

WATERWORX

The official newsletter of Magalies Water



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30 Years of Democracy: Partnership and Growth

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EDITOR'S NOTE

This WaterWorx edition, is important, as it details the strategic engagements the Water Board has been involved in, during quarter three of the 2023/24 financial year. Particular attention has been paid to the Dr. Ruth Segomotsi Mompoti District Municipality (South West Region) and Ngaka Modiri Molema District Municipality (Far West Region), in addressing long-standing water supply and quality challenges, which predate the organisation's appointment as an Implementing Agent (IA) on behalf of the two district municipalities. Magalies Water has moved swiftly to solidify and strengthen its working relationship with the Section 30 customers, in order to address the water supply challenges in parts of Mahikeng, Zeerust, Taung, Ganyesa and Christiana, that had the potential of affecting the organisation's reputation negatively.

During the quarter, Magalies Water undertook a comprehensive media campaign targetting the newly incorporated regions; South West and Far West, as part of the utility's National Water Month Campaign under the theme "Water for Peace".

The objective of the media campaign, was to appraise stakeholders, customers and the general public on Magalies Water's service delivery endeavours since taking over the service area which was previously under the erstwhile Sedibeng Water. With many challenges affecting rural communities, in parts of the North West where surface water sources are limited and augmented with borehole water sources, substantial efforts have resulted in the refurbishment and maintenance of infrastructure in order to mitigate the effects of water supply interruptions.

Key to the objectives of the campaign was to also, educate, inform and communicate to the public about the role and responsibilities of Magalies Water as a bulk water provider as well as its interface with district municipalities which are legally recognised as Water Service Authorities (WSA). Despite challenges, at the inception stage of the Crocodile West Catchment remediation, which include the Hartbeespoort Dam, in Madibeng Local Municipality, tremendous progress has been recorded, after strategic engagements between Magalies Water and industry specialists appointed as service providers, brought much needed improvement in the raw water quality, as well as bringing the hyacinth coverage to less than five percent. Magalies Water's efforts have started to show great results, as the hyacinth which had affected eco-tourism in the Madibeng region, has been put under control, and for the first time in since Magalies Water's appointment as Implementing Agent on behalf of the Department of Water and Sanitation.

Critically, may we not forget the responsibility we have towards communities in our service areas (North West, Gauteng and Limpopo) in ensuring that in line with the Constitution, access to potable water is realised.



Mr. David Magae
Manager: Communications and
Media Relations



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Pay-Television Channel Visits Hartbeespoort Dam, Wants Magalies Water's Secret on Hyacinth War



Sitting Left-to-Right: Magalies Water Spokesperson - Mr. David Magae & Carte Blanche Mr. Govan Whittles

Pursuant to engagements between the Department of Water and Sanitation and Magalies Water in respect of improving raw water quality in the Crocodile West Catchment upstream including the Hartbeespoort Dam, Magalies Water was appointed by the department in May 2023 as an implementing agent. Magalies Water's main responsibility is to improve the water quality of the Crocodile West Catchment inclusive of the Hartbeespoort dam, through its developed water resource management implementation plan.

The appointment is for a 36-month period and has been ratified in terms of section 116 of the National Water Act. The developed plan by Magalies Water has been tailored to the specific needs and characteristics of Crocodile West Catchment and intends to safeguard the water source while improving water access and improved quality for all users.

Further, Magalies Water will use numerous scientific and biological techniques in addressing the current challenges. The current state of the dam had an adverse effect on the ecotourism of Madibeng Local Municipality, consequently the plan has been used to repurpose and readapt the Metsi a Me programme to focus on the upper catchment which is contributing to the eutrophication of the dam.

