

Amanz' Abantu Celebrates a Decade of Service

In a joyous occasion held at the La Terraza Restaurant in East London on 14 September 2007, Amanz' abantu Services held its long-awaited 10th year anniversary. The evening event was attended by the who's who of the water and sanitation sector in the Eastern Cape Province.

Speaking at the event, Buffalo City Municipality Councillor for Engineering, Water and Sanitation, Luntu Bobo said, "It is with honour that on behalf of the Buffalo City Executive Mayor Councillor Zintle Peter, I heartily congratulate Amanz' abantu on reaching the celebratory milestone of ten years in existence. Well done to all of you."

Amanz' abantu was founded and awarded a major contract in June 1997 by the Department of Water Affairs and Forestry (DWAF) as the Programme Implementing Agent for the BoTT programme ("Build Operate Train and Transfer") in the Eastern Cape Province. This programme was successfully completed in February 2004, having delivered at least basic RDP water services to over 750, 000 rural people. The DWAF's BoTT programme in the Eastern Cape with expenditures of R765m proved that the partnership approach between

government, the private sector and civil society could result in accelerated delivery of sustainable water services.

Also present in the celebratory event was Mr Trevor Balzer who was previously Chief Director for DWAF Eastern Cape and is now Special Adviser to the Minister of Water Affairs and Forestry. In his brief speech to propose a toast, Mr Balzer said, "It would be difficult for me to stand here and do a toast without saying a little bit about the past. I suppose I can stand here today feeling like a proud father. Way back in 1997 we watched the birth of Amanz' abantu and tonight we celebrate ten years of age in Amanz' abantu. And I think that's quite a significant milestone for a post 1994 organisation which was set-up very much as a pioneering exercise."

Amanz' abantu Managing Director Oliver Ive, while introducing a twenty-minute documentary about the company said, "Beyond the six years of BoTT we have progressed a further four years and that is another area of satisfaction for us, in that we didn't just march in, do a job and then go home and loose what we had actually learnt, but continued to offer services to our municipal clients based on this experience."



Cllr Luntu Bobo



Oliver Ive



Trevor Balzer



Otto Delihlazo



Peddie Regional Water Scheme: Early BoTT Project.