



FLOWMETER

uMngeni-uThukela Newsletter
CHRISTMAS EDITION

**CHRISTMAS MESSAGES
FROM CHAIRPERSON
AND GROUP CHIEF
OFFICERS**

**CHRISTMAS
RECIPES**

**LAUNCH OF THE
UMGENI WATER 2022/2023
ANNUAL REPORT**

**TRADITIONAL LEADERS
LEAD A MASSIVE
CLEAN-UP
CAMPAIGN IN
PIETERMARITZBURG
CBD**

Joining forces to improve water and sanitation service delivery for the communities of KwaZulu-Natal

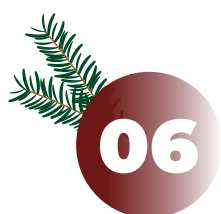




**Greater
Mpofana Bulk
Water Supply
Scheme**



Table of Contents



**Chairperson's
Christmas Message**



**Group Chief Financial
Officer Christmas Message**



**President Visits Darvill WWTW and
launches the Vulindlela Phase 1 – BWSS**



Meet the New Board



THE NEW CHAPTER HAS BEGUN



*Joining forces to improve
Water and Sanitation service
delivery for all communities
in KwaZulu-Natal.*



Chairperson's Christmas Message

Advocate Vusi Khuzwayo SC

We have come to the conclusion of what has “undoubtedly” been a busy year for all at uMngeni-uThukela Water. I imagine that, like everyone, you are anxiously looking forward to spending a well-deserved break with your loved ones.

I believe that what binds us, as the uMngeni-uThukela family, is the genuine desire to make a meaningful difference to the millions of lives we impact daily through the provision of bulk water and waste water related services.

In our collective pursuit of this noble mandate, it is to be expected that we will, at times encounter frustrations and seemingly insurmountable challenges. However, it is only when we pause to consider the joy on the face of the old lady in rural uMzimkhulu, who can now access safe drinking water for the first time in her life that we realise that our toil and effort was truly worth it.



I am particularly proud of the difference that we continue to make in the livelihoods of entire communities in the province of KwaZulu-Natal.

Without you, its foot soldiers, uMngeni-uThukela Water would not be able to implement the policies that get approved by the Executive and the Board, no matter how noble and visionary these may be.

On behalf of the Board, I would like to personally thank you all for the hard work and effort you have put into the achievement of our organisational objectives this year.

In wishing you, your families and friends well during this Festive Season, I do so, driven by a genuine appreciation of the passion, drive and energy you have expended in the year 2023.

To those of you who will be embarking on road trips, either for holiday purposes or to visit loved ones and friends, I would plead that you take heed of the safety precautions.

“I wish you all a Blessed Christmas and a 2024 filled with all that your hearts desire.”





Acting Chief Executive

Dr S Manana

Colleagues, as we all no doubt know, the year 2023 has been a transitional one for us all. Effective from 1st July 2023, we saw the reconfiguration of the erstwhile Umgeni and Mhlathuze Water Boards to form uMngeni-uThukela Water. This effectively means that we are the pioneering cohort of employees under the new organisation's banner and upon our shoulders rests the very weighty, yet noble responsibility of ensuring the supply of quality bulk water and waste water management services to all the people of KwaZulu-Natal.

A lot of exciting changes have taken place within the organisation this year, starting with the installation of a permanent Board by the Minister of Water and Sanitation, Mr Senzo Mchunu. Although its tenure began just three months ago, the Board has already through a series of staff engagements, acquainted itself with all of uMngeni-uThukela Water's workforce and organised labour.

At an operational level, the year saw uMngeni-uThukela soldiering on with efforts to meet and surpass its customers' and stakeholders' expectations. It fills me with immense pride that this year has, once again, seen us making



commendable progress in the restoration of our infrastructure that was damaged by the floods of April 2022. All those colleagues who were directly and indirectly involved in the completion of repairs to Aqueduct 2 in readiness for its recommissioning should take a bow. The resilience of these colleagues, who worked under immense pressure and tight deadlines, is exactly the type of teamwork and dedication required to take uMngeni-uThukela Water forward.

In September this year, Fitch which is one of the big three global agencies which assess the financial strength of countries and government agencies awarded uMngeni uThukela Water a credit rating of AA+. Colleagues, you should all take pride in the fact that you work for an organisation that, upon being measured using the most stringent criteria, was found to be on sound financial footing.

In yet another feather in our cap, uMngeni-uThukela was this year also awarded the Diamond Arrow in the PMR Africa Business Excellence Awards for being ranked as leader in a survey of water sector organisations. These accolades all serve as testament of the calibre of employees that uMngeni-uThukela is proud to have on its workforce and for that, I think you should all give yourselves a “pat in the back”

The year 2023 was not without its lows, we have lost very valuable employees with the most recent and tragic incident being the loss of Ms Thokozani Hammond, who was the Acting Manager for Brand, Marketing and Communication. May their kind souls continue to rest in peace.

As I conclude, allow me to thank all of you, the Management and the Board for continuing

to work in the best interests of uMngeni-uThukela. May you all have a blessed, safe and joyous festive season.

Colleagues, as we near the end of another calendar year,

“I would like to urge you all to take a moment to consider what it is that we do at uMngeni-uThukela Water.”





Acting Chief Operating Officer

Sanele Mazibuko

When you are caught up in the day-to-day issues of your specific role, it might seem that there is not much you do that affects the course of our entity. I would like to urge you all to try and understand that without the input made by each individual within the organisation, my colleagues and I in operations, would not be able to deliver on our mandate.

The mandate as you may be aware (if not at the top of your thoughts each day) is to provide potable water to the entire province of KwaZulu-Natal. When one thinks of the actual operational feat delivery of water to more than 12 million people in an area that exceeds the total size of a country such as Portugal in Europe, via more than 11 water treatment plants- we can take a moment to feel good about ourselves.

While that sinks in, do not get carried away, as we face enormous challenges in the coming decade. So, we cannot rest and think we have everything under control.





As the floods of April 2022 taught us, all our skills and abilities are always needed. Our primary task might appear to be to supply potable water and treated wastewater that exceeds SANS standards (which all the uMngeni plants do) but we also need to ensure stability of supply going forward.

I believe, I am fortunate to be a part of the team that is second to none in ensuring that our operational capabilities and resilience are up to the tasks of supplying current needs, but also to ensure adequacy for the future. Within the next seven years, we will bring on stream several upgrades and infrastructure projects which will more than double the volumes we supplied in the 2023 reporting year.