The scope of work during the period of appointment will include the following:

- Removal of hyacinth in the Hartbeespoort Dam and along the catchment area
- Water quality monitoring and pollution tracking
- Implementation of the hyacinth and algae remediation
 - Implementation of effective and viable treatment technologies
- To develop potential business models based on circular economy and waste valorization concepts



Crocodile West Catchment Remediation Project Leader Professor Vhahangwele Masindi

Magalies Water since its appointment, has been at the receiving end of sharp public and media criticism about its strategy of reducing the hyacinth coverage, which in late 2022 was over 15 percent, while improving the raw water quality, against the high levels of eutrophication into the catchment, as a result of high levels untreated raw sewage due to waste water treatment plants, which are not operating in line with the water sector standards.

In a recent interview on Carte Blanche, Masindi said, the significant improvement was as a result of collaboration with industry leaders, in water resource management such as Blue Planet, who have been undertaking trials in the catchment making use of nano-bubble technology, as well as installing litter trapping nets at strategic points withing the dam to adequately deal with environmental control dynamics.



Magalies Water has a sound track record of delivering mega projects within budget and timeframe. In the last few years, some of the projects which have impacted communities positively was the completion of the Moretele South pipeline project which saw residents of the area receiving water from Magalies Water's Klipdrift Water Treatment Plant.



Currently, through a Ministerial Intervention, long-standing water supply challenges in Dinokana – Ramotshere Moiloa Local Municipality, are being addressed with the expansion of the bulk water infrastructure. In Bojanala, the completion Pilanesburg Bulk Water Scheme (Phase 2) will see an additional 70 million litres of water supplied to parts of Rustenburg in order to address

current water demand challenges. March is National Water Month, play your part and conserve water.



South West and Far West Regions Host Week-Long Employee Road Show

Following a series of engagements with former employees of the now defunct Sedibeng Water, after the completion of the transfer agreement which cemented the integration of the North West operations into Magalies Water back in 2022, the Corporate Services Division, Water Services and Communication & Stakeholder Relations Divisions, under took a week long employee road show in South and Far West Regions.

The purpose of the road show, was to interact and thoroughly engage with staffers based in Bloemhof/Christiana, Taung , Hartswater and, Ganyesa as well as those based in Mahikeng, Lehurutshe and Madikwe.



Day One of the Employee Road Show was held at Bloemhof Waste Water Treatment Plant in Lekwa-Teemane Local Municipality

The completion of the disestablishment process brought about a lot of anxiety for employees who were transferred to Magalies Water, especially those who were also part of the erstwhile Botshelo Water, which in 2014, was wound-up and transferred to Sedibeng Water, which then started operations in the Dr Ruth Segomotsi Mompati and Ngaka Modiri Molema District Municipalities. Newly appointed General Manager for Corporate Services Ms. Teleni Ntabeni, said it was critical that employees in the two regions, be orientated with Magalies Water's policies, and operating procedures.



The Sessions, were also attended by representatives of organised labour, in order to clarify issues and advise employees on procedural matters pertaining to work related challenges and possible solutions.

The interactive sessions, which afforded employees question and answer sessions covered the following area:

- New Organisational Structure
- Working Hours Policy
- Inconvenience Policy (Overtime, Standby, etc.)
- Leave Policy
- Long Service and Awards Policy
- Remuneration Policy (Salary Structure, Tax on Bonus, etc.)



The week-long employee road show was concluded in Mahikeng (Far West Region) a day prior to the region's first physical engagement with organisation's Chief Executive and Management Team

South West and Far West Regions Employee Road Show in Pictures



Remembering the sacrifices and acts of selflessness of those who paid the ultimate price, in order for us to enjoy the rights we have today...

"Three Decades of Respect for and Promotion of Human Rights".



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National Water Month - Media Campaign

Magalies Water, during National Water Month undertook, a month-long media campaign aimed at informing, educating and communicating with customers and stakeholders in the Ngaka Modiri Molema, Dr. Ruth Segomotsi Mompati and Dr. Kenneth Kaunda District Municipalities, on the work the organisation has done, following the decision by the Ministry of Water and Sanitation to extend its service areas to include the three districts. The media campaign, was on community and regional media outlets based in the three districts, which over time have been communication platforms for both operational as well as governance matters related to service delivery, with respect to the mandate of the Water Board.

