



water & sanitation

Department:
Water and Sanitation
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

KEYNOTE ADDRESS BY THE DEPUTY MINISTER OF WATER AND SANITATION

HON. MD MAHLOBO

**ON THE OCCASION OF THE UMKHANYAKUDE
DISTRICT MUNICIPALITY INVESTMENT
CONFERENCE.**

***“EXPLORING INVESTMENT OPPORTUNITIES IN
UMKHANYAKUDE”***

BONAMANZI GAME RESERVE

10 OCTOBER 2019

Programme Director

Honourable Minister of Public Service and Administration, Cde. Senzo Mchunu

Honourable Executive Mayor of Umkhanyakude District Municipality,
Councillors present

Traditional Leadership

Director General of Agriculture, Mr Mdu Shabane

Director General of Water and Sanitation, Mr Mbulelo Tshangana

Department of Water and Sanitation Provincial Head, Mr Ashley Starkey

Umdlathuze and Umgeni Water Boards

Government officials

Distinguished guests

Ladies and Gentlemen

Good afternoon!

INTRODUCTION

- On behalf of HE President Ramaphosa and the Minister of Human Settlements, Water and Sanitation we are happy and excited to be here. A week from now the President will also be visiting the province as he rolls out the District Model which aligns the three spheres of government.
- This single point of **collaboration**, **coordination** and **cooperation** model will harmonise the planning of government and eradicate working in silos.
- The month of October we will cherish the contribution by one of the finest leaders the African National Congress, South Africa and continent has ever produced, President Oliver Reginald Tambo affectionately known as O. R. would have turned 102 years old on the 27th October 2019.
- As a true revolutionary he worked tirelessly and selfless in pursuit of our ideals as envisioned in the freedom charter in building a national democratic society.
- His words correctly capture the essence of this society when he said "We seek to create a united Democratic and non-racial society. We have a vision of South Africa in which black and white shall live and work together as equals in conditions of peace and prosperity. Using the power you derive from the discovery of the truth about racism in South Africa, you will help us to remake our part of the world into a corner of the globe on which all -- of which all of humanity can be proud." - A quote from Oliver Tambo speaking at Georgetown University on January 27, 1987.
- Over the last twenty five years we have made strides in building a truly united, non-racial, non-sexist, democratic and prosperous society but we are the first to admit that more still needs to be done.

BACKGROUND

- Historically the Jozini Dam originally known as the Pongolapoort dam was built on the Pongola River and completed in 1974 while the small town of Jozini was established in the 1960s mainly to house workers building the dam.
- The dam was initially designed to supply only 4000 white farmers. But now we can proudly say that it is a source for multipurpose use such as: domestic use for Umkhanyakude and Zululand District Municipalities; agriculture through Umjindi Irrigation Scheme; and tourism which attracts Tiger Fishing as one of the highlight activities.
- In June 2015 it was reported that various South Coast locations and northern KwaZulu-Natal had critically-low dam levels exacerbated by drought conditions, which forced the KZN provincial government to announce forceful measures in a bid to curtail water consumption. The Hazelmere Dam, which supplies areas of the eThekweni and Ilembe District Municipality, at that time only had enough water for 60 days.
- In Mkhanyakude District Municipality numerous boreholes had reportedly failed, while levels at the two main dams – Pongolapoort Dam and Hluhluwe Dam – had dropped substantially.
- The main water sources are as follows
 - 5 Catchments
 - Umfolozi river
 - Mmkuze River
 - Phongola river
 - Usuthu river
 - Lake sibahayi
 - 3 major storage dams
 - Jozini (Pongolapoort) capacity 2 445 million cubic meters
 - Hluhluwe 25 million cubic meters
 - Klipfontein capacity 19 million cubic meters

- In April 2016 the KwaZulu-Natal Provincial government declared the uMkhanyakude District Municipality an emergency disaster area.

UNIVERSAL ACCESS TO WATER AND SANITATION

- This past Sunday I had an opportunity to address the African Farmers Association of South Africa (AFASA) Agri-Business Transformation Conference in the Free State and the challenges faced by emerging farmers remain the same as here in Umkhanyakude. Allow me to share what I also mentioned to them.
- Water resources are important to economic development, as water is essential to the production of agricultural goods and services. Globally, the major use of water (70%) is in the agricultural sector.
- However, this sector consumes the largest amount of water. Water is essential for the production of agricultural goods and services, which generate income and create national wealth
- Economic growth leads to high water demand all sectors—agricultural, industrial, and domestic. The percentage share of use is different in different countries, depending on their economic development.

