

# WATERWORX

*The official newsletter of Magalies Water*



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## EDITOR'S NOTE

**“The first step towards getting somewhere is to decide  
you’re not going to stay where you are.” J.P Morgan**

This marks the end of the second quarter of the 2022/23 financial year, which was no doubt full of monumental successes. Magalies Water has now firmly entrenched itself in the North West Province as the reliable bulk water provider, following the government gazette which renewed its mandate to extend its service offering to other parts of the province where it did not have a footprint previously.

The organization has registered tremendous progress since it has taken over previously serviced areas by the erstwhile Sedibeng Water. To date the Dr. Ruth Segomotsi Mompati District Municipality which includes, Vryburg, Taung, and Ganyesa among other areas has signed a service level agreement with Magalies Water. This will go a long way in bolstering our resolve to adequately address bulk water supply and sanitation services particularly in areas where service delivery has been a challenge in years gone by.

Magalies Water, is also proud to have recorded another clean audit for the 2021/22 financial year as confirmed by the Auditor-General of South Africa (AGSA). This achievement would have not been possible without the commitment of the employees who have had to focus on the task at hand, even in the face of great adversity.

## Board and Executive Committee Representatives Conduct Oversight Visit at Brits Water Treatment Plant

The Brits Water Treatment Plant, situated outside the central business district of Brits in the Madibeng Local Municipality, has been hogging news headlines in the recent past. Concerns of poor water quality compounded by unsustainable bulk water supply pitted the communities against the local authorities and this resulted in service delivery protests.

Magalies Water was then directed by the Minister of Water and Sanitation to assist in the upgrade of the water treatment plant, on behalf of the department as an implementing agent. The project has experienced challenges which include termination of a contractor who had been appointed to carry out work as well as community led protests, due to issues of local economic development and beneficiation from the project.



Left to Right - General Manager: Stakeholder & Customer Services Ms. Kele Mogamisi, Chairperson of the Capital Investment and Stakeholder Engagement Committee: Dr. Lydia Sebege, Chairperson of interim Board: Ms Pinky Mokoto, Acting Chief Operations Officer: Mr. Ofentse Nthutang, Chief Executive: Mr Sandile Mkhize and Project Manage: Mr. Jimwell Leburu

The interim Chairperson of the Board Ms. Pinky Mokoto accompanied by the Chairperson of the Capital Investment and Stakeholder Engagement Committee Dr. Lydia Sebege accompanied by members of Magalies Water's exco undertook an oversight visit to the plant to assess progress made as well the outstanding work which includes mechanical and electrical work which forms part of the construction.



Some of the storage tanks which have been built and are due for mechanical and electrical works to be completed the end of the third quarter of the 2022/23 financial year.

The Chairperson of the portfolio committee on Premier, Finance, Cooperative Governance, Human Settlement and Traditional Affairs from the North West Provincial Legislature Committee Aaron Motswana and Chairperson of the Standing Committee on Public Accounts (SCOPA) have on several occasions visited the plant to gain insight into progress relating to the upgrades. The plant's capacity is being increased from a 60 megalitre per day to a 80 megalitre per day producing plant.



Mr. Jimwell Leburu leads the walkabout indicating work which will be completed which includes relocating the electrical substation in the plant, which is prone to flooding as it currently located in a low-lying area within the treatment plant.

## Magalies Water Obtains Another Clean Audit from AGSA



**Mr. Psychology Sandile Mkhize - Chief Executive**

The Auditor-General of South Africa (AGSA) after conducting an extensive audit on the business operations of Magalies Water for the 2021/22 financial year, has confirmed that the organization obtained a record third consecutive clean audit.

Magalies Water has been able to maintain a consistent above 90 percent performance, which also ensured that the organization in the 2019/20 and 2020/21 financial years obtained clean audits. Reacting to the news the entity's Chief Executive Mr. Sandile Mkhize said this confirmation by the Auditor-General of South Africa (AGSA), was a vote of confidence on the Board and Executives of Magalies Water in respect of clean governance.

He continued "this third consecutive clean audit is as a result of dedication and teamwork. At the heart of any organization's success or failure are its people, which are the most important asset. We have experienced numerous challenges including rotational work during the height of Covid-19, in which period we lost some of our own employees" he said.

The news of the disestablishment of the now defunct Sedibeng Water created anxiety within the organization's workforce, which the executive had to manage with all its sensitivities. This required added efforts which are human centered in ensuring that the organization continued to operate and meets its targets while managing the process of transition. The Chief Executive says, this outcome is as direct result of all employees' commitment to ensure that Magalies Water becomes consistently performing organization, despite the challenges that the entity experienced from time-to-time.