The Chief Operations Officer, was on Klerksdorp's based community radio station - Star FM. Where the focus of his interview was on the relationship Magalies Water has entered into with Vaal Central Water nee Bloem Water, over a cross-boundary scheme which supplies Maquassi Hills Local Municipality, through which Magalies Water in as intermediary, following the reconfiguration of water board in the country.



Mr. Ofentse Nthutang - Chief Operations Officer

Chairperson of the Finance Committee, Ms. Priscilla Mashaba during an interview on Mahikeng FM, the Water Board had to undertake extensive stakeholder engagement with the political leadership collective of both the Dr. Ruth Segomotsi Mompati and Ngaka Modiri Molema Districts, in an effort to resolve the historical debt which was transferred to Magalies Water, as part of the conditions of the Sedibeng Water disestablishment processes.



Ms. Priscilla Mashaba - Chairperson Finance Committee

The Ministerial intervention project, which is situated in Dinokana village, in Ramotshere Moiloa Local Municipality was at the centre of the Board Chairperson's radio interview on Zeerust based community radio station Kopanong FM. Dr. Sebege spoke through the timeline of events, which culminated into a service delivery protests, which saw the N4 connecting Botswana and South Africa through the Skilpad Hek Border Post, closed. Magalies water has made significant progress in the area, through the current project of ensuring that access to the potable water in Dinokana is increased, where members of the community will access communal taps, within a distance not exceeding 200 metres.



Dr. Lydia Sebege - Board Chairperson

Since the expansion of Magalies Water's service area has been formalized, as part of its medium-to-long term response to the growing demand for water in North West, Magalies Water has already commenced with the process of developing an integrated Sanitation and Bulk Water Master Plan. This strategy aims to carve a forward planning approach in which municipalities in Dr. Ruth Segomotsi Mompati, Ngaka Modiri Molema and Dr. Kenneth Kaunda districts, will in the foreseeable future have access to improved sanitation and water services. Many parts of North West are in shortage of both surface and underground water supply. Innovative thinking, informed decision making and ensuring universal water access to communities, is key to achieving the United Nation's Sustainable Development Goal – 6.

March is National Water Month, play your part and conserve water.



Water Month Feature: North West Capital To Receive Improved Water Supply In Future

The Greater Mafikeng Bulk Water Supply project was identified by the Department of Water and Sanitation for potential Regional Bulk Infrastructure Grant (RBIG) funding. This followed an undertaking aimed at development a bulk water master plan for Mahikeng area - Greater Mafikeng Bulk Water Master Plan (GMBWMP) in 2012. Ngaka Modiri Molema District Municipality appointed Bigen Africa to undertake a bulk water master plan for the Greater Mahikeng, which had been suffering from systemic water shortages since 2010.

About 61 000 households will benefit from the project once commissioned, which comes at a cost of R 227 313 389.83 for implementation for a period of 18 months. The GMBWP confirmed that the 98% level of assurance (LoA) yield of the Setumo Dam is more than what is required, therefore a plant expansion to a bigger output volume than the current 20 Ml/d.

In addition to the existing flocculation, settling, diffused air flotation and filtration treatment steps, the upgrading of the WTW will also include the addition of ozonation to deal with excessive Total Organic Carbon (TOC) levels in the water of the Setumo Dam (raw water source), as well as Granulated Activated Carbon (GAC) filters to deal with taste and odour problems arising from the high algal content of the raw water, which is prevalent as a result of the high nutrient content of the raw water. This is projected to be adequate to provide sufficient bulk water supply to the Greater Mafikeng up to approximately 2033.

