

# WATERWORX

*The official newsletter of Magalies Water*



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## EDITOR'S NOTE

**"Success is not final, failure is not fatal. It is the courage to continue that counts" - Winston S. Churchill.**

Magalies Water has come to the end of the 2022/23 financial year, which marks numerous milestones including the transition period of the acquired staff and new service areas in the North West Province. Also, the organization has seen a sizeable growth in terms of staff and responsibility.

Challenges are abundant with change, however that should not deter us from our combined effort in ensuring that communities within the areas in which we provide services receive the highest quality of potable water. The water sector remains in the spotlight, with increasing water supply challenges across the spectrum receiving heightened media attention.

Be that as it may, the board and executive management are ceased with the task of ensuring that Magalies Water consolidates its position and strengthens its service offering to remain sustainable and profitable as it responds in a pragmatic approach to becoming a fit for purpose business which will exist into the foreseeable future.

To the staff, the most important asset of the organisation, may your commitment and efforts, continue to grow this organisation, which we are all proud to be part of.

## Magalies Water Board and Executive Management Hold Strategic Session Ahead of 2023/24 Financial Year

Magalies Water's Board and Executive Management, held a strategic session in Pretoria. The aim of the 2-day session was to review the current strategy and shareholder compact and align the organisation's vision, mission to encompass the recently acquired service area now known as the "Far West" - emanating from the Sedibeng Water disestablishment.

The session also dealt with the organisation's overall performance for the current financial year as well as the realignment of certain KPIs to fit the overall objectives. This was necessary to identify new risks and come up with measurable and sustainable mitigation measures that would ensure continued supply of quality water to all Magalies Water consumers.



**Listening in during deliberations; sitting left-to-right Acting Chief Operations Officer Mr. Ofentse Nthutang, Chief Executive Mr. Sandile Mkhize and Board Chairperson Dr. Lydia Sebege**

Magalies Water's strategic session followed an intensive board induction program which was held earlier in Rustenburg. During the induction process, the board was afforded an opportunity to gain insight, into Magalies Water's challenges predating the decision to disestablish the now erstwhile Sedibeng Water.

These challenges include the escalating debt which largely is due to unserviced debt by municipalities who are registered Water Services Authorities (WSA's) in Gauteng, Limpopo and North West.



**The meeting was also attended by members of the Audit and Risk Committee**

Magalies Water Chief Executive Mr. Sandile Mkhize said, in order to ensure that Magalies Water remains sustainable and profitable the organization's strategy ought to consider current and new methodologies for debt collection including any legal processes which may be required in order to recover of funds due to the water board.

He continued "our growth strategy, now that we are a new and grown entity, must review our debt collection strategy and or debt recovery measures to the extend that, we assess where the challenges are, and where improvements can be made in order to prevent a situation wherein we are likely to achieve similar result and continue to experience the same challenges" the CE remarked.

The board Chairperson, Dr. Lydia Sebege said the stance of the board was that; clear and measurable targets which will address the challenges which beset the "former Magalies Water" and emerging challenges which came as a result of the aquisition of the former Sedibeng Water areas needed to be outlined and reviewed regularly.

The strategic session, focused on continued employee integration, strengthened stakeholder engagement with water services authorities and fast-tracking the completion of capital expenditure projects which will address the current water demand and supply challenges.

## Magalies Water Contributes to Moses Kotane's School Shoe Collection Campaign



**Magalies Water Chief Executive Mr. Sandile Mkhize and Moses Kotane Local Municipality Executive Mayor Cllr. Nketu Nkotswe**

Magalies Water Chief Executive Mr. Sandile Mkhize paid a visit to the Moses Kotane Local Municipality Head Office in Mogwase. The purpose of the visit to the municipality's Executive Mayor Cllr. Nketu Nkotswe and to hand over school shoes to the municipality's first resident.

Magalies Water has a long standing working relationship with the municipality dating far back, with the bulk water provider supplying the Moses Kotane jurisdiction with potable water as a bulk consumer, along with other small consumers such as the mines in the area which are connected through an integrated bulk network to the Vaalkop Water Treatment Plant.



