



INTERNET ARTICLE

DWS provides water security for iLembe District Municipality and surrounding areas

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The Department of Water and Sanitation (DWS) commissioned the Lower Thukela Water Treatment Works in 2017, which has brought relief to approximately 28 000 households or 140 000 people in iLembe District Municipality and its surrounding areas. The overall expenditure towards the works is R1,9 billion funded jointly by DWS and Umgeni Water.

The water treatment works produces 34 million liters per day (34 Megalitres per day) and is one of the biggest bulk potable water infrastructures in the province. The works abstracts raw water from Tugela River, which is then processed and stored at a 30 Megalitres reservoir. The reservoir supplies potable water to about 28 000 households or 140 000 people in iLembe District Municipality.

The Lower Thukela Water Treatment Works has replaced the old legacy's schemes and has brought in new technology to the iLembe area. The water quality has also greatly improved, and the maintains a 100 SANS 241 standard, whereas old schemes in the past were often plagued with non-compliance in terms of water quality.

Mr. Pravesh Boodhoo, the Area Manager of Umgeni Water also reiterated the fact that the Lower Thukela Water Treatment Works has uplifted the standard of water supply in the coastal areas – from Tugela to uMvoti.

"This plant essentially mitigated water challenges in the area and has maintained 100% water supply assurance", he said.

Mr. Boodhoo added that although the Lower Thukela Water Treatment Works has brought stability of fresh water supply to communities, particularly in iLembe District, there are still issues with water reticulation by the municipality.

"There is no problem with bulk water supply but there are reticulation issues that need to be resolved at the municipality level. I must however say that the municipality has implemented programmes that will ensure that there is no interruption of fresh water supply to the communities", said Mr. Boodhoo.

Lower Thukela Water Treatment Works is interlinked with Hazelmere Dam which supplies water to Honolulu and Avondale reservoirs. However, if Hazelmere cannot supply water due to other





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operational problems, the Lower Thukela Water Treatment Works is able to continue supplying water.

The plant also has its own power sub-station. That is, it is not affected by problems of electricity cuts in the District, thus maintaining its optimal supply of water to the coastal areas.

Sanku Tsunke



Department of Water and Sanitation South Africa



DWS_RSA