

**STANDING COMMITTEE  
ON  
WATER SUPPLY AND SANITATION**

22nd April 1992

The Chairman  
Daily Management Committee  
CODESA

Dear Sir

**RE : STANDING COMMITTEE ON WATER SUPPLY AND SANITATION  
CONTRIBUTIONS TO CODESA STRUCTURES**

On the basis of an awareness of the high priority attributed by the majority of South African communities to the provision of safe and convenient water supplies and sanitation, this Standing Committee was convened in January this year following intensive consultations with a wide range of parties concerned about the supply of water, sanitation and associated services.

The members of the Standing Committee are drawn from a wide range of government, parastatal, professional and non-governmental organisations involved in the water supply and sanitation sector as well as from organisations representing those communities which are still disenfranchised.

The objective of the Standing Committee is to support the development of policy options for the water supply and sanitation sector in the new South Africa such that the best possible advice is available to those having to make decisions on the future dispensation for the country. A full copy of the Terms of Reference is attached.

It is in this regard that I have been instructed by my Committee to advise you of the existence of the Standing Committee on Water Supply and Sanitation and of our readiness to contribute to the work of CODESA and its associated structures in the interests of better serving our people.

*Correspondence  
Contact:*

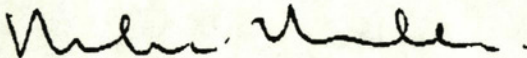
*c/o Chief Executive's Office, Rand Water Board, P.O. Box 1127, Johannesburg 2000  
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We are particularly concerned that decisions regarding certain issues which could affect the effective functioning of water supply and sanitation may be taken without adequate consultation with the sector. These include:

- the definition of boundaries for second tier (regional) government which may, because they do not coincide with rational water management boundaries, give rise to inefficient provision of services in the future (see map attached);
- the attribution of specific powers and responsibilities with regard to the water and sanitation sector between the different levels of government and utilities such as water boards;
- the inclusion of relevant second generation rights such as the right to a healthy environment, clean water and adequate sanitation within a constitutional bill of rights.

We would thus be grateful if you could draw the attention of the members of your various organs to the existence of the Standing Committee and further request that we be afforded the opportunity to make representations as may be deemed appropriate.

Yours faithfully



AM Muller  
(Chairman)

(ccovsaa-codaaa/1)

# STANDING COMMITTEE ON WATER SUPPLY AND SANITATION

## STANDING COMMITTEE : INTERIM TERMS OF REFERENCE

At the August 1st workshop organised by Water and Sanitation 2000 there was consensus on the nature and the scale of the problems confronted in the water supply and sanitation sector. Nearly 12 million South Africans lack adequate water supplies; 21 million do not have adequate sanitation. To eliminate these "backlogs" will cost between R10 billion and R30 billion, depending on the level of service provided. In particular, the absence of coherent policies to address the problem was noted.

It was therefore resolved that:

1. A national standing committee be established to initiate a process of policy formulation.
2. Such an activity should embrace all interested parties and that the standing committee should thus be convened by a neutral body.
3. The Water and Sanitation 2000 group be requested to initiate the process of establishing a standing committee by forming a drafting committee to which they could co-opt members as required.
4. The tasks of the drafting committee would be:
  - i) to advise all interested parties of the proposals;
  - ii) to draft terms of reference for a national standing committee which would initiate the policy formulation process;
  - iii) to convene an open meeting for all interested parties at which the background papers would be presented and the approach to the policy formulation process decided and initiated.

***This document*** has been prepared by the drafting committee to comply with resolution 4.iii. It has been amended in the light of the discussion at the open meeting on September 26th. An important point raised in this context was that the proposed Standing Committee could have no mandate to formulate policy but could only help to develop policy options and policy proposals. It could also play a valuable role by providing informed technical input into the policy deliberations in other fora.

## **1. BACKGROUND**

The problems associated with the effective provision of adequate water supply and sanitation facilities to all of South Africa's population are many and formidable. Some of these are:

1. No single organisation is charged with this responsibility. Responsibilities are dispersed over many organisations, including the Department of Water Affairs and Forestry, the Department of Health and Population Development; the Department of Development Aid; the Development Bank of SA; local authorities; homeland and provincial authorities; water boards; regional service councils; as well as private companies and voluntary agencies.
2. There is a lack of sufficient funding.
3. Planned water supply and sanitation is to a large extent inseparable from the planned provision of proper housing. Where the latter activity breaks down, or is absent, water supply and sanitation equally suffer.
4. Closely associated with ineffective water supply and sanitation are the proliferation of solid wastes and the occurrence of serious water pollution problems deriving from storm water runoff from these areas.
5. In addition to financial and technological aspects, the situation is often complicated by political and socio-economic factors. Policy with regard to water supply and sanitation is inevitably affected by negotiations in broader areas of housing, local government and rural development policy.

