

WATERWORX

The official newsletter of Magalies Water



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EDITOR'S NOTE

This WaterWorx edition, summarizes all major operational and governance-related activities within Magalies Water's areas of service spanning three provinces. It can be confidently said, the organisation has started to reach satisfactory levels of stabilization, with numerous appointments of key personnel in critical and strategic areas. In this quarter Magalies Water was able to provide insight into the residents of the Bojanala Platinum District and the North West province, with progress of the much-talked about Pilanesberg Bulk Water Scheme Phase 2 project, which intends on providing about 70 megalitres of added potable water into the Rustenburg jurisdiction.

Over a year ago, Magalies Water undertook an ambitious task of remediating the tourism gem of the Bojanala Platinum District - the Hartbeespoort Dam which was laden with the invasive hyacinth plant, deteriorating raw water quality as well as pollution by industries and other economic role-players upstream of the Crocodile West Catchment Areas. To date, all efforts have started to show great progress.

Magalies Water having engaged interested and affected stakeholders, including qualified professional service providers has been able to turn the tide with the dam coverage of the hyacinth at less than five percent currently, compared to the state of the dam a year ago, prior to its appointment as Implementing Agent.

In ensuring that management delivers on their varied key performance areas, the Board continues to regularly undertake oversight visits to all areas of operation, especially where Magalies Water is currently implementing water supply projects. More recently the Board led by the Capital Investment and Stakeholder Engagement Committee, undertook an extensive two-day visit to projects in Ramotshere Moiloa Local Municipality, Rustenburg Local Municipality and Madibeng Local Municipality. More sadly, this quarter was also one in which the former Chief Executive Mr. Sandile Mkhize after an illustrious nine years of service, tendered his resignation to pursue other interest within the water sector. His contribution to the growth and sustainability of Magalies Water will never go unnoticed. To the staff, your commitment and dedication is what keeps the organisation going.



Mr. David Magae
Manager: Communications and
Media Relations



30 Years of Democracy:
Partnership and Growth

f y x #Freedom30



Young Boy Group Visit Vaalkop Water Treatment Plant as Part of Awareness Activities

"Boys Leading Change" a formation charged with motivating, and mentoring young boys visited Magalies Water's biggest water treatment plant - Vaalkop. The group of over twenty (20) boys were hosted by the Marketing and Branding Department within the Communications and Stakeholder Relations, together with Water Services Division. The purpose of the plant tour, was to enable the group to understand Magalies Water's vision, mission and business objectives as it relates to the provision of reliable bulk potable water to the various communities spread between North West and Limpopo, which it currently serves.

The activities on the day included presentations from Communications and Media Relations Department - to talk to the department's role as it relates to stakeholder communication, internal communication as well as media liaison function on behalf of the Water Board; Marketing and Branding Department - to highlight the marketing and brand positioning responsibilities to strategically market and grow the brand foot print of Magalies Water, and detailed presentations about the "water to source" process in order to educate the group about how Magalies Water produces potable water, as well as how communities receive waters as end-users.

The group was later taken on a detailed tour of the plant, where they interacted with process controllers, who are central to the day-to-day operations of the plant in producing potable water.



The Role of Communications and Media Relations Department within Magalies Water explained by Ms. Bulelwa Mbali-Khoele



In Pictures: Young Boy Group Visit Vaalkop Water Treatment Plant as Part of Awareness Activities





Water and Sanitation Minister, Launches Pilanesberg Bulk Water Scheme Phase Two

The Minister of Water Sanitation, Senzo Mchunu, alongside his Deputy Judith Tshabalala conducted an oversight visit to Magalies Water's Pilanesberg Bulk Water Supply Phase 2, which will provide about 70 million litres of potable water to areas of Royal Bafokeng Administration, and Rustenburg Local Municipality. The duo was accompanied by Former North West Acting Premier Dumile Maloyi, Rustenburg's Executive Mayor Cllr. Shiela Mabale-Huma and were hosted by the Board Chairperson Dr. Lydia Sebege, members of the Board and Magalies Water's Management collective.

