



water & sanitation

Department:
Water and Sanitation
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

MEDIA STATEMENT

The Dis-Establishment of Mhlathuze Water and Transfer of Staff, Assets and Liabilities to Umgeni Water and Changing Name of Umgeni into Kwazulu-Natal Water Board

06 November 2017

The Department of Water and Sanitation (DWS) is implementing the rationalisation of water services and water management institutions in line with the Institutional Reforms and Realignment (IRR) project as per recommendations of the Presidential Review Committee on State Owned Entities and Companies. The recommendations were tabled and adopted by the extended Cabinet Lekgotla in February 2015. This process is also consistent with the National Development Plan (NDP) which has provided a vision to create Regional Water Utilities, including expanding the mandate of Water Boards.

Currently there are two Water Boards in the KwaZulu-Natal Province and in order to enhance the supply of water in the province, it was found prudent to realign these and establish a single effective Regional Water Board so as to improve service delivery and to expand in the un-serviced areas, especially in the northern parts of KwaZulu-Natal. This would enable both Water Boards to consolidate their assets and skills for key rural infrastructure development projects.

This initiative shall ensure positive socio-economic impacts for the entire KwaZulu-Natal Province. The primary driver for creating fewer, stronger Water Boards with larger geographic footprints is that they can play a much more effective role in the financing, management and delivery of regional water infrastructure and support municipalities in providing water services. This will result in more effective delivery of services and cross subsidisation especially in rural areas.

The Minister will announce the dis-establishment of Mhlathuze Water and transferring of staff, assets and liabilities into Umgeni Water. There will also be a change of name of Umgeni Water into KwaZulu-Natal Water Board in a Government Gazette as published today, the 10th November 2017.

END

Issued by the Department of Water & Sanitation

For more information contact: Sputnik Ratau, DWS Director, Media Liaison: 082 874 2942

For media releases, speeches and news visit the Water and Sanitation portal at: www.dws.gov.za