Following the formal gazette by the ministry of Water and Sanitation, Magalies Water is set to continue with operations in the areas formerly serviced by Sedibeng Water within the North West such as the Dr. Ruth Segomotsi Mompati, Dr. Kenneth Kaunda, and Ngaka Modiri Molema district municipalities. To this end, the water board has also been directed by the minister to intervene and bring about sustainable bulk water supply to the communities of Ramotshere Moiloa local municipality within the Zeerust jurisdiction.

Magalies Water has also been awarded an accolade by the PMR Africa, for the sterling work the organisation continued to do in the water sector. The PMR Africa Awards are held annually and acknowledge contributions and initiatives, strategies, efforts, and hard work done by companies in their sector. PMR Africa looks at the organizations that contribute to ethical and sustainable business practices within their industry. Magalies Water received a Golden Arrow Award, in their role to stimulate economic growth, and development of the North West Province.

## Magalies Water Continues with Stakeholder Engagement Sessions with Municipalities in North West

Since the beginning of August, when Magalies Water officially took over the previously serviced areas by the now defunct Sedibeng Water, the executive of the Rustenburg based water board has been traversing the North West province to engage its identified and potential bulk customers. This followed extensive due diligence investigations which shed light into the service delivery challenges which marred Sedibeng Water and had an adverse impact on the provision of bulk water services in the Dr. Ruth Segomotsi Mompati (Dr. RSMDM) and Ngaka Modiri Molema district municipalities (NMMDM).



**Magalies Water's Mr. Sibongiseni Mbadamana (Far West - Mahikeng Regional Manager) and Mr. Mukesh Dayanand Acting General Manager: Project Management Unit**



**Some of the attendees of the between Magalies Water and Ngaka Modiri Molema District Municipality included the representation from the Provincial arm of the Department of Water and Sanitation**

To date Magalies Water has engaged the NMMDM on no less than four meetings. The water board has expressed its intention to live up to the prescripts of the Water Services Act (No. 108 of 1997) which gives effect the existence of water boards. As such, it hopes that the current historical and current challenges can be addressed with the necessary speed in the interest of servicing communities, which have borne the brunt of inconsistent water supply in the recent past. Present at the meeting also were representatives from the Department of and Human Settlements, Co-operative Governance and Traditional Affairs (COGTA) as well as the Mahikeng Local Municipality.

The challenges which came with the former Sedibeng Water bulk customers, has caused discontentment among local municipalities to that extent that, there are proposals that local municipalities be serviced directly by Magalies Water and not the NMMDM which is the registered water service authority. The issue remains unresolved, and Magalies Water has reminded stakeholders that it is not legally complaint to continue with provision of services for which no contracts have been signed, despite that a ministerial directive was issued.

The Department of Water and Sanitation, represented by its provincial head advised the district municipality to develop a payment plan in consultation with the water board to ensure that the issues around the outstanding debt are resolved. The district municipality has received the invoices but has advised that the amounts be divided according to the financial years, in order for the financial burden on their coffers to be manageable. The NMMDM has indicated its intention of servicing the debt from February 2023, upon approval of its adjustment budget.



Centre: Moretele local Municipality Executive Mayor, Councillor George Manyike attending a meeting with the Board collective and executive representatives of Magalies Water, in Tshwane.

Meanwhile, following the commissioning of the Moretele South Bulk pipeline Magalies Water has been paying close attention to its working relationship with Moretele Local Municipality. Since July 2022, Magalies Water has been solely responsible for bulk water supply in the municipality after there was a institutional arrangement which paved way for Moretele's supply to be moved from the integrated City of Tshwane's bulk water scheme.

The engagement meeting sought to deliberate on the numerous challenges that the municipality experienced after their bulk water supply was swapped from the City of Tshwane to the newly built bulk-line owned and operated by Magalies Water. Chief to these challenges was the spike in the water demand the area has experienced and plans to resolve this growing water demand. Magalies Water is currently at an advanced stage to further expand their bulk infrastructure in Moretele to ensure that areas which had suffered inconsistent water supply challenges due to increased demand and the lack of adequate bulk infrastructure are serviced.