The Pilanesberg Bulk Water Supply Phase 2, is a culmination of a long standing commitment and response service delivery strategy of Magalies Water, as it relates to the supply and demand of potable water in the Bojanala Platinum District, which is the province's economic mecca and home to over 70 percent of the North West's GDP, apart from being the conveyer belt of the world's largest export of Platinum Group of Metals (PGM's).



Magalies Water Chairperson Dr. Lydia Sebege, greets and welcomes Water and Sanitation Minister Senzo Mchunu at the recently completed Tlhabane Reservoir, ahead of the project launch.

The oversight commenced at the 30 mega-litre capacity reservoir on the foothill of Tlhabane and Lefaragatlhe, where about 30 million litres of water will be supplied to the two areas, once the project is fully commissioned. The contingent proceeded to the Mafenya Pump Station, which is completed and awaiting an approval to the regional electricity grid in order to receive sufficient energy for the size of the recently constructed infrastructure.

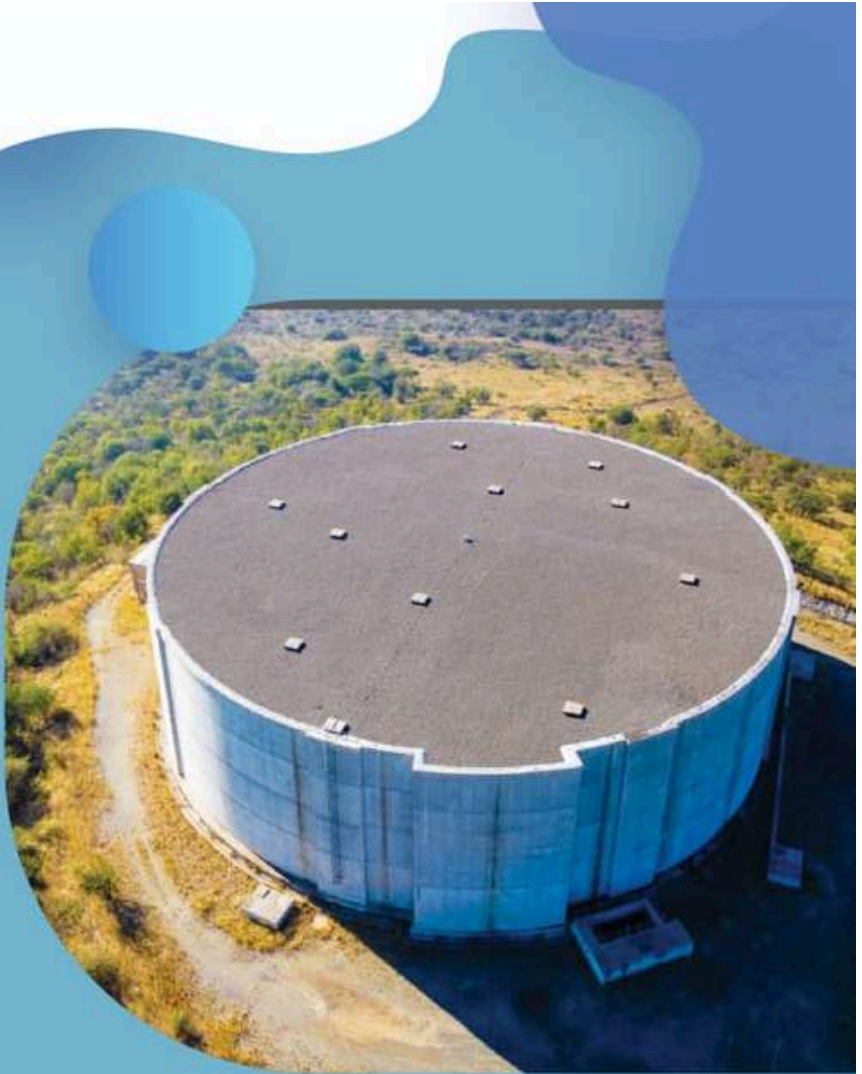
After a walkabout the pump station, the former Minister during a media engagement reflected on why it was critical to launch Operation Bulela Metsi "when we started with Magalies Water in Moretele, it would have seemed as if, this was a box ticking exercise, but today the result here to be seen. The people of the North West, can be rest assured, that we will be coming to them, as we were also busy in Dinokana where Magalies Water is busy implementing a rural water scheme project worth 100 million rands" he said. The day, was concluded in Mafenya, where a community engagement session was held, to provide an update on the work completed, as well as when the project will be commissioned, in order to respond more effectively to the water supply demands in parts of Rustenburg.



