

Session 15 Panel Discussion : Multi Level Governance for SDG and AM Alignment

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Date: 23 October 2025

WATER IS LIFE - SANITATION IS DIGNITY



water & sanitation

Department:
Water and Sanitation
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA



Infrastructure Asset Management (IAM) within **(water and sanitation)** refers to a **systematic and strategic approach** to planning, operating, maintaining, upgrading, and disposing of physical assets—such as water treatment plants, pipelines, reservoirs, sewer networks, and pumping stations—in a way that ensures **sustainable, reliable, and cost-effective service delivery** over the asset's entire life cycle.

The Sector is Failing!

Five key criteria for consideration towards sustainable Infrastructure Asset Management (IAM)

1. **Lifecycle and Risk-Based Planning**

- Adopt a comprehensive, long-term approach that manages assets from design to disposal, guided by risk assessments to prioritise maintenance, renewal, and investment decisions.

2. **Financial and Economic Sustainability**

- Ensure funding mechanisms, tariffs, and budgets cover full lifecycle costs—balancing affordability for users with financial viability for the service provider.

3. **Environmental and Climate Resilience**

- Incorporate energy efficiency, resource conservation, pollution control, and climate adaptation measures into asset design, operation, and renewal.

4. **Governance and Institutional Capacity**

- Maintain clear accountability, skilled personnel, and sound decision-making frameworks supported by accurate data, asset registers, and performance monitoring.

5. **Service Reliability and Social Equity**

- Deliver consistent, safe, and affordable water and sanitation services that meet community needs and regulatory standards while ensuring inclusivity and fairness in access.

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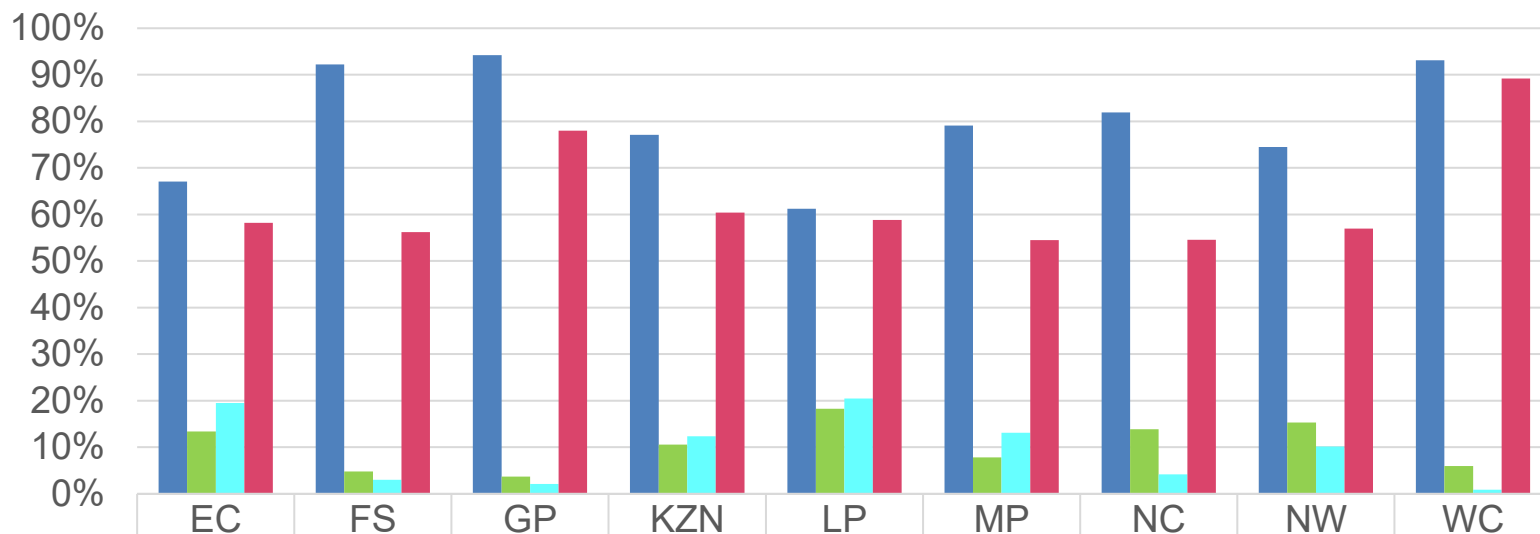
SDG 6.1 – Safely Managed Water Supply Status

The SA data trends of safely managed water supply percentage (%) change per Annum between 2017 and 2023



Basic Level of Service (Water) Per Province (2023)

Services per province



- In 1994, 15.2 million (33%) people were estimated to have no access to basic water supply. The backlogs were much more severe in the poorer black rural areas.
- In 2023, (82,4%) of households (15.26 million h/holds) in the country had access to piped water either inside their dwelling or inside their yard, 3.2 million h/holds / 11 million people (17.6%) do not have access to basic services and about 12,6 million (20%) do not have access to a reliable service