Present in the meeting from Magalies Water were also members of the interim board Mr. David Morienyane and Ms. Bukeka Mahlutshana. While Moretele Local Municipality was represented by its Executive Mayor Councillor George Manyike, and his political team. Magalies Water intends to undertake more bulk infrastructure development work in Moretele as a response to the evident need of potable water in the area.



Mr. Ofentse Nthutang - Acting Chief Operations Officer and Mr. Thembelani Shezi - Acting Financial Officer

In the meeting with Moretele, Magalies Water was led by its Board Chairperson Ms. Pinky Mokoto, Chairperson of the Capital Investment and Stakeholder Engagement Committee Dr. Lydia Sebege and the Chief Executive Mr. Sandile Mkhize leading members of his executive team.



## In The Fray: Bigen Africa Participates in the Brits Water Treatment Plant Upgrade Project

Following the Minister of Mineral Resources and Energy (DMRE) Gwede Mantashe's call for the mines to assist in the Brits WTW Upgrade project, a task team comprising CEO of the mines, Department of Water and Sanitation (DWS), Magalies Water, Madibeng Local Municipality (MLM) and other stakeholders was established to implement this call.

A number of meetings and numerous engagements between DRME, DWS, Magalies Water, MLM and the mines was held through the District Development Model. The meetings were to see how the mines can offer assistance or support the project. The upgrade of the plant is ongoing with commitment of funding from DWS to complete however the other phases in the project which include the upgrade of the bulk distribution pipeline from the plant to command reservoirs and the upgrade of the raw water pipeline for the pump-station to the plant have not been budgeted for due to financial constraints.



**Introductory meeting of Bigen Africa as the service provider appointed to assist with the completion of the outstanding work at the Brits Water Treatment Plant**

The mines have not forthrightly offered financial support due to the history of the project. They have offered to support the project with technical skills in the interim by appointing a PSP which would assess the project and advise the mines how they can assist with the completion of the project and other phases. The mines would be in position to deploy assistance through technical support or financial resources after their due diligence has been concluded.



**The introductory meeting was held at the Madibeng Local Municipality Council Chambers in Brits CBD.**

The meeting was convened to introduce Bigen Africa who have been appointed by the mines to conduct a due diligence investigation. The anticipation is that once the mining houses have an understanding of the project and its associated risks they can then assist financially or technically with the implementation of the other two phases which do not have funding which includes the upgrade of the bulk distribution pipeline from the plant to command reservoirs and the upgrade of the raw water pipeline for the pump-station to the plant.



**After the meeting, a walkabout was taken at the plant, to afford the appointed service an opportunity to assess the work done and take note of the challenges in respect of the unfinished work.**

# Staff Information Session Zooms on Performance and New Service Areas in North West

Magalies Water held its quarterly staff information session, which was led by the company's Chief Executive. This was the first physical meeting, where all the employees of Magalies Water converged in a common meeting venue. Since the advent of Covid-19 and its subsequent regulations, which were meant to curb the viral infections Magalies Water held its meetings virtually and the last physical meeting was held before March 2020. The second quarter staff information was crucial as it been scheduled to update the staff on a number of critical issues, which have been communicated publicly, such as the disestablishment of Sedibeng Water, and the takeover by Magalies Water of the North West operations.

In his address to staff, the Chief Executive Mr. Sandile Mkhize detailed the previous year's financial and organisational performance and how that impacted on Magalies Water's mid-to-long term objectives. Magalies Water's new service areas include the Dr. Ruth Segomotsi Mompoti and Ngaka Modiri Molema District municipalities.



**Magalies Water employees raise concerns on the impact of Sedibeng Water disestablishment on Magalies Water's operations and financial liquidity**

Since the 2019/20 financial year to date Magalies Water has been among the best performing water boards in the country. In addition to this, the board has also maintained an above 90 percent performance in the aforementioned years. While this was welcome news to the staff, the challenges that are to come with the disestablishment dominated proceedings.



**Magalies Water Chief Executive - Mr. Sandile Mkhize addresses the first physical meeting of staff after a two-year suspension of such meetings, due to Covid-19 regulations**



Employees were also updated about the implications of the sector wide reforms which are led by the Ministry of Water and Sanitation. These reforms includes the reconfiguration of Magalies Water's services in Limpopo and Gauteng provinces where Lepelle-Northern Water and Rand Water are earmarked to take over operations, with Magalies Water focusing solely on bulk water supply in the North West province.