Magalies Water Chief Executive Mr. Sandile Mkhize, leads oversight at the Tlhabane reservoir, in the presence of Acting North West Premier Nono Maloyi, flanked by Deputy Minister Judith Tshabalala and Rustenburg Mayor Cllr. Shiela Mabale-Huma



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.



Sandile Mkhize Bows Out In Style After Three Clean Audits



Former Magalies Water Chief Executive - Mr. Sandile Mkhize

With a nine-year service to Magalies Water, having started as General Manager - Water Services, Chief Operations Officer and later as Chief Executive, Mr. Sandile Mkhize threw down the gauntlet at the end of June 2024, to take up a new role at the expanded Umgeni-Uthukela Water Board, based in Pietermaritzburg. The announcement followed a long-standing vacancy of Chief Executive at the KwaZulu based water utility. The chairperson of Magalies Water Board - Dr. Lydia Sebegu said, while this presented an opportunity for Mkhize to grow, the Board collective was sad to see him leave “we are indeed sad that the Chief Executive, wants to immerse himself with added experience which will lead to his growth, however it is a bitter pill to swallow, given the calibre of a person and leader Magalies Water has come to know of him” Sebegu said.

Two ceremonies were held in the former Chief Executive’s honour and also allow him to interact with staff in Ngaka Modiri Molema and Bojanala Platinum districts before he took up his new responsibility. Mkhize used the engagements to reflect on his journey, which included three consecutive clean audits, where Magalies Water had been consistently performing above the ninety percent mark, he added “really one has come from humble beginnings to rise through the ranks until I was appointed as the CE. I will forever be indebted to this organisation, because it was through it that I was able to grow” he remarked.



Labour formations legally recognized within Magalies Water, were offered an opportunity to pay homage to the man they had been working with for almost a decade reflecting on the challenges, and success between the organisation and organized labour.

In Pictures: Chief Executive's Send-Off



Hyacinth on Hartbeespoort Dam at Less Than Five Percent Coverage

After a year, of having been appointed Implementing Agent on behalf of the Department of Water and Sanitation, Magalies Water has achieved significant success with the removal of the invasive plant as well as improving the raw water quality in the Crocodile West catchment. The status of the dam has been a concern of the public, tourism sector stakeholders, and environmentalists for years as they perpetually experienced symptoms of eutrophication in the dam. Essentially, eutrophication can be a natural process that takes place over many years but could be escalated by human activities. According to the water wheel report released in 2003 the Hartbeespoort Dam was classified as the filthiest dam in the world and its extremely poor water quality is a 30-year-long problem, which continues to be a problem to date.

As such, the hypereutrophic state of the dam has been recorded since the early 1970s and Magalies Water has made remarkable progress within a year of its appointment by the Department, in remedying a three-decade problem to restore this dam to its natural state. Most of the water quality problems account for nutrient loading upstream of the dam, where the illegal discharge takes place and flows downstream.



Water related sport has resumed, as Hyacinth removal has been over the majority of the dam's surface area

There is a continuous monitoring of the Hartbeespoort Dam at various strategic and scientifically informed points, and the main quest is to track the magnitude of pollution and help curb the effects experienced in the dam. To serve the public interest, water quality results are continuously presented to stakeholders, the Department of Water and Sanitation, and various catchment forums to create an integrated and holistic approach in the terminal objective of helping the suffocating dam or surface impoundment.



