

# Inkomati Flows

22<sup>nd</sup> Edition

A weekly newsletter from the office of the CEO

## **World Bank and Zambian Government come to learn from Inkomati CMA**

One of the Brettonwood institutions established to respond to national economic developmental needs of governments will be down in Nelspruit with the Zambian government officials to come learn from the ICMA on IWRM.

This event will be hosted by the Department of Agriculture and Land Affairs in the Mpumalanga Provincial Government and the Inkomati CMA. The delegation of the ICMA will be composed of the Acting Chairperson, Mr N Govender, Mr C du Preez, Mr S Ndlovu, Mr M Selepe, Mr J Mabunda and Mr B Jackson.

In a bid to address water shortages, inequality, development, pollution and many other water challenges mainly in developing countries, the World Bank engages in a number of partnerships aimed at developing innovative approaches to sustainable water resources management. This includes learning and exposing developing countries to best practices.

In Southern Africa Development Community Region (SADC), Zambia is among the countries supported by the World Bank on the IWRM and agriculture development. This mission seeks to learn from us on how we manage the resource and market our products.

The Inkomati CMA is perceived as one of those institutions which can add value in the quest to find solutions to the above challenges. As we have emphatically stated in the previous issues of this newsletter, the fact that we are the first CMA in the country heading the transformation in the water resource management puts us at the great advantage of being the point of reference. We have to remain at this position going forward and built on the existing competitive and comparative advantages.

Rest assured when this delegation leaves our offices, it would have been exposed to:

- A description of the ICMA and its functions;
- Water reform in the IWMA;
- Overview of key challenges facing the ICMA;
- Collaborative working relationships between commercial farmers emerging farmers around production and market; and
- Agriculture in the context of rural development.

After this interaction, the ICMA will have fulfilled one of the mandates that the Minister has given to all DWAF entities, which is, assisting in the development of Africa. Obviously, assisting in the development of Africa is not an event. We have to build further areas of learning and cooperation so that we can realise the goals of developing a prosperous Africa.

### **3<sup>rd</sup> Generation Business Plan**

During the past few weeks, the development of the third generation draft strategic Business Plan has dominated the priority list across all the ICMA divisions. On the 15<sup>th</sup> February 2008, the governing board of the ICMA met and pronounced itself on the content areas of the draft. In principle, the board has approved the first draft, albeit minor adjustments. Necessarily, before our stakeholders could engage the draft, the governing board members had to re-engage with the document. This happened on 22<sup>nd</sup> February 2008.

Following the incorporation of inputs made by the governing board on the drafts and in keeping with the spirit of the National Water Act stipulating that a catchment management agency must facilitate stakeholder involvement in its planning processes, the ICMA has coordinated a stakeholder participation meeting as a way of soliciting stakeholders' inputs into the business plan. The meeting is scheduled to take place on the 29<sup>th</sup> February 2008 at Botanical Gardens (Nelspruit).

The final round of consultations will assume the shape of an engagement with the Department of Water Affairs and Forestry, after which the inputs will find way into the Business Plan. Without doubt, the agreed upon timeframes pertaining to the submission deadline are still intact. This far, we need to give credit to the management and staff of the ICMA for ensuring that the processes of the ICMA remain n course. A successful organisation is built this way. Again, we need to heartily thank the ICMA Governing Board for its stewardship.

At this point in time, we are going to meet the stakeholders convinced that we are taking a good message to the people.

### **Good work is visible**

Underscoring the stakeholders' appreciation of the ICMA consultative initiatives, after the Status Quo Presentation to stakeholders organised by our staff in the Sabie – Sand Sub-Catchment on 21<sup>st</sup> February 2008 at Numbi Hotel, Mapulaneng Heritage Council wrote to us and said:

“This letter is transmitted to you to convey a message of gratitude for having invited us to this educative and informative workshop. We take pride in your balance leadership. We unfortunately do not have eloquent words to thank your good self and colleagues. It is good and great of you all. Thanks once again”.

This workshop was facilitated by Thomas Ababio-Agyebo, a member of the Inhlakanipho Consulting, assisting us with the development of the catchment management strategy development. We certainly feel highly honoured by this humbly words.