These projects include the third highest dam in South Africa at 81 meters, the Smithfield dam. In addition, we hope to have the Ngwadini dam on stream by 2026. Both these projects are part of the lower uMkhomazi system.

These, and other projects, need to be delivered on time and to budget to ensure that uMngeni-uThukela meets the Horizon 2050 goals. We have other projects in hand to the north of the main cities to ensure that we continue to ensure security of supply for future generations.

While these are planned projects, I would just like to touch on the incredible work which the entire family put into ensuring that our supplies recovered from the 2022 flood damage. We not only repaired the supply aqueducts to the city of Durban within less than a year when most commentators were expecting it not to be recoverable in the short term, but we improved it and made it more resilient to similar natural threats in the future.

While these facts are seldom noted in the media, we can all enjoy our festive season knowing that we form part of an incredible organisation that accomplishes incredible things each day of the year. The cold numbers about our operations in terms of cubic meters supplied and treated are in our annual report.

What is not as easily found there, however, is the specialness of each member of the team at uMngeni-uThukela that makes it possible for my team and I to have an operations division and to directly impact the quality of life of every citizen of our province.

“I wish you all a happy and safe holiday season in which I hope you are able to rest and relax and return next year ready to carry on the incredible work we do.”





Group Chief Governance and Compliance Officer

Sbusiso Madonsela

We started 2023, after having experienced a number of shifts in our business environment. We started the year as two different entities, but ended it as one entity. The year 2023 has been a challenging year on all fronts. As a collective, we have been able to withstand and overcome what seemed to be insurmountable hurdles. The majority of us must be physically and emotionally drained because of both work-related or even personal pressures and challenges.

The December festive period is a perfect time for all of us to reflect on the occurrences of the year, take stock of all issues we have been faced with, reflect on the decisions taken during the period, celebrate achievements, overlook the mistakes committed, connect with family and friends, reconnect with our spiritual beliefs, and more importantly, rest.





It is my hope and prayer that we all have sufficient time to do this and come back refreshed and ready to commit to what promises to be yet another great year ahead of us.

“Enjoy the festive season and... see you in 2024”





Group Chief Financial Officer

Thami Mkhwanazi

As the festive season draws near, I would like to take this opportunity to thank all staff for a productive year. This year has been filled with a multitude of victories. Every year is different, but this one has been filled with more change than normal. Your dedication and hard work have been pivotal in achieving our financial goals and driving the entity's success. Looking ahead, we are poised for continued growth and success.

The year 2023 marks a very important milestone in the water services industry. This year, we celebrate the merger of two prominent KwaZulu-Natal water boards to form uMngeni-uThukela Water. It is one of the largest water boards in South Africa. The amalgamation is aimed at streamlining operations, increase efficiency and enhancing service delivery so as to ensure that all communities are supplied with potable water.

Our Staff has been instrumental in ensuring that the reconfiguration is a success and this is evident in that on the 07 September 2023, Fitch Ratings, a credit ratings agency,



reaffirmed uMngeni-uThukela Water's AA+ rating. This can be attributed to prudent cost containment, reduced interest payment and reprioritisation of projects. Despite the bad economic climate the country continues to experience, including interest rate increases and rising fuel prices, the entity has been able to maintain a positive financial position. This wouldn't be possible without the sacrifices that staff make and the hard work they put into the overall success of the entity.

As at October 2023, uMngeni-uThukela water board welcomed new board members who will be overseeing the operations of the organisation. The combined commitment and expertise of staff and the board members in the new entity are key to our strong financial performance and strategic achievements. I am confident that with our collective efforts, the next financial year will be even more fruitful.

I thank all staff for their dedication all year long. As we spend time with our families, I hope you will be spending quality time with those you love, creating memories, and living your lives to the fullest. This year I appreciate all the hard work that has helped this entity gain new heights. For a service well done, I extend my heartiest gratitude to you. May this Festive season bring an abundance of happiness and peace to you and your loved ones.

“Have an enjoyable New Year, and return safely.”





Group Chief Shared Services

Moketenyane Moleko

The festive season gives us an opportunity to spend time with our families and loved ones. As the holiday season is approaching, it is time for us to reflect on what we had planned for 2023 and what we have achieved.

Changes happened during the year which required all of us to work together in order to achieve a successful reconfiguration of the uMngeni-uThukela Water Board. This was achieved through the hard work and commitment from all employees within the organization.

I would like to appreciate your dedication and invaluable contribution to the achievement of the organizational goals. The holiday season is the time for us to take a break and recharge. The New Year will come with more challenges that we have to conquer together.



I wish all employees a happy, joyful and blessed holiday season. Those that will be travelling, please ensure that you obey the rules of the road and travel safely.

“I am looking forward to starting the New Year full of energy and excitement to tackle 2024.”







**Imvutshane
Dam
Maphumulo**



President Visits Darvill WWTW and launches the Vulindlela Phase 1 – BWSS



President Cyril Ramaphosa, together with Minister of The Department of Water and Sanitation, Mr Senzo Mchunu, visited KwaZulu Natal to inspect water projects which are planned to improve provision of bulk water. In addition, they viewed the results of bulk water infrastructure in the province.

During the visit, the President officially opened the Darvill Wastewater Treatment Works and undertook the Sod Turning of the upgrade on Phase 1 of the Vulindlela Bulk Water supply scheme in Pietermaritzburg. Later that day, the President and his delegation participated in a community engagement session at the Vulindlela sport grounds.

Phase 1 of the Vulindlela Bulk Water Supply Scheme will improve the availability and supply of drinking water to various communities in the uMgungundlovu District, including Msunduzi and the uMngeni Local Municipalities. These areas serve 370,200 people.

Due to population growth and increasing demand for water, Phase 1 will be upgraded so that sufficient water is available to 2045. The upgrade includes a new bulk supply system from Howick West Reservoir to six bulk reservoirs that supply reticulation reservoirs of the municipalities within the scheme's planned service area.

The Darvill Wastewater Treatment Works maintenance and upgrades expanded the total treatment capacity of the plant. This added capacity will ensure that further housing, business and industrial development within Msunduzi Local Municipality can be accommodated. It will also reduce the level of pollution in Msunduzi River and improve the quality of water reaching Inanda Dam. The wastewater treatment plant upgrade



includes innovative onsite technologies for wastewater reclamation and electricity generation. The reclaimed water, treated to drinking standards, is currently being used mainly for cleaning and sanitation purposes at the wastewater treatment site.

