



water & sanitation

Department:
Water and Sanitation
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

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Att: Ms Rosemary Anderson

Fedhasa

By Email : nationalchair@fedhasa

Dear Rosemary

KwaZulu-Natal South Coast Water Challenges, Ugu District Municipality

Your email dated 20 September 2023, regarding the ongoing water challenges being experienced in the Ugu District Municipality (DM) and Southbroom area, is referred to.

As you are aware the Ugu DM has experienced significant water supply challenges throughout the district over the past few years. In many of the water supply systems the demand for water exceeds the available supply capacity. In the Umtamvuna water supply system which supplies Southbroom, the water demands exceed the available treated water primarily due to a shortage of power to pump and treat sufficient water. Due to constraints in the power grid in the area in KwaZulu-Natal, negotiations are currently underway to secure additional power from the Eastern Cape. Once these agreements are concluded it is expected that the installation of the power line from the Eastern Cape to augment power at the water treatment plant will take about 4 months to complete. Officials in the Durban Regional Office are also investigating complaints of areas without water for extended periods and will revert when they have further information.

Due to these challenges the Department of Water and Sanitation (DWS) has been working closely with the Provincial Department of Cooperative Governance and Traditional Affairs and the Ugu DM. The Minister of DWS has established a committee which is chaired by the Director: Regulation in the regional office of DWS, to monitor the implementation of turnaround plans and projects that will improve water supply for the communities of the district.

The DWS is very concerned about the impact of water supply interruptions on tourism, business, and the communities and has therefore allocated an additional R150m of the Water Services Infrastructure Grant to the Ugu DM to implement interventions. The additional R150 million will be utilized to provide operational stability through improved bulk metering, valve refurbishment and telemetry, and an emergency borehole programme, with over 20 boreholes already pumping clean drinking water to communities, pipeline replacement in area south central and area north, as well as refurbishment of sanitation in Harding Town. Business plans are being prepared to upgrade Kwa-Madlala Water Pipeline, Dunjazana Water Pipeline as

well as refurbishment of electrical and mechanical infrastructure and the refurbishment of bulk meter and valve chambers.

In addition, DWS is supporting the Ugu DM with detailed planning for other regional bulk water supply projects including Harding Weza, Mtanvuna and Vulamethlo regional schemes. It is anticipated that this planning will take about 12 months to complete.

For longer term interventions to ensure there is sufficient water resources to supply the area, the Minister of Water and Sanitation has issued a Directive to Umngeni-Uthukela Water to fund and implement the Cwabeni Dam, an off-channel storage dam with a capacity of approximately 70 million cubic meters to augment the Bhubhoi / Mzunkulu supply system supply Port Shepstone and surrounding areas. The project involves the construction of a dam, as well as associated infrastructure such as spillways, a water treatment plant, and a pipeline to convey water to the existing water supply system. The project is expected to cost R1.8 billion and is planned to be completed by 2033.

The DWS is working hard to support the Ugu DM to ensure that they fulfil their constitutional responsibility of water service provision. The DWS is confident that the support projects and the capacity support provided by the CoGTA have already resulted in improvements in water supply in some areas. Unfortunately, not all interventions will yield immediate improvements, however, the DWS is providing significant financial support and technical oversight in the Ugu District Municipality and will continue to monitor the situation closely.

I trust that this information demonstrates that the DWS is actively involved in addressing the water and sanitation challenges in the Ugu DM area. We will continue to support and monitor progress and I encourage your members to participate in already established task teams mentioned in the above.

Yours faithfully



Dr Sean Phillips
Director General
Department of Water and Sanitation

Date: 27 09 2023