Water related sport has resumed, as Hyacinth removal has been over the majority of the dam's surface area

Magalies Water has an ISO/IEC/SANAS 17025:2017 accredited laboratory furnished and equipped with state-of-the-art facilities and instruments. Through finely tailored turnaround strategy that is explicitly crafted to address the specific needs and challenges of Hartbeespoort Dam, the water quality in the dam has notably improved although the challenge is with the perpetual ingress of hypereutrophic water into the impoundment, thus denoting contamination of the system by upstream activities. However, the efficacy of nanobubble technology in the treatment zone has shown massive and significant effects in terms of improving the water quality.

Magalies Water Dazzles at WISA 2024 Conference

Magalies Water delegation led by members of the Board, accompanied by the former Chief Executive and his management collective descended upon Nkosi Albert Luthuli International Convention Centre in Durban - KwaZulu Natal, for the 2024 edition of the Water Institute of Southern Africa - WISA conference. Under the theme “turn the tide” the recently expanded water utility was also on the exhibition floor, to demonstrate strides made since it took over some of the operations of Sedibeng Water which was also operating parts of the North West province.

The three-day conference is a biennial gathering of water and sanitation stakeholders and role-players, where science and technology, infrastructure development and maintenance as well as water supply and demand come into sharp focus. The first day of the conference was officially opened by the former Minister of Water and Sanitation Senzo Mchunu, who also paid the Magalies Water team, a visit at the exhibition floor, and interacted with staff and Board members.



Former Water and Sanitation Minister Senzo Mchunu, Former Magalies Water CE Mr. Sandile Mkhize and Board Member Dr. Mosidi Makgae



Magalies Water officials where hard at work interacting with visitors to the Magalies Water Exhibition Stand

The former Minister, expressed satisfaction with the work Magalies Water had done, in consolidating its position in the rest of the North West, as a leading provider of bulk water and sanitation services. The former Minister added “it is encouraging to see the progress made to date, notwithstanding the challenges, that are are well known in the water and sanitation sector. In our view it is the healthy relationship

that exists between management and the Board which will ensure that Magalies Water, grows to become an even more sustainable business” he remarked. Dr. Mosidi Makgae who is a Board member said, the highest-decision making body of the Water Board, was impressed with the level of preparations and the contribution of the entity towards the conference, she added “it is events or conferences such as these, that really put Magalies Water in the map and enable us to tell our story and demonstrate our combined skills and expertise to be a force to be reckoned within the water and sanitation sector” she said.



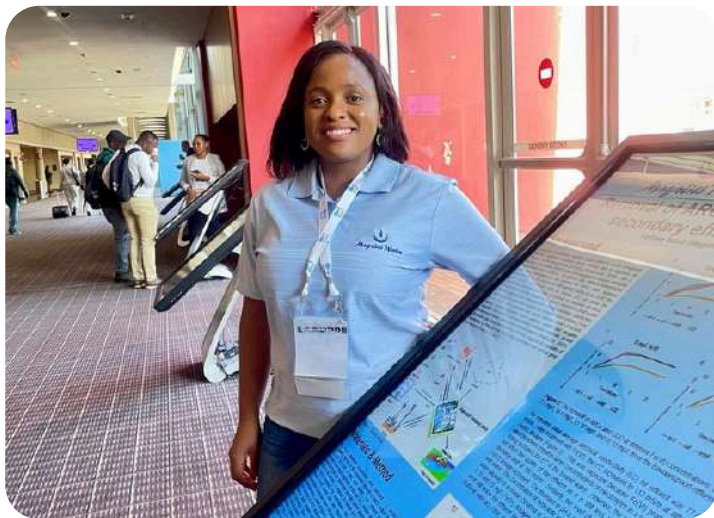
Visitors to the Magalies Water Exhibition Stand, flanking Magalies Water official

Magalies Water Dazzles at WISA 2024 Conference

Magalies water's very own Kefilwe Nduli delivered an insightful presentation under the theme "Removal of ARGs Using Fe(VI) in Secondary Effluent Water." This groundbreaking research highlights the potential of Fe(VI) in effectively removing antibiotic-resistant genes (ARGs) from secondary effluent water, offering a promising solution to a significant environmental and public health issue.