INFRASTRUCTURE COMPONENT STATUS

WASTE WATER TREATMENT WORKS: TOTAL OF 1 271					
OBSERVATION	Dysfunctional	Vandalized	Operational	Prime Condition	Total
	15,66%	2,36%	74,01%	5,74%	97,8%
REFURBISHMENT NEEDS	High	Medium	Low	None	
	17,31%	33,91%	11,96%	21,16%	84,34%
O&M NEEDS	Regular	Periodic	Sporadic	None	
	18,02%	19,98%	47,68%	11,01%	96,7%
INCIDENTS REPORTING	Regular	Periodic	Sporadic	None	
	9,83%	19,59%	56,73%	12,35%	98,51%
	34,17%		47,6%	12,57%	Status Unconfirmed 5,66%

INFRASTRUCTURE COMPONENT STATUS

WATER TREATMENT WORKS: TOTAL OF 1 055					
OBSERVATION	Dysfunctional	Vandalized	Operational	Prime Condition	Total
	21,23%	0,28%	69,95%	7,49%	98,96%
REFURBISHMENT NEEDS	High	Medium	Low	None	
	15,64%	25,31%	25,5%	29,95%	96,4%
O&M NEEDS	Regular	Periodic	Sporadic	None	
	11,28%	23,22%	43,41%	18,29%	96,21%
INCIDENTS REPORTING	Regular	Periodic	Sporadic	None	
	5,69%	29,38%	41,04%	19,15%	95,26%
	33,01%		44,98%	18,72%	Status Unconfirmed 3,29%

Current Bottlenecks in Water Services

- Lack of Infrastructure Asset Management principles applied to water and sanitation infrastructure particularly O&M
- Poor performance of governance structures - :little / no Planning, huge debts, lack of available finance, mismanagement of budgets, corruption. Institutional capacities must be strengthened at all levels to ensure effective governance and service delivery.
- High Non Revenue Water (47%)including unacceptable water leakage
- Lack of significant and sustained financial investment required to achieve universal access to clean water and sanitation
- Insufficient scaling up of innovative technologies and solutions tailored to diverse local contexts.
- Lack of awareness, education, responsibility by consumers to respect the infrastructure – theft, vandalism, misuse of sewers etc
- Insufficient Partnerships to address the challenges



Funding and Capacity Support

- Based on the drop reports that were published, and having assessed the declining state of local government infrastructure, an assessment was carried out indicating a deficit of about **R400bill** required to deal with the backlogs in the 105 worst performing WSAs, collapsed infrastructure, reliability, in order to turn around the water sector.
- The department is currently contributing around R12,5billion annually through its grants. Which is insufficient to deal with the infrastructure challenge.
- The Department has estimated that **R131 billion** will be required per annum to meet the SDG6 goal within the next 5 years. **34%** shortfall
- This money is not available and South Africa will not meet SDG6 within the next 5 years
- This emphasizes the need for WSAs to minimise non-revenue water and to use revenue from the sale of water to finance private sector investments in the water sector.
- Private Investment / Partnerships critical to maximise impact

Minister's Water and Sanitation Indaba (27- 28 March 25)

Five-Point Plan from the 2025 Water and Sanitation Indaba

1. **Delivery and Implementation Models**

The Indaba emphasized the need to improve the delivery and implementation models for water and sanitation services. This includes refocusing infrastructure grants to Water Services Authorities (WSAs) to increase access to basic services and strengthening national government support to municipalities. Additionally, reforms at the municipal level are necessary to enhance service delivery efficiency.

2. **Increasing Investment and Financial Viability**

To ensure the financial sustainability of the water and sanitation sector, the plan advocates for increased investment through diverse financing options. This includes promoting private sector confidence, repurposing limited budgets effectively, and finalizing the review of the local government funding model and conditional grants.

3. **Enhancing Technical and Operational Capacity**

The plan highlights the importance of strengthening technical and operational capacity within the sector. This involves developing minimum competency regulations for water service providers and ensuring that municipalities urgently fill key technical positions to improve service delivery.

4. **Building Partnerships and Community Engagement**

Recognizing the role of communities in safeguarding water infrastructure, the plan calls for building partnerships to create water-sensitive and resilient communities. This includes involving communities more actively in the protection of water infrastructure and considering the establishment of water committees at the community level.

5. **Fighting Criminality and Corruption**

To combat criminal activities and corruption in the water and sanitation sector, the plan mandates that all WSAs develop infrastructure security strategies or plans within six months. Furthermore, the Department of Water and Sanitation committed to collaborating with the Special Investigating Unit to establish a national water and sanitation anti-corruption forum within the same timeframe.

This Five-Point Plan serves as a strategic framework to address the pressing issues in South Africa's water and sanitation sector, aiming to ensure sustainable and equitable access to these essential services for all citizens

Thank You