The upgrade of the Plant, has delivered significant benefits to the local community. Nearly 400 jobs have been created. An estimated number of 700 000 people are set to benefit from the upgrade of the Darvill treatment plant and it is expected that the benefits of this investment will be felt throughout Pietermaritzburg and the KwaZulu Natal Midlands.

Historical Fact: On the 21st of March 1998, the late President, Nelson Mandela, commissioned the Vulindlela Rural Bulk Water Supply Scheme. Prior to that, in terms of the Reconstruction and Development Programme, it was declared a Presidential Priority Project.



Ministerial Visit: Progress inspection and commissioning of Boreholes within uThukela and uMzinyathi Districts





On 20 - 21 November 2023, the Minister of Water and Sanitation, Mr Senzo Mchunu and Deputy Minister, Ms Judith Tshabalala, embarked on a two-day visit to uThukela and uMzinyathi districts.

There, they inspected progress on water infrastructure upgrades. In addition, they commissioned boreholes within the two districts. The water infrastructure upgrades in both Municipalities are being implemented by Umngeni-uThukela Water.

uThukela and uMzinyathi Districts, which are Water Service Authorities (WSA), were facing difficulties related to inefficient water management practices, ageing infrastructure and inadequate distribution of water resources. This prompted Minister Mchunu to mandate Umngeni-uThukela Water to assess

and identify water and sanitation services projects that require implementation in these areas.

As a consequence, In the uMzinyathi District, Umngeni-uThukela has successfully completed and commissioned a borehole that will supply some 500 people with water. In in Ward 29 of the Alfred Duma Local Municipality, under Inkosi Sithole Tribal Leadership, Umngeni-uThukela has appointed a contractor to install a borehole that will provide water to thousands of households in the local community.

The Ministerial delegation also had an engagement with local communities where it gave an update of the water interventions that were either completed, or were due for completion in the near future.

Commissioning of Greater Mpofana Bulk Water Supply Scheme

in Bruntville, Mooi River





The 16th of April 2023 represented another significant milestone in the provision of water supply in KZN. The Honourable Minister of Water and Sanitation, Mr. Senzo Mchunu, officially inaugurated the Greater Mpopana Bulk Water Supply Scheme, situated in Bruntville, Mooi River.

The Minister, alongside Ms. Judith Tshabalala, Deputy Minister of Water and Sanitation, as well as Cllr Mzi Zuma, the Mayor of uMgungundlovu District Municipality, commissioned and handed over the Bruntville Reservoir and Spring Grove Water Treatment Plant. These components are integral parts of the Greater Mpopana Bulk Water Supply Scheme located in Mooi River.

The event began with a briefing session at the Spring Grove Water Treatment Plant. The Acting Chief Executive, Dr. Siphon Manana, provided comprehensive insights about the project. The briefing was followed by a ribbon cutting as a symbol of the official opening of the Spring Grove Water Treatment Plant.



During his address, the Minister conveyed a key message to the Mooi-Mpopana community, who are the beneficiaries of this project. He highlighted the acceleration of water service delivery brought about by the project and encouraged the community to cherish and preserve the invaluable resources being provided.

We extend our gratitude once again to all employees who contributed to the successful completion of this world-class project. May we continue our collaborative efforts to achieve accelerated water service delivery to households within our operational area.



Meet the New Board



On Friday, 15 September 2023, the Minister of Water and Sanitation, Minister Senzo Mchunu, announced the Board of the newly merged uMngeni-uThukela Water. The Board is led by Advocate Vusi Khuzwayo as chairperson and Noluthando Mkhize as deputy chairperson.

It consists of eleven members who collectively possess competencies in science, engineering, law, accounting and finance. Members of the board include Senamile Masango, Khanyisani Shandu, Sylvia Mhlongo, Lavandran Gopaul, Hlengiwe Mvubu, Timothy Cornish, Diana Hoorzuk, Siphon Mtolo, Kwazikwenkosi Mshengu and Sibusiso Mkhize.





On the 05th October 2023, the Acting CE and his Executive team conducted an induction for the newly appointed board. The Group Chief Officers were given the opportunity to do presentations on the roles and responsibilities of their Divisions within the organisation.

The Chairperson of the Board, Adv. Vusi Khuzwayo, opened his address by saying “I am honoured to be part of the board of UuW and it is already evident that the board needs to move with speed to try and implement key critical matters post the reconfiguration to ensure that the organisation is able to function efficiently”.



Ms Thoko Sigwaza, from the National Department of Water and Sanitation, gave a detailed presentation on Governance issues. She outlined and highlighted the Department’s expectation from the board and the importance of effective governance and resilience in order to ensure the sustainability of UuW.



Board - Staff Engagement Sessions





The newly appointed Board, together with the Group Chief Officers and Executives, have held several engagements with the employees of uMngeni-uThukela Water at various sites. The first engagement took place on the

14 November 2023 at Izintaba Region, Mkondeni, Pietermaritzburg. Thereafter, the board proceeded to the Pineside offices, Ulwandle Region, on the 22 November 2023 and concluded at the Richards Bay Regional Offices on the 01 December 2023.

The Acting Chief Executive, Dr S. Manana, introduced the Board Members and gave a brief resume for each member. He also touched on the reconfiguration and said that the Minister put together a team of members, which is representative of the demographics of the country, to lead the newly reconfigured water entity.

The Chairperson of the Board, Adv. Vusi Khuzwayo SC, shared that the Board is here to serve the people of KZN and to ensure that the communities enjoy their basic right of access to clean water.

The task given by the Minister to the Board is that they need to identify the roles and responsibilities of the entity and to be able to take action which will be mutually beneficial to both the communities and the entity. He requested that we all need to play a part in taking water conservation seriously. He urged the Executive team to be agile and ready to identify initiatives that will address inefficiencies resulting in water supply shortages.

Adv Khuzwayo concluded by saying; “We are your Board, we are fully committed in supporting Management and the employees of uMngeni-uThukela Water in taking the organisation to greater heights”.





uMngeni-uThukela Water expands Wastewater Treatment

by entering into an operation and maintenance contract with eThekweni Metro

uMngeni-uThukela Water has entered-into an operation and maintenance contract with eThekweni Metropolitan Municipality. The agreement, effective from the 15 November 2023, impacts 10 wastewater treatment works which have been identified for inclusion in the contract. Plants within the range of 6 mega litres to 230 mega litres per day, as well as those within specific geographical locations, were used as criteria for inclusion.

The table below details the identified wastewater treatment works which together account for 90% of the total wastewater flow of the eThekweni Metro.