## **2. PROPOSED COURSE OF ACTION**

One positive factor is that a great deal of concern and goodwill have been manifested by many different individuals and organisations. This resource must be built upon. It was for this reason that the participants in the workshop organised by W & S 2000 on August 1st 1991 resolved to promote the development of a coherent and coordinated approach to the formulation of water supply and sanitation policy and strategy.

The first step will be the formation of a Standing Committee.

### **The tasks of this Standing Committee will be to:**

- bring together all parties interested in addressing policies and strategies for water supply and sanitation;
- promote data gathering and research designed to increase the general understanding of the nature of the problem; this should address not just physical issues such as service coverage but also the practical concerns and priorities of the communities affected, the nature, structure and functioning of those institutions which are responsible for service provision and the financial aspects of such provision;
- take note of and coordinate the activities of each participating organisation and ensure that the policy process is supported by well founded technical inputs in a manner which uses optimally the technical resources of all parties;

- on request, provide specific technical inputs to relevant negotiating fora;
- Identify key areas for intervention in both the physical provision of services, the development of appropriate institutions, the commissioning of research and the mobilisation of the financial resources needed to carry out such tasks as may be identified;
- produce a report on policy options identified and proposals on appropriate strategies for discussion by all interested organisations within nine months of its establishment.

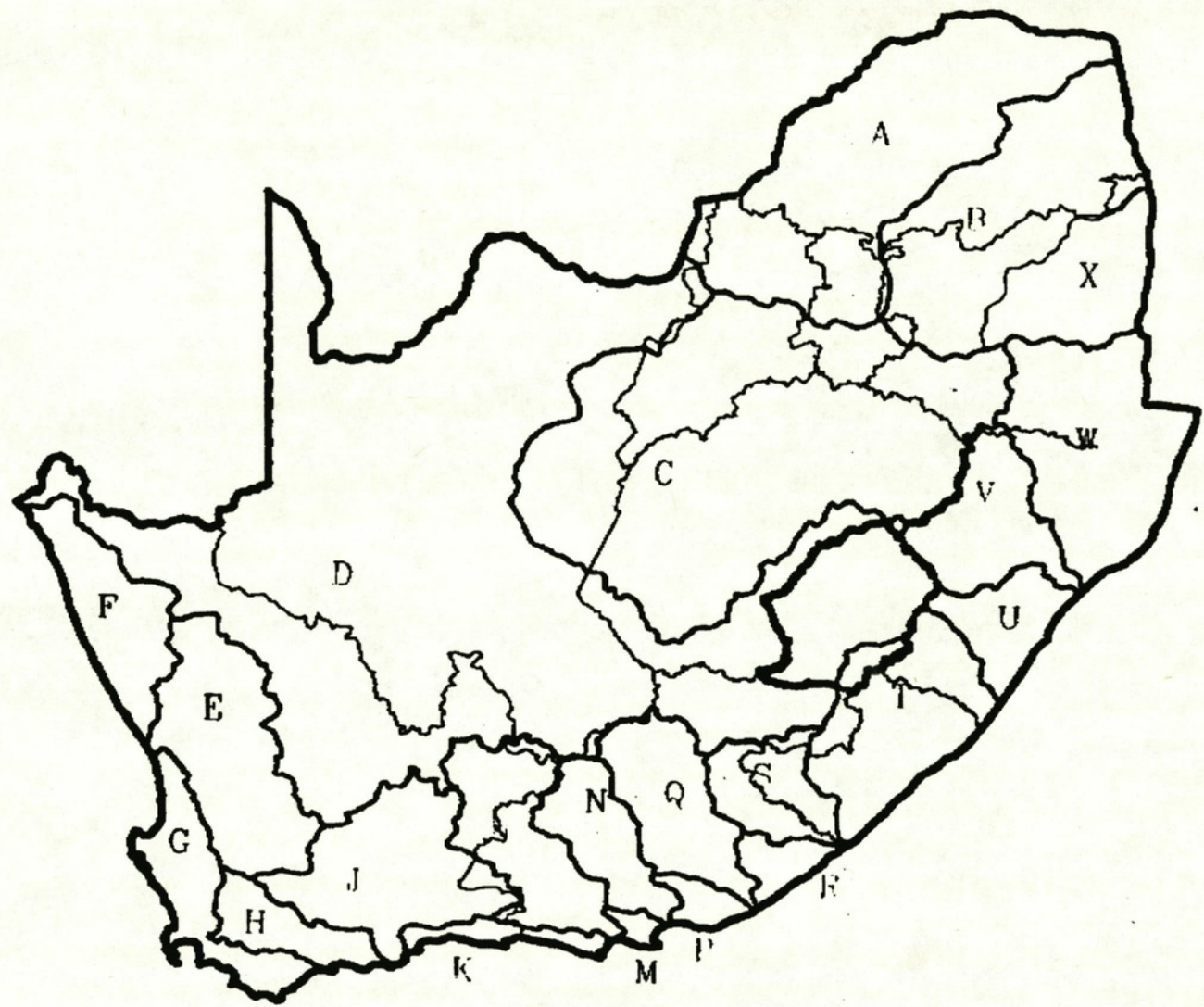
**The composition of the Standing Committee shall:**

- as far as possible be representative of, and maintain a balance between, all interested parties from throughout South Africa broadly identified as government, water sector, professional, service organisations, community organisations and, in particular:
  - ensure adequate representation from the communities in which the need is greatest, especially those with little formal access to representation in government as well as to the organisations of those who are employed within the sector;
  - include appropriate government, water sector and private sector representation;
  - include representation from non-governmental organisations which are actively working in the field;
- be limited to a maximum of twenty members;
- be on the basis of voluntary participation.