The work to be carried out forms part of the larger process upgrade project and comprises the design, manufacture, supply, delivery, installation, testing and commissioning and maintenance. The existing 20 Ml/d Mmabatho WTP, as well as a high lift pump station, the Lokaleng intermediate pump station and pump mains which transmit purified water from the Mmabatho WTW to Lokaleng intermediate pump station and from there to the Signal Hill reservoirs, which supply the city. March is National Water Month, under this year's theme "Water for Peace"



CE's Staff Information Session Held in Far West

Magalies Water Chief Executive, alongside his management team held the first ever staff information session in Mahikeng, in an effort to afford staff in the region an opportunity receive first-hand account of the progress made by the organisation following, the much-publicised disestablishment of the now erstwhile Sedibeng Water. The water utility had operations in the North West's Dr. Ruth Segomotsi Mompati and Ngaka Modiri Molema district municipalities.



Mr. Sandile Mkhize - Chief Executive

Staff in regions, expressed their satisfaction that, management had deemed it fit, to set time aside to engage them on some of the developments which have affected the organisation, particularly the integration of employees, which also compelled Magalies Water to undertake an elaborate organisational redesign process, as it now tackles new and vast service areas in the South West and Far West Regions.

The water utility's Accounting Officer said, Magalies Water Board and Management, were not oblivious to the impact of the disestablishment of Sedibeng Water and integration of the work force into Magalies Water, he continued "we know that for some of you, this is a too painful process, which results not in many questions, but brings about unimaginable anxiety. Part of the reason we are here is to assure you that the Board and Management are doing everything within their powers to ensure that Magalies Water remains financially viable and sustainable" he said.

Many of the employees who were part of the staff information session, has raised concerns about numerous issues, which in their view should have been concluded, such as Magalies Water's stance with respect to voluntary severance packages (VSP) to those employees who had intentions of applying for early retirement.



Magalies Water's Far West employees listening on to the Chief Executive's Presentation, pertaining to key developments within the organisation

During the staff information session, various General Managers, were also afforded an opportunity to provide answers as well as feedback on specific issues affecting their respective Divisions. The Chief Executive, said while management understood the challenges as well as frustrations of employees, a follow-up session will be held with employees, in order to report-back as well as provide an update on matters, which were not responded to immediately on the day, given that other human capital matters required the employer to seek counsel in addressing those specific matters to employees satisfaction and in line with the applicable labour laws.

CE's Staff Information In Pictures



Nanotechnology Takes Centre-Stage in Addressing Hyacinth Boom

In a joint stakeholder engagement session held between Magalies Water and the appointed service provider Blue Planet, the company responsible for facilitating and implementing the nano-bubble technology which aims at restoring the Hartbeespoort Dam raw water quality back to eco-friendly status, engaged various stakeholders from Harties Home Owners Association, Harties Foundation, Harties Boat Company, Madibeng Local Municipality and Ifafi Community, amongst others affected stakeholders. The nano-bubble technology is a relatively new technology that provides chemical-free treatment of natural and drinking water sources, from preventing algae blooms and improving water clarity, to increasing dissolved oxygen level, oxidizing metals and removing taste and compounds. This is one of the multi-pronged approaches that Magalies Water has employed in the Hartbeespoort Dam Rehabilitation Programme over a 3 year period, to not only deal in the removal of the hyacinth but to restore the natural water resource.



Blue Planets - Nano Bubbler, stationed on the banks of the Hartbeespoort Dam

The Hartbeespoort Dam, has been hogging newsheadlines for the last decade and more, over the level of pollution that has been occurring in the Crocodile West Catchment, to which the dam is connected. The deterioration of the raw water quality, has been as a result of raw untreated effluent, mainly from dysfunctional waste water treatment plant in neighbouring Guateng province, which is discharged into the catchment.



Part of the Hartbeespoort Dam, where the Nano Bubble technology is currently in implementation stage

The hyacinth bloom had affected tourism establishments negatively, especially those who offer water based activities and sports, as boats could not be operated as the hyacinth made it difficult for their mobility. Added to that, other recreational sports such as fishing could also not continue, due to the high levels of eutrophication.



Some of the stakeholder represented at the session held at Ifafi Aquatic Club, in Hartbeespoort Dam



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Vision

***To Be The Leading Provider of Quality
Water Services in South Africa***