A staff compliment of two hundred and sixty (260) employees have been seconded to uMngeni-uThukela to assist to operate, maintain and manage the identified plants.

uMngeni-uThukela Water completed a condition assessment of the wastewater infrastructure in the ten wastewater works. As an immediate consequence, an urgent programme to restore compliance will be implemented during the festive season.

The Technical team, comprising of members from both organisations, have already started working together on identified projects.

The projects that have been prioritised include;

- Rehabilitation and re-opening of uMhlanga Wastewater Works, which was last operational before the 2021 floods.
- Rehabilitation and re-commissioning of Northern Treatment Works to improve the effluent quality that reaches Blue Lagoon.
- Fixing the raw wastewater pipeline (at Giba Gorge) to uMhlathuzana Wastewater Works, which will see the re-commissioning of the non-operational half of the treatment plant.
- The rest of wastewater works that have been taken over and will be undergoing rehabilitation include KwaMashu, uMbilo, Isipingo, Amanzimtoti, Central and Southern Wastewater Treatment Plants.

Wastewater Treatment Works Design Capacity (MI/d)

| | |
|--------------|------|
| Southern | 230 |
| Central | 135 |
| Northern | 70 |
| KwaMashu | 65 |
| Phoenix | 50 |
| Amanzimtoti | 30 |
| Umbilo | 23 |
| Isipingo | 18.8 |
| Umhlathuzana | 14.8 |
| Umhlanga | 6.8 |

Table 1: Identified Wastewater Works now operated and maintained by Umngeni-uThukela Water



Major Hazardous Installation (MHI), and National Key Point (NKP) Exercise at Midmar Waterworks



On the 22nd of November 2023, Midmar Waterworks held a combined full scale Major Hazardous Installation (MHI) and National Key Point (NKP) exercise. This was undertaken for the dual purposes of ensuring legal compliance and staff training. It is a requirement that MHI's and NKP's need to undertake routine exercises to determine the site's readiness for any untoward events.

In the lead-up to the exercise, planning meetings were held with all major stakeholders. These included Fire, SAPS, Transnet, Search & Rescue, Disaster Management, EMRS, Spilltech, RTI, N3TC and neighbours of the facility.

At these meetings, strategic planning of the day's activities was undertaken to ensure that roles and responsibilities were clearly defined. Building up to the event, a public notice was published in the local newspaper, Village Talk, in order to fully inform the local community and minimise panic.

The intense programme for the day covered the following:

- Simulating a security perimeter breach, suspect arrest, and chlorine room sabotage incident resulting in a major chlorine leak beyond the boundary of Midmar Waterworks.
- Activating the site's Emergency Response Plans to request full assistance from all emergency services.
- Undertaking full evacuation of the site.
- Shift staff Donning B and A sets, investigating and following their site's Emergency Response Plans for hazardous chlorine leaks.
- Thorough checking of full decontamination procedures to ensure they are safe.
- Fire department taking control of the site from an incident command perspective, and coordinating all other stakeholders.
- Emergency Medical Response Services (EMRS) together with the Fire Department, undertook a mock rescue and patient treatment.
- The event concluded with a planning committee debrief session



uMngeni Water Services collaborates with the University of Johannesburg to host an International Delegation



UMngeni Water Services, in collaboration with the University of Johannesburg, hosted a delegation from Germany and Kenya, representing the Deutscher Akademischer Austauschdienst German Academic Exchange Service (DAAD), which hosted a conference at the Birchwood Conference Centre in Johannesburg on the December 2023.

The week-long conference brought together water experts and students from various parts of the world to engage in robust discussions on study programmes and research initiatives, aimed at



managing the sustainability of water provision, whilst also building new partnerships and collaborations.

Mr Peter Thompson, the Managing Director of uMngeni Water Services, presented on the core function of Umngeni Water Services and the on the technical and professional challenges faced by the water sector.

The challenges faced by the water sector include over 5 million people without reliable drinking water, 14 million without safe sanitation and 334 of the 850 wastewater plants in the country being in a critical condition.

Many of the municipalities in South Africa do not have professional engineers in their employ, which creates major challenges for these municipalities in managing the plants, as well as in preparing project motivations or making decisions in selecting the most appropriate technologies to apply at the facilities.

Representing uMngeni-uThukela Water as speakers at the conference were Ms Futhi Vilakazi , who presented a paper on Building Water Supply Resilience using a Nexus Approach, and Mrs Sli Ngubane who touched on the Circular Economy at uMngeni-uThukela Water.

Ms Presantha Maduray highlighted the reuse of wastewater: A Case Study on the Darvill Waste Water Works. Mr Talent Ngwenya presented on Environmental Sustainability at uMngeni-uThukela Water and Ms Debbie Trollip concluded with the use of waste water sludge as a nutrient in producing food and energy, as an example of the application of the Energy- Water- Food Nexus.

Prof. Jan C. Bongaerts, from the Technical University of Freiberg (Germany), said in his presentation, that he hopes the conference will create opportunities for more collaboration between the private sector and academia. Ms Futhi Vilakazi was nominated to represent uMngeni-uThukela Water on the expert committee set up at the conference.

Community engagement at Kwanyuswa



A community engagement was hosted at Dubeyane Primary School, one of the current uMngeni-uThukela adopted schools, on 10 May 2023 under the theme “Accelerate Change”.

The Brand and Marketing team in collaboration with the Catchment Management, Msinsi and ISD, presented on various topics to ensure that the community is kept abreast of topical issues related to water service delivery, as well as upcoming projects in the area.

SGB members, Mam Ngcobo-uNdlunkulu of Nyuswa Traditional Authority at Ndwedwe, as well as the representative of the Ward

Councilor, Mr. S Ngcobo were present. The SGB Chair, Mrs. Ngcobo, mentioned in her welcoming address that UUW made their area proud by adopting such a modest rural school. She added that, since the adoption of the school, the community could attest to positive changes within the school and the community.

Water Education Specialist, Ms. Duma, welcomed the 50 community members, most of whom were women. She emphasized their important role of interacting with the environment in their daily household roles, as well as their impact in teaching the young ones about various issues.



Mr. Sanele Vilakazi, representing Catchment Management, interacted with attendees on various catchment issues such as sand mining, alien invasive plants, servitude encroachment as well as water pollution.

Mr. Chris Ndlovu, from Msinsi, presented an interesting overview on water safety issues. Water Education Specialist, Ms. Penny Gumede's presentation touched on waste management as well as good and acceptable sanitation practices.