Nduli's presentation captured the audience's attention, demonstrating the innovative application of Fe(VI) as a powerful oxidizing agent capable of breaking down complex contaminants, including ARGs, which are often resistant to conventional treatment methods. The research presented by Nduli is a testament to Magalies Water's dedication to advancing water treatment technologies and improving water quality for communities.

In Pictures: WISA 2024



Magalies Water's Kefilwe Nduli

The 2024 WISA conference has set a new benchmark for knowledge sharing and collaboration within the water sector. It provided a platform for exchanging ideas, forging partnerships, and exploring innovative solutions to the challenges facing the water industry. Magalies Water remains committed to pioneering advancements in water treatment technologies and contributing to sustainable water management practices. The conference will take place in two years time at a venue and date to be communicated, in line with the rotation policy adopted by conference organizers.



NMMDM Executive Mayor Leads Oversight on Water Infrastructure



Ngaka Modiri Molema District Mayor Cllr. Khumalo Molefe with Magalies Water officials at Mmabatho Water Treatment Plant

Executive Mayor of Ngaka Modiri Molema District Municipality Cllr. Khumalo Molefe, led an oversight visit to water supply infrastructure in parts of Mahikeng Local Municipality. The purpose of the visit which comprised representatives of the district municipality's implementing agent on bulk water infrastructure – Magalies Water, Eskom, and the Department of Water and Sanitation, sought to understand the challenges facing several areas on the outskirts of the provincial capital, with respect to availability of potable water. The visit started at the Mmabatho Water Treatment Plant, which is currently operated by Magalies Water, and provides large areas of Mmabatho suburbia with water, which is supplied through the Signal Hill reservoirs. The delegation also went to Molemane eye, where the capital also receives its share of potable water, through underground natural spring water, where this water is abstracted and treated for human consumption, which is abstracted through the Mahikeng Water Treatment Plant, via a connecting stream into Mahikeng.



Pumps inside the Mmabatho WTW

The Executive Mayor, in his reaction to the visit at Mmabatho Water Treatment Plant, said he was impressed with the progress made since Magalies Water, was appointed to take over the operation and maintenance. He continued “in the recent past, residents had been complaining of poor water quality, which has been aggressively attended by the district and Magalies Water. We have commissioned new three pumps in the plant which have improved the performance and water quality output. I have drunk the water and it is of supreme quality” he said.

The delegation also, visited Grootfontein where over 15 boreholes have been in use to supply other areas of Mahikeng with potable water. Currently, only seven boreholes are not operational due to acts of vandalism.

The Department of Water and Sanitation, having identified electricity supply challenges which have affected the other non-operational boreholes, have secured a power unit, to augment supply to the system in order to better respond to the water supply challenges in Mahikeng, given its growing population. The added electrification supply to the system was expected to be completed by the end of June 2024.



Cllr Molefe holds a test jar to demonstrate the safety of the water coming out of the plant

Hartbeespoort Dam Pollution Invaded

In a heartening tale of community action, a dedicated group of volunteers rolled up their sleeves to address the pollution issues at Hartbeespoort Dam. Led by Communications and Stakeholder Relations General Manager Ms. Kele Mogamisi and Professor Vhahangwele Masindi from Magalies Water's Water Services Division. This initiative brought together people from various backgrounds to make a positive impact on their local environment. With gloves on and determination in their hearts, these volunteers embarked on the task of cleaning up the dam's shoreline. Armed with trash bags and litter pickers, they diligently collected debris that had accumulated over time, ranging from plastic bottles to discarded wrappers.

