



MEDIA STATEMENT

Interventions in Ugu District Municipality, bearing positive results

13 December 2017

The Department of Water and Sanitation (DWS) is pleased by the progress of water provision at Ugu District Municipality after a protracted labour unrest that disrupted service delivery in the area.

DWS would like to thank all those who worked tirelessly to ensure that all the affected parties come together and reach a common ground to the benefit of thousands of water users who are dependent on government for the provision of basic services. The Department, working with Cooperative Governance and Traditional Affairs, Ugu District Municipality and affected stakeholders continue to work closely together in ensuring that all the remaining issues are resolved speedily without any further delay.

Whilst the Department understands and respects the rights of the workers to go on industrial action as it is enshrined in the Constitution, but we are also mindful of the importance of water as a basic right that should be easily accessible.

A considerable progress has been made in the area, with 95% of reservoirs in the area having been replenished to ensure access to water.

DWS would like to emphasise that there will be enough water to meet the peak demands of the holiday season upon us. The Municipality is completing a response plan should circumstances, such as the one experienced recently, re-occur.

The Provincial Government, through the Provincial Management Centre, is also developing a contingency plan, which may include the deployment of the South African National Defence Force (SANDF), subject to necessary protocols.

The water situation at Ugu District Municipality had negative consequences, not just for households residing in the area but also for potential tourists who had planned to visit.

The Department of Water and Sanitation would like to reiterate its commitment to ensuring access to water and its support for municipalities.

End

For more information please contact DWS Media Liaison Director Sputnik Ratau on cell 082 874 2942.

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