Ms. Nolwazi Mzulwini, the ISD Facilitator, gave an overview of the upcoming projects in the area. Her emphasis was on community cooperation with officials and contractors

during project implementation. Of paramount importance is ensuring that the community respect UJW's mandate to bring water to all through protecting the infrastructure from vandalism. She also indicated that servitude encroachment and removal of servitude beacons not only delay projects, but it also endangers lives of people who end up building houses close to bulk water pipelines.

The team presented five tapped buckets to the school to be used to collect drinking water for each classroom. The Department of Forestry, Fisheries and Environment (DFFE), donated 10 indigenous trees. Ms. Gumede conducted a tree-planting demonstration.



Department of Water and Sanitation (DWS) adopts iNzuzwenhle Full-Service School

- uMngeni-uThukela Water's outreach School -



Inzuzwenhle Full-Service School, located in Azale, under uMsunduzi Local Municipality, has been an outreach school for uMngeni-uThukela Water for more than 5 years. It was also adopted by DWS as a part of the Water and Sanitation Education Programme (WSEP).

WSEP is an awareness programme which aims to change mindsets and promote behavioural change in water resource management. It also aims to promote careers in the water sector.

The program includes practical projects that serve as vehicles for spreading messages about water and sanitation. However, it has been observed that while students excel in conveying these messages, there is a significant

gap when it comes to implementation. To address this issue, intervention projects were introduced in schools through WSEP, with the objective of bridging this gap.

Schools are expected to utilize the action projects as catalysts for resolving the overall water challenges in their environment. Each intervention project focuses on six key areas: water use efficiency, water quality, water quantity, greening of schools, sanitation facilities management, and health and hygiene.

Continuous monitoring of schools and the provision of necessary support throughout the fiscal year are crucial components of these action projects.

Following the WSEP intervention projects, Inzuzwenhle Full-Service School entered the Baswa Le Meetse (Youth in Water) Competition. This aims to recognise the achievements of our youth in their efforts of educating our society about integrated water resource management, promoting water use efficiency as well as health and hygiene.

The contest involves a progression from district, to provincial and, finally, national competitions. The Minister of Water Affairs and Forestry presents national winners with awards. uMngeni-uThukela's Water Education Specialists played a significant role in preparing and educating various schools, including Inzuzwenhle Full-Service School, for the national adjudication. This school emerged as the national winner in the poetry category in the 2022 National Competition.

The school has successfully mastered the four focus pillars which determine it as a water-wise school. These focus pillars are:

- Water conservation
- Greening
- Proper management of sanitation facilities
- Good health and hygiene practices

This achievement, and the continuous commitment of Inzuzwenhle Full-Service School, led to its adoption by the Department of Water and Sanitation (DWS), for a two year period that started in July 2023.

Following the competition, the school established the Sanitation Buddies, which a group of learners who are committed to promoting health, hygiene, and dignity through sanitation awareness.

uMngeni-uThukela's Water Education Specialist, together with uMngeni-uThukela's Water Young Professionals, DWS officials and other stakeholders were invited to the launch of The Sanitation Buddies held on 22 April 2023. Following the clean-up of a local stream, presentations aimed at enhancing water consciousness were conducted.

The Sanitation Buddies took a pledge to educate their fellow learners and surrounding communities about the importance of using water wisely and reporting any water-related issues to the relevant authorities.







Launch of the Umgeni Water 2022/2023 Annual Report





The Acting Chief Operating Officer, Mr Sanele Mazibuko, gave a summary of the critical infrastructure projects which lie ahead. One of the projects which he emphasised is the uMkhomazi Water Project which, on completion, is going to benefit 5 million people. During the question and answer session, the media indicated their concern about the alleged “water shedding process”, irregular expenditure and legacy corruption matters currently before the courts. The afternoon session was aimed at stakeholders and employees.



The presentation of the Umgeni Water Annual Report 2022/2023 took place on 23 November 2023 at the Durban ICC.

The morning session for representatives of the media commenced with a message from the Board Chairperson, Adv. Vusi Khuzwayo SC. He highlighted the Board’s role in the new entity. The Acting CE, Dr Siphosiso Manana, explained the reconfiguration process and the name change of the new entity.

He further highlighted the structure of former Umgeni Water, the strategy and the organisational profile. The CFO presented highlights of the financial performance for the year under review. He emphasised that one of the key impacts on the financials was the flood disaster of 2022.



IMESA Takes Conference to Port Elizabeth



The 86th Annual IMESA Conference & Exhibition took place from 25– 27 October 2023 at the Boardwalk Hotel, Port Elizabeth. The conference brought together engineering delegates from around Southern Africa to exchange knowledge and information on the latest developments and challenges in the engineering field.

The programme consisted of sessions which included topics like Data Modelling and Infrastructure Profiling in Local Municipalities, Advancing Water Supply and Sanitation System resilience through improved Risk Management Approaches and The Bulk water supply journey.

UMngeni-uThukela Water participated at the conference as a gold sponsor and showcased the newly merged entity in order to create a platform to host networking and knowledge sharing sessions with key industry partners. It also provided an opportunity to promote brand awareness, nurture existing relationships, build partnerships and discuss opportunities.

Representatives of various departments within the organisation attended the conference. The Brand and Marketing team manned the exhibition booth.



Global Warming School Competition

Goes to the uMkhanyakude District Municipality



The Environmental unit at the Richards Bay Regional Office, in collaboration with the Department of Economic Development, Tourism and Environmental Affairs, Department of Arts and Culture, Department of Forestry, Fisheries and Environment and the Department of Education, hosted a global warming and climate change schools' competition.

The competition, under the theme, "Young People as Agents for change in combating

global warming and climate change" brought together 16 schools from in and around the uMkhanyakude District Municipality.

The schools performed choral music, poetry and drama. The event took place at the Khulani Special School in Hluhluwe. Congratulations to the winning schools in each category and special appreciation to the educators and learners that participated in the competition for creating an awareness on global warming and climate change.





Traditional Leaders lead a massive clean-up campaign in Pietermaritzburg CBD



UMngeni-uThukela Water joined forces with the Local House of Traditional Leaders, Local Authorities and other Stakeholders to host a clean-up campaign in the heart of the Pietermaritzburg CBD. The campaign aimed to restore the city's streets to their former glory, clearing away debris and litter that

flawed the city's charm. The event brought together a group of people who worked in a united effort to make the initiative a success.