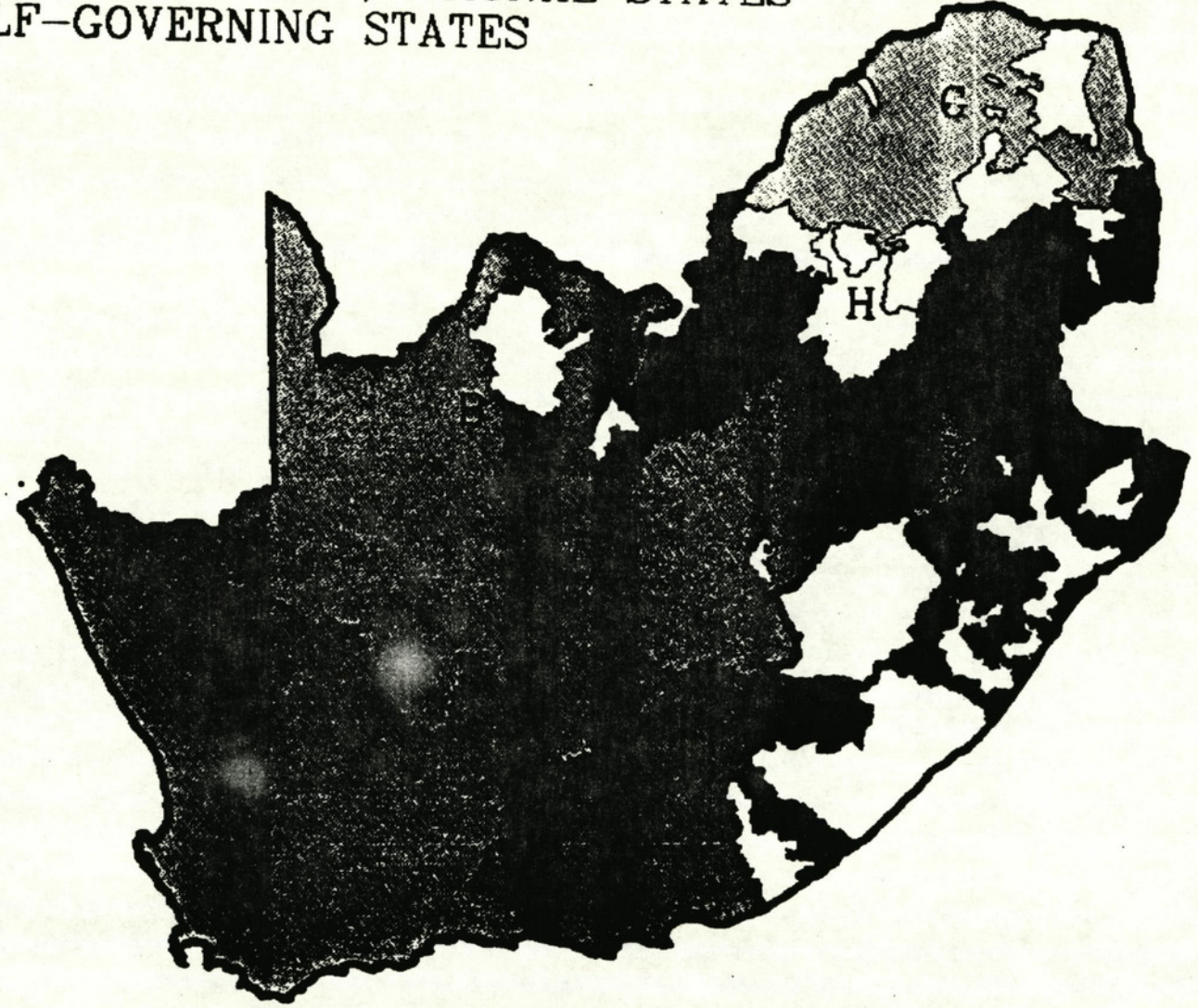
**In the course of its work, the Standing Committee shall:**

- operate on the basis of consensus wherever possible;
- not function under the auspices of any particular organisation save as agreed by the members of the committee;
- rotate the functions of the secretariat between its members on a regular basis except as otherwise may be agreed;
- rotate the chairmanship at every meeting, except as may otherwise be agreed;
- make full use of sub-committees, task teams and regional groups to achieve its objectives and coopt any person who can make a contribution to the achievement of its goals;
- report back on a regular basis to all interested parties;
- seek financial support for its activities, if appropriate, to ensure its independence from any particular interest group.

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