



water affairs

Department:  
Water Affairs  
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

**KEY-NOTE ADDRESS BY THE MINISTER OF WATER AND ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS, MRS EDNA MOLEWA, AT THE LAUNCH OF THE MTHONJANENI BULK WATER PROJECT, MTHONJANENI LOCAL MUNICIPALITY, UTHUNGULU DISTRICT MUNICIPALITY, RICHARDS BAY, KWAZULU NATAL  
24 AUGUST 2013**

*Programme Director,  
Acting Premier of KZN in absentia  
MECs present here  
District and Local Mayors in our midst  
Traditional leaders from the communities benefitting from today's event  
Members of our religious community represented here  
Officials from all three spheres of government  
Members of the media  
Ladies and gentlemen*

*Let me begin by thanking you all for being part of this historic occasion to mark yet another step towards the eradication of water backlog in this province and the reduction of poverty among our people. It is indeed a great moment for us to be present here to help our people realise their dream and our ideal of a better life as promised by the ANC government since coming to power nineteen years ago.*

*I know that all of us are not surprised at what is happening here today. I can confidently say so because as part of the government that was democratically put in place by the majority of the people of our country, I know that this delivery is what our people expect, and that is what we have been elected to do.*

*Since the dawn of democracy in our country, we have managed to replace the abhorrent apartheid conditions that our people were living under with conditions that restored their dignity in a big way. In the process, we have managed to improve the basic economic and political conditions of the majority of our country's population, and we believe we are on the right track to creating a better life for all.*

*In recognition of the huge amount of work required of us in the delivery of basic services, as government we created what we call Strategic Infrastructure Projects (SIPs). These SIPs as identified by the ANC's democratic government will enable the realisation of a comprehensive infrastructure rollout programme that embodies, with regard to SIP 18 in particular, rapid delivery of water supply to those areas with critical water shortages. Therefore, we are here today to respond to the directive given by our President, Jacob Zuma, to fast-track water provision to areas that we had not yet reached since the ANC government came into power. This we also do to ensure sustainable supply of water to our communities for the present and future generations.*

*Acting Premier, ladies and gentlemen, uThungulu District Municipality, like other district municipalities in the province and indeed throughout the country has benefitted from our water projects and will continue to do so until everyone here has access to clean, potable water. When this District Municipality was created, it had 81% and 89% backlogs of water and sanitation respectively. Through our dedicated and collective effort of the national, provincial and local governments, the backlogs reduced to 41% for basic water and 55% for sanitation by last year. We estimate that we will require about R3.81 billion to eradicate these remaining backlogs.*

*The Greater Mthonjaneni Water Project is, therefore, one of the projects we embarked upon to eradicate these backlogs. The project already supplies parts of uMfolozi, Mthonjaneni and Ntambanana Local Municipalities.*

*We have identified Lake Phobane as a reliable source of water for this project, helping us to deliver about 40 Mℓ/ of water per day when fully operational. This water is be transported to the Goedetrouw Dam from which it will be distributed to the Greater Mthonjaneni, Kwahlokhloko and the Eshowe supply areas of the district.*

*When the entire scheme is completed, it will provide water services to over **281,864** people within the service area and reduce the water backlog in the District Municipality by 30%. The scheme will also ensure the delivery of sustainable basic water services, the enhancement of economic development towards achieving the national services target by 2014, the objectives of water for growth and development, employment and redistribution. this achievement will enhance the country's strides towards achieving the Millennium Development Goals as well.*

*Close to 700 households are the beneficiaries of Phase 1 of the project with an estimated 4 478 households expected to benefit from the scheme when both Phases 1 and 2 are completed. We know that all of these households are in deep rural areas.*

*In our drive towards the delivery of this project job creation has also been a strong focus. 846 jobs were created during Phase 1, which is now operational, following five years of hard work. This Phase consists of the 20 Mℓ/day Water Treatment Plant with 40Mℓ/day inletworks, 10,1 km of 450 Ductile iron pipeline, including all fittings and ancillaries, 3 Booster pump stations with appurtenant electrical connections, a 2.5 Mℓ Concrete reservoir at Zimele, two 250 kl Concrete balancing tanks, and*

*one 100 kl concrete reservoir, all pipe works associated with structures, earthworks and civil services per pump station / reservoir site.*

*Programme Director, in the remaining Phases, we are going to convert the existing pipeline of Kwahlokhloko and Eshowe, upgrade the booster pumps, and refurbish raw water reservoirs and all related connections. We will construct various other pipelines and 15 reservoirs, and do reticulation for the Greater Mthonjaneni.*

*The Department of Water Affairs has already invested **R149,408,891-00** in Phase 1 and we can assure this community that we will ensure that the whole project is completed.*

*Further, the Department has developed an Interim Intermediate Water Supply Strategy in order to ensure everyone has access to water as soon as possible. This strategy has informed the new Municipal Water Infrastructure Grant (MWIG). A total of R267 million has been allocated to KZN in the 2013/2014 financial year with R284 million allocated to the UDM over the MTEF. For the 2013/14 financial year, an amount of R57 million has been allocated.*

*In conclusion, I wish to indicate to the DWA Regional Office under the Chief Director, that I must be kept up to speed as developments on the rest of the project goes. I hope that as a Department we will also continue to advise the Municipalities of the developments and ensure we keep a keen eye on the work of our service providers. Our people cannot keep waiting for delivery without hope. We need to ensure that the confidence they have put in us is not and can never be in vain.*

**I thank you.**