The team also used the opportunity to spread the message of water conservation to street vendors and shop owners. The District



Mayor, Cllr Mzi Zuma, said “I wish to convey my sincere appreciation to the Amakhosi for initiating such a clean-up campaign in restoring the beauty and heritage of the city of Pietermaritzburg.

It is my hope that we can continue with such initiatives and not to lose the momentum of our joint efforts”. The Local House of Traditional and Khoisan Leaders Chairperson, Inkosi P Majosi said “ An initiative of this nature not only bares testament to our respect for the environment but it also allows residents to understand the value of keeping their space clean and disposing of litter responsibly”.







Lower Umkomazi
Bulk Water Supply
Scheme



Young Water Professionals Target Rural High Schools

The Young Water Professionals, from the Richards Bay Regional Offices, conducted a roadshow with 15 deep rural High schools within the King Cetshwayo, Zululand and UMkhanyakude District Municipalities in October 2023.

The roadshow aimed to promote the career opportunities available in the water sector and to give learners information on the bursary opportunities available at the Department of Water and Sanitation.

The initiative attracted 800 Maths and

Science learners and exposed them to a step-by-step guide on how to fill in the bursary application forms as well as general tips and guidance on completing tertiary applications.

The Young Water Professionals shared their personal academic journey and advised the Matric learners on career options, funding, and employment opportunities.







Governance attends the Institute of Internal Auditors South Africa

(iiasa) KZN 2023 Conference



The Umngeni-uThukela Water (UuW) Governance Division (Internal Auditors and IRM), attended the Institute of Internal Auditors of South Africa (IIASA) KZN 2023 Conference, which took place at the Alpine Heath Resort and Conference Centre in Drakensberg from 20 to 22 September 2023.

The aim of the conference was to showcase the latest trends in internal auditing. In addition, the platform was used to connect like-minded individuals to best share technical insights and knowledge on governance, risk management, internal control and compliance matters, specifically impacting internal audit professionals.

Sibongile Mdletshe, one of the attendees said, “The conference was inspirational and motivating. I can safely say that all attendees benefited a lot from the robust presentations made by formidable speakers from the field of auditing and risk management. A combined assurance panel discussion got the attention of the room, with the topics, expertly probed ensuring that delegates gained insights and valuable information to take away.

Internal audit and combined assurance form an integral part of the accountability ecosystem and an indispensable resource supporting sound Corporate Governance. We therefore thank Management for empowering the Governance team by allowing us to attend this valuable conference”.

A Bird’s Eye view of the Greater Umngeni Catchment System



Assessing the impacts of land use on water resources is one of the key priorities of the Catchment Management Unit. For this reason, the services of The Bateleurs was used to assess the Greater uMngeni Catchment system.

The Bateleurs is a South African Non Profit Company (NPC), with over 200 volunteer pilots and aircraft. It provides its beneficiaries and the public with an aerial perspective of the environment and has coordinated several diverse missions throughout South Africa and the rest of Africa in support of environmental issues.

Its mission is well-aligned with the United Nations Millennium Goals, ensuring environmental sustainability and assisting with the integration of the principles of sustainable development into country policies and programmes.

The team from Umngeni-uThukela Water worked closely with the team from The Bateleurs to ensure that the exercise had a clear cause and purpose, specifically aimed at capturing information that will promote water resource protection and conservation in the future. The use of the Bateleurs service assisted the team to inspect the entire catchment system, flying over areas inaccessible by vehicle, or even a canoe at low river conditions.



Problem areas such as aquatic weeds and the blockages were identified. The unit will conduct regular inspections of this nature to assist them, especially in the spring and

summer months when aquatic weeds grow very quickly. These weeds can block the river system in just a few weeks if left uncontrolled.



World of Works at Durban University of Technology

UMngeni–uThukela Water participated in the World of Works Career exhibition hosted by the Durban University of Technology in August 2023. The two day exhibition exposed students to youth development and career opportunities available at the various exhibiting companies. Companies that participated at the fair included Bell Equipment, Foskor, Rhodes Food Group, Hybrid Automation, Department of Employment and Labour and Agri SETA.

The team from the Development and Training unit, from Head Office and the Richards Bay Regional Office, interacted with the students on the various programmes and opportunities available at the entity.



Make everyday a Mandela Day

Honouring the life and legacy of the late Nelson Mandela on Mandela Day, 18 July 2023, the Governance division spoilt children, paediatric patients and their caregivers at the KZN Children's Hospital with bottles of water, water dispensers and other goodies.

The KZN Children's Hospital is a non-profit organisation. Its core objective is to be a centre of excellence for paediatric

neurodevelopment disorders, mental health as well as the provision of comprehensive and holistic treatment, prevention healthcare that is accessible to all children and adolescents. The team spent the day with the children, entertaining them with book colouring, games and other fun activities.







Young Water Professionals extend International Footprint





Four Young Professionals jetted off to New York to represent Umngeni-uThukela at the United Nations Leaders' Summit. The summit took place in New York from 8-22 September 2023. The summit brought change makers, forward-thinking business leaders, SDG stakeholders and Government and UN officials from across the globe under one roof to discuss matters of global interest.

The agenda focused on business leadership during converging crises, the critical role of a principles-based approach, global trends and tools, and partnerships needed to fully achieve the 2030 Agenda. Emphasis was also placed on the review of the private sector's contribution to advancing the SDGs.

The team that attended the conference was Lungelo Shelembe (Governance), Tsepo Lebeke (Laboratory Services), Thandeka Jwara (Process Services) and Sinothile Magubane (Operations).

Shelembe said, "It was an honour to engage with world leaders, diplomats, and experts who provided a unique opportunity to gain insights into diverse perspectives, fostering a deeper understanding of the complexities surrounding issues such as climate change, human rights, and sustainable development".

She further extends her gratitude to the Management team for allowing the Young Professionals such an esteemed opportunity and hope that their attendance to the summit will assist in making a positive and valuable contribution with regards to gender equality, climate action, living wage, water resilience, finance & investment and sustainable development.



SPICEY CHICKEN LIVERS

Ingredients:

1 Pack of Chicken Livers, washed and drained
 1 onion chopped lengthwise
 3 tbsp Oil
 Whole spice comprising:

- 1 Bayleaf,
- 2 cardomon pods and
- 1 cinnamon stick

6 cloves of garlic – crushed
 ½ tsp of turmeric powder
 1 tsp of chilli powder
 1 sprig of curry leaves
 ½ bottle of Nandos sauce
 Coriander to garnish

Method:

Fry half of the chopped onion in the oil and whole spices until the onions brown
 Add 5. To 8.
 Toss and then add the chicken livers.
 Cover and Cook for about 10 minutes until it starts to fry. Add the remaining half onion. Toss for about a minute. Add the Nandos sauce and the coriander to garnish.