## Men's Conference Focuses on Shoulder to Shoulder Support

Between April 2020 and September 2022, 988 women were killed in domestic violence in South Africa, police data shows. In about the same period, the government achieved just over a fifth of the targets in its action plan to curb gender-based violence (GBV) and femicide, according to a report released at the second presidential summit on the matter held in Midrand in early November.

In recognition of the start of 16 Days of Activism Against the Abuse of Women and Children campaign, Magalies Water held its annual Men's Conference on 25 November 2022. Under the theme 'Celebrating Brotherhood', the event focused on gender-based violence related discussions, social challenges faced by men and how they can better themselves and communities they live in through everyday acts of kindness.

Magalies Water Chief Executive, Mr. Sandile Mkhize graced the event, supported by members of the executive as well as board members including, Deputy Chairperson, Dr. Thembinkosi Twalo, Mr. Likotsi Morienyane and Mr. Motiki Shoahle. Renowned author and motivational speaker, Mr. Martin Manamela who delivered the key note address focused on some of the issues that men are faced with both professionally and personally. Gender based violence statistics point to men being the perpetrators of such crimes. "We must lead the charge on fighting GBV and not only being vocal during the period in which the world and our country are raising awareness about these senseless acts" he said. The event also provided the men with an opportunity to bond through the various activities they took part in.





*Magalies Water Men have taken a stand against gender-based violence!*

## Magalies Water Holds World AIDS Day Commemorations

World AIDS Day is commemorated each year on the 1st of December and is an opportunity for every community to unite in the fight against HIV, show support for people living with HIV and remember those who have died. South Africa has been relentless in its mission to turn the HIV, AIDS, and TB epidemics around and there are notable achievements to celebrate. A review of the efforts in addressing the HIV and AIDS epidemic over the past 20 years, paints a mixed picture. There have been many scientific advances in HIV treatment and we now have a much better understanding of the virus. More people are receiving antiretroviral treatment, which means HIV infection rates are decreasing. There is also a scientific optimism around the benefits of treatment as prevention, and progress towards a cure and vaccine.



**ICAS representative facilitates a discussion on personal finance, health and stress management with the Magalies Water employees**

Stigma and discrimination can be as devastating as the illness itself and may mean abandonment by a partner or family, social exclusion, job and property loss, school expulsion, denial of medical services, lack of care and support, and violence for those affected by them. These consequences, or fear of them, mean that people are less likely to come in for HIV testing, disclose their HIV status to others, adopt HIV preventive behaviour or access treatment, care and support.

Magalies Water held an AIDS Day & 16 Days of Activism against gender-based violence event to raise awareness. Part of the engagements on the day focused on employee wellness which is at the heart of any organisation's lifeline. A representative from ICAS which is a professional service provider contracted by Magalies Water to offer counselling and employee wellness services.

Magalies Water's Acting General Manager for Corporate Services Mr. Toto Moloby, said with the developments that have been unfolding in the water sector and which affected Magalies Water directly it was important to take stock of the impact of the imminent changes on the employees and to ensure that communication channels remain open between management and the work force.

He continued "colleagues would remember that not so long ago, we had a meeting in which the Chief Executive gave us the state of affairs as it relates to the performance including the financial liquidity of the organisation. This is an additional step we are taking to ensure that we rally all the resources and expertise available to us to ensure that employees through all these changes are looked after psychologically and otherwise" he remarked.



**Mr. Toto Moloby - Acting General Manager: Corporate Services**

Speaking on behalf of the Chief Executive, Mr. Ofentse Nthutang the acting Chief Operations Officer took to the stage to thank the employees of Magalies Water for their relentless dedication during a period which was marred with a lot of uncertainty, which when poorly managed could have easily affected the organisation adversely.

He continued "Magalies Water is not the organisation that it is without its employees. We have just recorded a third consecutive clean audit, which we cannot as management claim without recognizing your role as employees from the different divisions as well as plants". We have also been given a new mandate to extend our service offering to the Ngaka Modiri Molema, Dr. Ruth Segomotsi Mompoti and Dr. Kenneth Kaunda districts. This would mean in the foreseeable future we will be present in all the four districts. Of course while this means that Magalies Water is growing, it does not mean the process towards growth will not come without challenges" he concluded.



**Ms. Thabisile Rapita lit a candle in honour of those who have died from HIV and the families which have been affected by this virus**



**Mr. Ofentse Nthutang addresses the employees during the World AIDS Day Commemoration in Rustenburg**

*Magalies Water remembers all those that have died from HIV and pledges solidarity to those who are affected by the virus*



# ***Vision***

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

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