

Flagstaff



Amanz'abantu
services (pty) ltd

Sipaqeni (EU) Water Supply Scheme Serving 14 villages southeast of Flagstaff

The **Sipaqeni Water (EU) Supply Scheme (WSS)**, which is being developed in two phases, will supply water to a total of 14 villages southeast of the town of Flagstaff, which falls under the jurisdiction of the O R Thambo District Municipality.

The 14 villages, with a combined population of almost 10 000 people, will have a pumped water supply from boreholes. Operational costs of the R10 million scheme are quite reasonable considering that all the water has to be pumped from the boreholes to reservoirs situated on the hilltops.

The villages are relatively densely populated and the boreholes conveniently situated, so the cost per capita is quite low at around R914 (based on 1997 costs).

The Sipaqeni WSS was initiated under the RDP 3 programme in 1997, with partial funding from the European Union.

The project was transferred to the Department of Water Affairs and Forestry's Build, Operate, Transfer and Train (BoTT) programme in October 1999.

At this stage, only the conceptual design was complete and Amanz'abantu, as project implementing agent (PIA), was asked to expedite the implementation process.

Assisted by the local authorities, the project team was able to start construction in September 2000 and the first phase was commissioned in October 2001.

All the construction work was done using historically disadvantaged companies (HDCs) as subcontractors and drawing on

labour from the local communities.

Amanz'abantu was involved in the training of community-based operators and board members to manage the scheme until transfer to the O R Thambo District Municipality takes place.

Construction of phase two of the scheme started in November 2001 and commissioning is anticipated sometime in August 2002.

The scheme will be operated by the water service provider (WSP), a community-based organisation, assisted by the Ngquza Hill Municipality.

Each household will be expected to pay a flat rate of R5 a month to

draw water from taps at communal standpipes situated within 200 metres of their homes.

It is envisaged that transfer of the entire scheme to the water service authority (WSA) will take place in July 2003.

Amanz'abantu will assist the WSP to

operate and maintain the scheme until then, and thereafter will mentor the WSP for a further 12 months if required.

Project manager Ron Eardley says the Sipaqeni WSS is the result of excellent co-operation between the local community and the project team in pursuit of their common goal of water delivery. "As PIA, Amanz'abantu are pleased that we were able to commission phase one of this project within 24 months of receiving the first instruction.

"This is further proof that delivery of sustainable water schemes can be fast-tracked quite successfully," says Ron.



DWAF
Department of Water
Affairs and Forestry



Trench excavation (Sipaqeni WSS)



Converted Bamamzini tap (Sipaqeni WSS)



The ace of rural water delivery and the recipients (Sipaqeni WSS)

Sipaqeni (EU) WSS Statistics

Project value	R10 035 082,00
Number of villages	14
Population served	9 700
Phase 1 commissioning date	October 2001
Phase 2 commissioning due	August 2002