Serve with mashed potatoes and Garlic Bread.



LAMB SHANKS

Ingredients:

1. 4 lamb shanks trimmed
2. 8 cloves of garlic

3. 6 whole cloves
4. A handful of fresh Thyme
5. A handful of fresh mint
6. Garlic Pepper
7. 1 tsp Garlic Powder
8. 1tsp Onion Powder
9. Salt
10. Two tablespoons of Greek Yogurt
11. One can of peeled tomatoes
12. Two onions, cut in four pieces each
13. 1 Glass of Red Wine
14. Four medium sized carrots
15. Two tbsp. Oil

Method:

- Pierce the lamb with a small knife and insert the whole garlic cloves and the Garlic pods
- Marinate the lamb shanks overnight by smearing 4. – 10. Of the above ingredients over the lamb. Allow to rest in the refrigerator
- Dust the lamb shanks with flour and fry with oil in a heavy based pot, ensuring the outer layer browns. Remove from the pan and place in an oven roasting pan with the carrots.
- In the leftover oil, add 11. To 13.
- Simmer for about five minutes and then pour over the lamb shanks.
- Cover the lamb shanks with foil, and place it in a heated oven for about 3 hours. Turn the lamb shanks around once.

You can make a sauce with the gravy that forms in the pan, but heating it on a stovetop and adding half a glass of red wine.

MASHED POTATOES

Peel and boil 6 medium sized soft cooking potatoes in salted water. Drain when cooked, add 125g of butter and ¼ cup of fresh cream and a dash of garlic pepper and fresh thyme. Mix until light and fluffy, over a gentle heat.

You can serve your lamb, with mash and veggies steamed with butter.





CREAMY GARLIC PRAWNS

Marinate 500g cut and deveined prawns in 1Tbsp olive oil, 3 cloves crushed garlic and a dash of pepper and allow to rest for 30 minutes, if you have time (otherwise skip it). PRO TIP: Add salt just before cooking so it doesn't draw juice out of the prawns = less juicy prawns and not as golden!

Flash fry in batches – don't crowd the pan! Less prawns = better colour = easier to handle = won't overcook. (PRO TIP: Use butter with 6 crushed garlic AND oil for searing. Butter = better flavour, but if you only use butter, it burns at the high heat required to make prawns golden)

Wine – it will sizzle and steam when the wine hits the hot pan which is GOOD! This means it reduced down very quickly (~30 seconds) which is exactly what we want (fast cook = juicy prawns)

Add 125g of fresh cream to the prawns and allow to simmer for 5min.

More butter (optional) – this is optional, it will create extra sauce for wow factor when you plate it up (pictured!) and provides plenty of sauce for mopping up with bread. PRO TIP: This is added at the end because if you add it at the start, you end up deep frying prawns in butter!

Add a dash of Lemon – an essential finishing touch;

Parsley/coriander – a little sprinkle for garnish!



ROAST LEG OF LAMB

Ingredients:

Leg of lamb (about 2.3 kg)
1 large onion, roughly chopped
A few sprigs of fresh rosemary
10 cloves of garlic
1 Tbs sea salt flakes
pinch of sweet paprika
1 Tbs cumin seeds
2 Tbs thyme leaves
4 sprigs of rosemary
2 Tbs olive oil
½ cup of red wine
125g tomato paste
thick slice of butter

Method

Pre-heat the oven to 160C and start making the spice rub. Peel the garlic cloves and lightly crush them together with the salt using a pestle and mortar. Add the paprika, cumin seeds and thyme leaves. Gradually add the oil so as to end up with a thickish paste. Melt the butter in a small pan and stir into a paste.

Put the lamb in a casserole dish or roasting tin and rub it all over with the spice paste. I don't mind getting my hands dirty but if you are squeamish you can use the back of a spoon. Make a few holes in the flesh with a skewer and insert sprigs of rosemary. Scatter the chopped onion around the meat and put the roasting tin in the oven for 35 minutes uncovered.

Pour in 125ml meat stock and the red wine and the tomato paste. Baste the meat with the liquid, then continue roasting for a further three hours, basting the meat every hour with the juices that have collected in the bottom of the pan.

After 3 hours, remove the pan from the oven and pour off the top layer of oil that has collected, leaving the cloudy, herby sediment. Cover the pan with a lid and set aside for ten minutes to rest. Carve the lamb and serve with creamy mash, spooning the pan juices over both as you go.

NOTES: You may drain the liquid out of the pan once the meat is cooked so as to make a gravy for your roast. Heat one tbsp. of butter in a heavy based pan. Add one tbsp. of flour and mix. Add the meat juices that you have extracted and whisk until it thickens to make your gravy.



CHRISTMAS TRIFLE

Ingredients:

- One Swiss Roll – (preferably from Woolworths)
- 2 packets of jelly (1 Strawberry/Raspberry and 1 Green Jelly) - Make them in separate bowls
- 1lt Ready to eat Custard
- 1 Large can of fruit (peaches or mixed fruit sliced)
- Fresh Whipped Cream
- Fresh Strawberries
- Roasted mixed nuts – chopped
- Flake chocolate crumbled

Method:

Layer sliced swiss roll at the base of a round serving bowl. Top with sliced fruit, custard and jelly. Repeat layers until the final layer. Top with whipped cream; nuts, crumbled flake and sliced strawberries.





Proud Moments



**Ms Ingrid
Cawood**

A finalist for the 2023 IRMSA Annual Awards in the Risk Manager of the Year category. The awards aim to acknowledge the achievements made by members that continue to make a difference in their risk management roles and within their dynamic teams.



**Ms Lundelo
Shelembe**

Admitted as an Attorney of the High Court on 7 August 2023 at the Pietermaritzburg High Court. This achievement represents not only a personal milestone, but also a professional responsibility to uphold the principles of justice, integrity, and ethical practice as well as an opportunity to leverage her skills and knowledge to contribute meaningfully to the organisation.



**Dr Sihle
Mngadi**

Represented Umngeni-uThukela Water as a speaker at the 5th International Caparica Conference in Portugal. The conference hosted by NOVA University of Lisbon took place on 6–9 November 2023. Dr Mngadi, gave a talk on “Phytoremediation of Trace metals from potentially contaminated Soil and Water samples collected from South Africa and their risk assessment to human health”.

