source: *Bloomberg*, 21 May 2015



Context

The renewed focus and possible law enforcement of adequate infrastructure maintenance seems like a step in the right direction in eliminating costly water losses and ensuring South Africa's future water security. The

Department of Water and Sanitation plans to achieve a 15% reduction in water losses over the current financial year and intends to conclude the eradication of the bucket system programme in formal areas by December 2015. While Minister Mokonyane indicates that, some 88% of South Africans currently had access to clean water and 78% had been provided with adequate sanitation, many municipalities, are struggling to maintain aging infrastructure – which have compromised the delivery of water and sanitation services. "We need to retain focus on maintenance, so [we're] mandating the ring-fencing of funds..." Minister Mokonyane commented during a media briefing.

Source: *Engineering News*, 21 May 2015

WAMTechnology CC is the sole supplier of the **Municipal Assistant™ system**. In our experience in implementing our system in **more than 50 municipalities** in South Africa and Zimbabwe, one of the major problems with the deterioration of infrastructure is lack of or the need of better operational asset management systems, maintenance scheduling and control, because of focus on asset register inventories and other financial requirements instead of operational needs.

WAMTech conducted and supervised numerous site visits since 2006 of: >200 waste water and water treatment plants; >300 reservoirs; >200 pump stations; and >700 km bulk pipelines; In order to capture the asset information and conducting the asset assessments, to compile an inventory, to **schedule reactive and preventative maintenance**, conduct assessment (usage and condition as well as associated risks), clear cost and lifespan reporting, etc. The Preventative Maintenance is site and asset specific. We link tasks, staff and budgets. The Municipal Assistant™ system can create job cards and is very user friendly to update. The 2015 asset module has been approved by UCLGA. It includes an inventory setup according to GRAP 17 and MIG requirements and provides for the following: Asset register (all required fields); Asset assessments (usage, condition, risk); Reactive maintenance (scheduling, job cards, tracking, reporting, costing); Preventative maintenance (scheduling, job cards, tracking, reporting, costing); Cost and lifespan (auto calculation of lifespan and replacement and depreciated replacement cost 'today' based on the Price Index of SA).

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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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