**Rhetoric or Reality – The South African Experience of Urbanization and Informal Settlements**

Mason SIBANDA, South Africa

**Key words:**

**SUMMARY**

I propose to talk about the South African experience of urbanization and informal settlements and it is affecting Utility companies. Part of my job is dealing with encroachments onto servitudes and services. I will talk about how much problems Rand Water as bulk water supplier in the Gauteng Province of South Africa is facing and how we are trying to address it. I will also discuss the potential disasters and dangers posed to settlers. As Surveyors I will talk about the problems we face, dangers or threats posed. I will highlight how we facing future challenges. I will highlight the legal, political and social perspectives to this problem. World examples can also be quoted.

**BIOGRAPHICAL NOTES**

Mr. Sibanda is a professional land surveyor with Rand Water and has been with them since June 1999. Holds a Bachelor of Science degree in Surveying. Has worked in Zimbabwe, Mozambique, Lesotho, Botswana, Namibia, Swaziland, Tanzania, Uganda, Burkina Faso, Mali, Angola and Kenya.

**CONTACTS**

Mason Sibanda
Rand Water
522 Impala Road
Glenvista
2058
SOUTH AFRICA
Tel. + 27 11 682 0422
Fax + 27 11 682 0893
Mobile: + 27 82 389 2658.
Email: msibanda@randwater.co.za