He emphasised the importance of finding greener technologies to clean the environment (soil and water) while taking care of



Ms Gcwalisile Kunene

Presented a paper titled “Lessons Learnt in Dispute Resolution during Construction of Spring Grove Water Treatment Works in KwaZulu-Natal, South Africa” at the 7th Africa Engineering Conference. The conference, hosted by the Engineering Council of South Africa (ECSA), took place in Pretoria on 25-28 September 2023.

The paper focused on the several lessons learnt from the project and recommendations for reducing disputes in project implementation.



Mr Swaswa Ntlhoro

Appointment as the Interim Chief Executive of the Pongola-Mzimkulu Catchment Management Agency for a six month period. Mr Ntlhoro is currently the General Manager of the Scientific Services Department at the Richards Bay office. On behalf of the Executive and Staff of uMngeni-uThukela Water, we wish Mr Ntlhoro all the best in his new position.



Ms Nonhle Sikhakhane



Ms Makhosi Mthembu

The duo from Environment and Water Quality unit at the Richards Bay Regional Office, was selected by the Business School of Netherlands to embark on a Master’s Programme in Business Administration, specialising in Water Management, which is applicable to the water sector.

In collaboration with different countries internationally, the Business school has embarked on empowering employees with necessary techniques for change management, as well as to be results-driven students.

Both colleagues, will be leaving for Netherlands in February 2024 to attend lectures at the campus in Amsterdam.

Richards Bay Regional Office SAP Migration Project



Dear Colleagues Sanibonani, Molweni, Hello!

My name is Khanyisile and I am your team mascot for the uMngeni-uThukela SAP Migration Project – focusing on the migration of the Richards Bay Regional Office business systems and processes to the uMngeni-uThukela SAP environment.

My role is to walk by your side, as staff from the Richard's Bay Regional Office move from legacy systems onto the SAP environment. By using ONE system, uMngeni-uThukela Water will better position itself to improve water and sanitation services for all communities in KwaZulu-Natal.

As the project progresses, I will shine light on the exciting changes to be expected, the impact these changes will have within the organisation, and the benefits we can reap from ONE system. I will also answer your questions, address your concerns and celebrate your achievements!

To date uMngeni-uThukela Water, in collaboration with its SAP Support Partner, has commenced the migration of data and business processes to the SAP environment.

A dedicated project team is working closely with the organisation to carry out the migration, of the following business areas in the Richards Bay Regional Office, onto the SAP environment:

- Corporate Services
- Finance
- Operations
- Scientific Services
- Technical Services

This system migration will result in the following changes to operations at the Richards Bay Regional Office:

Technology

- Automation of manual tasks
- Integrated information and reporting

Process

- Streamlined processes
- Single view of the customer

People

- Standardised roles
- Aligned metrics

To support staff to adopt these changes, the project team will be actively interacting with the organisation through:

- Business engagement and feedback incorporation
- Clear, targeted communications
- Mobilising a Change Agent Network for on-the-ground support
- Classroom training
- Job shadowing

The Richards Bay Regional Office SAP Migration Project aims to achieve the following benefits once the migration is complete:

- Holistic decision making
- Increased operational efficiencies
- Transparency

The project began in November 2023 and will conclude at the end of March 2024. As it progresses, please expect to hear more from me and the project team.



NGIYABONGA, NIBE NO KHSIMUSI O NOKUKHANYA!

Wishing you a great festive season and please come back recharged and prepared for the change!

ANY COMMENTS AND QUESTIONS MAY BE SENT TO:

sithembiso.cloete@umgeniwater.co.za



Staff and Long Service Awards











CHRISTMAS PUZZLE



1.



4.



2.



5.



3.



7.



6.



10.



8.



11.



9.



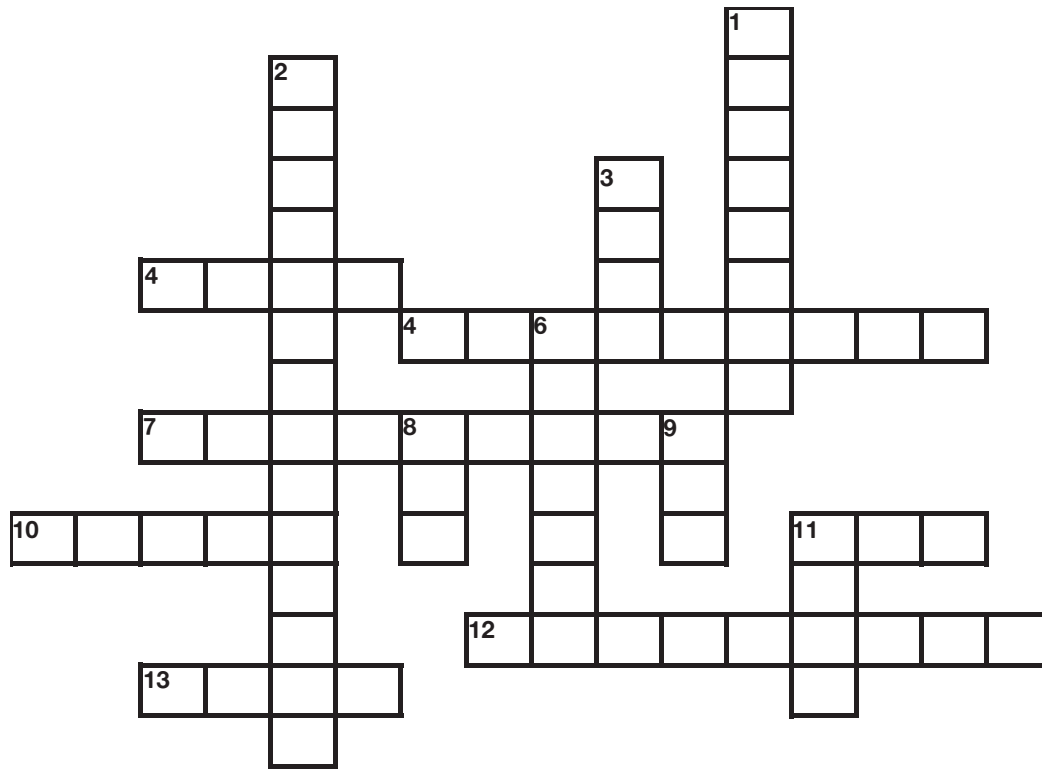
12.



11.



13.





**Lower Umkomazi
Bulk Water Supply
Scheme**





Compiled and designed by the
Brand and Marketing Department