Their efforts were further bolstered by the support of organizations like the Wildlife and Environment Society of South Africa (WESSA), South African National Space Agency (SANSA), BirdLife Harties, and Rotary Club Brits-Hartbeespoort. These partners provided valuable resources, including equipment, expertise, and logistical support, to ensure the success of the clean-up campaign. Despite facing challenges such as identifying pollution hotspots and coordinating logistics, the volunteers remained undeterred. Through their collective action and unwavering commitment, they made significant progress in restoring the dam's natural beauty and ensuring a cleaner environment for all.

As the clean-up efforts continue, the volunteers are hopeful that their actions will inspire others to join their cause. They believe that by working together, communities can make a meaningful difference in preserving and protecting natural ecosystems like Hartbeespoort Dam. Their story serves as a powerful reminder of the positive impact that can be achieved when individuals come together for a common purpose. Through collaboration and community engagement, they are paving the way for a cleaner, healthier environment for future generations to enjoy.



New Staff Appointments

Magalies Water made numerous appointments in quarter four, as part of its commitment in addressing the once high vacancy rates, within middle and senior management positions. The following colleagues, were appointed between April 1st and June 30th, 2024.



Lindiwe Nhlapho
Chief Information Officer
Head Office

Ms. Lindiwe Nhlapho joins Magalies water as its new CIO, bringing a wealth of knowledge in IT with expertise in strategic planning, digital transformation, and innovative technology implementation. She holds a National Diploma in Information Technology from the Durban University of Technology.

Nhlapho began her career as a Website Developer intern at Free State Provincial Treasury and progressed to the Department of Public Works, Roads, and Transport, and the Department of Premier in the Western Cape. She also holds a Postgraduate Diploma in Management specializing in Enterprise System and Business Process Management (BPM) from the University of Cape Town.

Her career includes significant positions such as ICT Service Delivery Manager at Transnet National Ports Authority and Business System Manager at the Department of Justice and Constitutional Development. At the National Department of Health, she led IT initiatives within the Pharmacy section, partnering with notable NGOs.

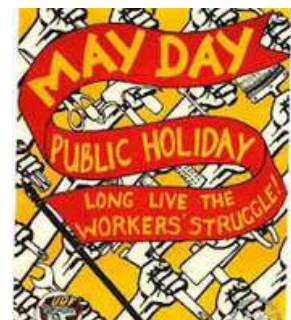
Before joining Magalies Water, Nhlapho served as Director: IT Expert at the Eastern Cape Provincial Treasury and Group IT Manager at Siyanda Resources.



Kerotse Meintjies
Regional Manager
Far West

With 20 years plus of extensive experience in maintenance and production, and 10 years of it a managerial and leadership role, Ms. Kerotse Meintjies has contributed meaningfully to the success of Magalies Water Far West Region, especially during the transition period. Armed with Bachelor of Technology: Process Instrumentation Engineering, Tshwane University of Technology, she has served in numerous management positions such as - Production Software Specialist at Snackworks in Johannesburg, Acting Head of Operations and Technical Superintendent within Magalies Water.

With a track record in process improvement, facilitating modification to automation systems to optimize operational efficiency and enhance productivity, her ability to evaluate modification proposals, conduct acceptance testing and ensure compliance with standards has consistently contributed to the success of projects and initiatives she has participated in. Meintjies has successfully led multidisciplinary teams comprising of maintenance and production staff.





