



Media Statement

Friday, 15<sup>th</sup> September 2023

To: All Media

### **Magalies Water Records Commendable Progress in Hartbeespoort Dam Intervention Despite Unsubstantiated Tender Impropriety Claims**

Magalies Water has noted with dismay recent utterances made by several individuals with vested interest in the Crocodile West Catchment Water Resource Management Project, which includes the Hartbeespoort Dam, over unsubstantiated allegations of tender impropriety. Magalies Water was duly appointed for a 36-months period, to implement a remediation plan on behalf of the Department of Water and Sanitation. These individuals represent some of the service providers that participated in an open tender process recently, which sought to appoint a successful bidder to remove floating debris and plants in the Hartbeespoort Dam. This appointment, is part of the approved Water Resource Management Plan for the Crocodile West Catchment area, including the dam. The plan extends to outsourcing of numerous services in the process of achieving the objectives of the remediation plan.

#### **Supply Chain Management Processes**

In line with Treasury regulations and applicable sections of the Public Finance Management Act, the tender advert for this aspect of the project was published on Magalies Water's website, national newspapers as well as the government etenders.gov.za digital platform. As this was an open tender, Magalies Water received from six (6) submissions from interested bidders. The bids followed the normal supply chain management processes which included participation of the three (03) bid committees:

- Bid Specification
- Bid Evaluation
- Bid Adjudication

38 Heystek Street, P/Bag X82327, Rustenburg, 0300. Tel: (014) 5974636 Fax: (014) 5974689  
Email: [info@magalieswater.co.za](mailto:info@magalieswater.co.za) Website: [www.magalieswater.co.za](http://www.magalieswater.co.za)

Magalies Water on the 30<sup>th</sup> of August 2023, after following all the supply chain management processes, issued a notice wherein the intention to appoint the successful bidder was made public. On the notice, it was explicitly communicated that the public is welcome to raise objections/protests in respect of the intention to appoint the successful bidder. Prior to the issuance of the notice of intention to appoint, none of the bidders had raised concerns about the supply chain management processes whether verbally and or in writing.

The notice of intention to appoint referred to above, read in part *“You are reminded that any protests of this decision must be submitted to the Procurement Office within five (5) calendar days after the issuance of this notice, no later than 12:00. The protest must be in writing, clearly identify the solicitation number and title, and detail the nature of the protest”*. Magalies Water remains perturbed that individuals that participated in an open tender process, are making allegations of impropriety after the notice of intention to appoint a successful bidder was communicated publicly. As stated above, the public was invited to make written representations in the form of objections/protests and Magalies Water did not receive any such objections within the stipulated period, which led to the appointment of the successful bidder.

### **Allegations of Financial Mismanagement**

Magalies Water will not be drawn into allegations that the successful bidder mismanaged about R 25 million rand which was previously allocated to a project intended to keep the dam clean and well maintained. Magalies Water did not participate in that project referred to, which information made public, suggests that the project was sponsored by a Fast-Moving Consumer Goods (FMCG) multi-national company with a long-standing presence in the country. South Africa has competent law enforcement agencies, established for investigating such matters of impropriety. As such we urge anyone with information to hand such information over to any competent law enforcement agency established in line with the provisions of the Constitution and any other applicable act as passed by the National Assembly to combat any form of crime, including what is regarded as commercial crime for further investigations.

### **Key Findings and Project Progress**

As part of the turnaround strategy, Magalies Water has tailored a solution based and needs driven

implementation plan. Activities in the implementation plan comprises of:

- Profiling of the water quality
- Installation of the nets as the buffers
- Removal of floating plants and debris
- Implementation of the remediation technology to ameliorate the dam and restore its intrinsic values and biogeochemical processes.

In light of the implementation plan, an integral component was to evaluate the concentration of different water quality determinants and then map their temporospatial migration in the catchment and their attenuation until water reaches the Hartbeespoort Dam. This will then inform us of whether contaminants are from anthropogenic (human activities which includes both legal and illegal discharging of effluent into water sources) and geogenic processes (natural processes that may have positive or negative impact on water sources). Results from Magalies Water Scientific Services Laboratory (ISO/IEC 17025:2017 accredited) in Brits, confirmed the presence of E. coli, total coliforms, ammonia, orthophosphate, chlorophyll, algal counts, total organic carbon, and chemical oxygen demand in elevated levels in the catchment and the dam.

Nutrients such as phosphate and ammonia are considered the main driver of eutrophication (the gradual increase in the concentration of phosphorus, nitrogen, and other plant nutrients in an aging aquatic ecosystem such as a river) primarily due to enrichment of waterbodies with nutrients from the emission of poorly treated municipal wastewater to freshwater ecosystems hence the despairing and current calamity of environmental degradation in Hartbeespoort Dam.

Regular monitoring of water quality in the catchment and the dam will continue to determine the efficacy of our intervention and measure the degree of effectiveness in respect of the implemented remedies. This will then enable the biosphere of Hartbeespoort Dam to foster life and render its intrinsic values and intervention upstream will be pursued specifically after the source tracking exercise has been concluded.

Magalies Water remains focused on the task at hand albeit the widely circulated political machinations intended to cause distractions in pursuit of achieving the envisaged project objectives. Of critical importance is to ensure that ultimately the catchment area, including the dam's water quality reaches pristine levels, to the extent that the ecosystem is preserved and that eco-tourism in Hartbeespoort Dam, neighbouring areas, and Madibeng Local Municipality, benefits the district and the province.

End.

Issued By: David Magae

Manager: Communications and Media Relations

Tel: 014 597 4636

Cell: 082 761 3456

Email: [davidmag@magalieswater.co.za](mailto:davidmag@magalieswater.co.za)