WATER USER LICENCES

- The Department will have to speed up the compulsory licensing of water. And we must learn the lessons of the land reform process.
- The 1998 National Water Act was the first legislation to expropriate without compensation! But, in order to redistribute water fairly from the haves to the have nots, we had to show that it was a fair process – otherwise any efforts to proceed would just have been blocked in the Constitutional Court.
- So we can't just take water from one farmer and give it to another. We need to go through a fair process. No one in this country has a 'right' to use water

forever. But if they have gone through the correct legal processes, they are entitled to use it, for a limited time.

- Equally, government has the right, on behalf of the people of South Africa, to review that entitlement on a regular basis. And, because there is only a limited amount of water available, it has the power to decide that water must be shared more equitably. And it will be.
- The law simply requires us to do it in a way that protects jobs and encourages investment in more efficient water use and more productive farming.
- We can and must build on these small developments. The path is clear. But we all need to work together and walk together to get to the destination we seek.
- Currently the allocation of water per sector is as follows
 - a. **Agriculture** 136 567 491 m3- the largest allocation (77 602 462 m3 which is **56%** allocated to HDI)
 - b. **Domestic and industrial** 56 912 068 m3
 - c. SFAR (ha) 33 797 ha (26 976,24 ha which is **79%** allocated to HDI)

JOZINI BULK WATER SUPPLY PROJECT

- The project, named the Jozini Bulk Water Supply, was completed in May 2019. It will supply potable water assisted by the installation of secondary bulk and reticulation networks to 134 864 people within 16 200 households.
- The Jozini Bulk Water Supply Project, under the Regional Bulk Infrastructure Grant (RBIG), is required as there are very limited alternative water sources in this area.
- A 5 year tripartite agreement was signed in 2014 by three partners (namely, the Department of Water & Sanitation, the UMkhanyakude District

Municipality and Mhlathuze Water) to assist the district in the implementation of various bulk projects under the Regional Bulk Infrastructure Grant (RBIG).

- This project aims to make a huge impact in alleviating the water supply backlog within the rural areas of Umkhanyakude District Municipality.
- The total project cost R2.4 billion. The bulk component cost is R1.12 billion, and was funded through the department's Regional Bulk Infrastructure Grant (RBIG) programme.

PROJECT PROGRESS (MAIN SCHEME)

- The primary focus is to supply potable water to rural communities within the Jozini Local Municipality located in the uMkhanyakude District Municipality in KwaZulu-Natal. The project aims to increase the production of potable water and to install bulk water and reticulation networks in the area.
- The purpose of the project is to ultimately supply potable water to a population of 134 864 people (approximately 16,200 households), allowing for an average consumption per capita of 60 l/c/d and a 30-year time horizon.
- The scheme consists of the following components
 - Raw water supply system
 - New water treatment plant
 - Bulk treated supply system
 - Reticulation
- The estimated cost of the total scheme is approximately R2,1 billion (costs in 2014 excluding inflation). Cumulative expenditure on the project up to the end of 2018/19) is R1,11 billion. The budget allocation this 2019/2020 financial year is R3.6 million earmarked for payment of retention monies.
- The 40ML/Day water treatment works is currently operational, but due to the reticulation not being complete, the plant is not running at optimum capacity.

- The reticulation network, however, is only around 15% funded at this point in time, and has fallen far behind the bulk construction due to lack of MIG funding.
- An amount of R930 million (2009 figures) is required to complete the reticulation. It is worrisome that there is currently no movement on the reticulation component of the works.

CONCLUSION

- The department of Water and Sanitation has two Water Boards in the province, namely Umhlathuze and Umgeni Water Board with abilities and capabilities to assist with the challenges.
- As I mentioned earlier the amount of water that is used by the agriculture sector is high, we need to invest in irrigation innovations that will use less water but do the job sufficiently.
- We also need to look at using fertilisers that will not harm the water resources and the ecosystem when they are filtered back to the system

I thank you!