



INTERNET ARTICLE

NATIONAL WATER WEEK LAUNCH

18 March 2015

On Monday 16 March 2015, the Department of Water and Sanitation launched the National Water Week 2015 at Sibuyaze Sports Ground in Kwa-Maphumulo. This marks a week long intensive campaign on saving water. The primary purpose is to mobilize everyone who lives in South Africa to save water. Problems surrounding water services delivery are also being looked at. The community of Kwa-Maphumulo had a first-hand experience at this and they have a good story to tell.

A delegation team consisting of the Deputy Minister of DWS, Mrs P Tshwete, MEC COGTA, Mrs N Dube-Ncube, Deputy Mayor of iLembe District Municipality, Cllr D Shandu and Mr. C Gamede of Umgeni Water handed over The Umvutshane Dam to the community. Even though it is not in operation yet, but it's in the final phase of construction. The Umvutshane Dam will hold 3 million cubic metres of water to supply the area. This is another brake through from the "Pharaohs" as DM Tshwete referred to the previous disadvantage era. She congratulated the community of Kwa-Maphumulo.

A small group of families which were removed from their land to make way for dam construction were given houses. "As a result of removals to build a dam, 8 families were removed. Seven of these families were given houses specifically built for them and one was given money as a result of their wish to relocate to another place" said Mr. Gamede. Not only were these families moved, but even the remains of their loved ones were also relocated to a better peaceful area.

Construction of the dam came with job opportunities for the locals. Even though this is temporary but the training provided left a community full of skills which will place them in the line of employment. As per future plan, the expansion of the water work in the area will also provide job opportunities for skilled workers of the area. People were urged to take care of the new infrastructure. A small group of indiscipline boys who seem to trouble the operators will be brought to book, the community was assured.



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The political principals spoke about such an achievement in all their speeches. They congratulated the Kwa-Maphumulo Local Municipality for its efforts to improve water service delivery.

They appealed to the community to keep saving water and take good care of their infrastructure.

Zwakele Thabede