Christas Makwala
Sectional Head Mechanical
Area East



Noxolo Nkombane
Knowledge Management & Information
Specialist
Head Office

Magalies Water Takes Part in Clear River Campaign

Magalies Water, honoured the invitation by Lepelle Northern Water, for its Clear River Campaign in Lephalale, Limpopo. This campaign, which is of significant importance, was followed by a series of various sightseeing visits to observe the extent of the challenge. Magalies Water representatives were among some delegates in attendance at the Mokolo River Clear Water Campaign. In attendance also was, the Department of Water and Sanitation Limpopo Operations, The University of Limpopo, The Department of Forestry, Fisheries and Environment (DFFE), The Rhodes University, Mokolo Catchment Forum, Eskom Matimba Power Station and EXXARO Grootegeluk Coal. The teams from varying institutions were led by a team of dedicated experts from the DFFE and other stakeholders for the Clear River Campaign, as championed by the Department of Water and Sanitation in commemorating International Nelson Mandela Day. The collective effort was focused on raising awareness about the urgent issue of the alien invasive species (Kariba weeds) invading the Mokolo River, a significant threat to water flow and aquatic life.

Magalies Water, a key participant, rendered a message of support, which highlighted its support for the initiative owing to its solid guidance and evident success as an Implementing Agent of the Hartbeespoort Dam Remediation Project. This project has ensured the restoration of the dam activities and resuscitated the natural order of aquatic life. In delivering her message of support on behalf of Magalies Water Ms. Phindile Mahlangu - Scientific Services Manager said “Water is a resource fundamental for conserving the ecosystem and, ultimately, preserving life. Ladies and gentlemen, it then remains a known element that surface water resources are under immense pressure across the globe, exaggerated by consistent population growth, climate changes, and anthropogenic activities, leading to hypereutrophication (overload of nutrients) and ultimately favorable conditions for the infestation by Alien Invasive Species, such Kariba Weeds, scientifically known as *Salvinia molesta* in water bodies. Colleagues, as Magalies Water Board, we recognize that alien invasive species in surface water resources are a growing concern globally due to an array of factors, some particularly of grave concern for Water Services Providers and Authorities, yet again, not an isolated challenge to the South African surface water resources and a justifiably so, a cause for various ecological, economic, and social impacts” she emphasized.

In Pictures: Limpopo Clean River Campaign



Innovative Partnership Yields Sustainable Solutions for Water and Agriculture

Magalies Water is proud to announce a groundbreaking collaboration with key stakeholders from the government, local communities, and the private sector. This partnership, which includes the Department of Water and Sanitation and the Madibeng Local Municipality, has resulted in an innovative and sustainable solution through the provision of fertilizers.

In a significant achievement, 50 tons of high-quality fertilizer have been produced as a by-product of harvesting the invasive hyacinth plant. This initiative is led by Hya Matla through the Magalies Water Hartbeespoort Dam Rehabilitation Project. The invasive hyacinth, which has been a persistent problem in the Hartbeespoort Dam, is now being transformed into a valuable resource for agriculture. This process not only mitigates the spread of the hyacinth but also repurposes it into a beneficial product, showcasing a perfect example of turning environmental challenges into opportunities.

The success of this initiative is a testament to the power of collaboration. The Department of Water and Sanitation and the Madibeng Local Municipality have played pivotal roles in supporting and facilitating the project. Their involvement has been crucial in navigating regulatory frameworks and ensuring that the project aligns with broader environmental and agricultural policies. Community members have also been actively involved, ensuring that the project not only benefits the environment but also provides economic opportunities for the local population. This inclusive approach has fostered a sense of ownership and responsibility among all stakeholders.



Packaged Fertilizer for use in Agriculture

The use of the invasive hyacinth plant for fertilizer production addresses multiple challenges simultaneously. It helps manage the spread of this invasive species, which can clog waterways and disrupt aquatic ecosystems. At the same time, it provides a sustainable source of fertilizer that can enhance agricultural productivity. Farmers in the region can now access affordable, high-quality fertilizers, which can lead to improved crop yields and food security. This dual benefit underscores the importance of innovative approaches to environmental management.

Magalies Water remains committed to exploring and implementing sustainable solutions that benefit both the environment and the community. We look forward to continuing our work with partners and stakeholders to drive positive change and ensure the health and prosperity of our region. Future plans include scaling up this project and exploring other innovative methods to address environmental challenges.



Meet the Content Management Team



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Vision

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