**Sitting left-to-right: Member of the Mayoral Committee (MMC) for Infrastructure and Technical Services Cllr Hazel Molefe, alongside side Magalies Water Chief Executive and Moses Kotane Local Municipality Executive Mayor Cllr. Nketu Nkotswe.**

In handing over the pair of school shoes to the Executive Mayor, Magalies Water CE said as a responsible corporate citizen the organization was not going to miss an opportunity such as this to give back to deserving children of Moses Kotane Local Municipality, he continued "we heard your call during our last interaction which is always on effective and efficient service delivery, that you are involved in this noble initiative. To ensuring that every child of school-going age within your jurisdiction gets proper school shoes, is commendable and this is us honouring our promise of supporting you on this good course, and next year we hope to make an even bigger contribution he concluded."

Executive Mayor Nkotswe passed her gratitude to Magalies Water for having made the donation "let me take this opportunity to appreciate the efforts by Magalies Water. We are grateful for their decision in heeding our call and responding positively" the Executive Mayor emphasized.



## Board Tours Magalies Water's Vaalkop Water Treatment Plant and Brits Scientific Laboratory

Magalies Water board collective, undertook a tour of the bulk water provider's assets spread across the Bojanala Platinum District. This tour intended to orientate and provide further insight to the new Board whose mandate started late last year. The tour started in earnest at the water utility's Vaalkop Water Treatment Plant, which is Magalies Water's biggest water treatment facility among the current four water treatment plants (Wallmannsthal, Klipdrift and Cullinan).



**Magalies Water board on a walkabout at the utility's biggest water treatment - Vaalkop during a leg of the Board's tour at the facility.**

In understanding the business operations of Magalies Water, the vastness of its service area, and operational challenges that have an adverse impact on set organisational targets including achieving some of the strategic objectives, the board used the tour to interact with employees of the organisation. At Vaalkop water treatment plant, the board visited some of the plants which provide bulk water to Rustenburg, Thabazimbi and Moses Kotane Local Municipalities.



The board was also appraised on some of the projects which have been approved and are about to commence at the water treatment plant, which are meant to improve operational efficiencies in ensuring that Magalies Water responds more promptly by reducing lead-times for water treatment processes, without compromising quality and addressing the growing needs of consumers as it relates to water demand.

At Brits, the board undertook an oversight visit to Madibeng Local Municipality's Brits Water Treatment Plant, which Magalies Water is upgrading from the current 60 mega-litre producing plant per day to an 80 mega-litre producing plant. Once completed this plant will supply an addition 75 thousand household in the Madibeng Local Municipality. The board tour was concluded at the Scientific Services laboratory situated at Brits, where the Rustenburg based Water Board tests and conducts analyses all of the water it produces from its four plants, in line with the SANS 241 standards.

## Deputy Minister of Water and Sanitation Judith Tshabalala Visits to the Rustenburg Local Municipality

Deputy Minister for Water and Sanitation Judith Tshabalala undertook a visit to the Rustenburg Local Municipality in the Bojanala Platinum District. This as part of the Ministry's oversight duties to continually assess the state of water and sanitation related services in all provinces. In the recent past, the Ministry has traversed the North West Province on not less than four occasions, in its endeavor to address long standing water supply challenges.

Some of the outcomes from the previous visits, have given effect to a Technical Committee, which is co-chaired by the Minister for Water and Sanitation and North West Premier to monitor progress on some of the key action plans which are geared at resolving challenges in the medium-to-long term.



Some of the stakeholders within the municipal jurisdiction of Rustenburg attending a meeting with the Deputy Minister Tshabalala

The session which was also attended by various stakeholders including representation from the mining sector and rate-payers associations sought to have an in-depth understanding of relationship between Rustenburg Local Municipality as a Water Services Authority (WSA) and Magalies Water as bulk water provider.



Deputy Minister Tshabalala listens on to deliberations as stakeholders engage on water supply challenges in Rustenburg.

Part of the proceedings put into sharp focus challenges faced by the Rustenburg Local Municipality as it relates to water supply and sanitation services to its communities. Topping the agenda, in their presentation was the negative effects, of illegal connections to both the reticulation and sewage networks as well as the impact of the ailing infrastructure on service delivery.

Magalies Water was represented by its Chief Executive Sandile Mkhize and members of his executive committee.

**NUMBERS YOU SHOULD KNOW**  
What you can do with 50 litres of water per day

					
2 Litres for drinking water	2 Litres for cooking	2 Litres for daily hygiene	15 Litres for a two minute shower	17 Litres for dishes and laundry	12 Litres for two toilet flushes (less with 6 litres or smaller capacity cisterns)

WATER IS LIFE - SANITATION IS DIGNITY



Please use water sparingly

## Board Meets Dr. Ruth Segomotsi Mompoti Political Leadership, Commencing Long-term Relationship

As part of introducing the newly appointed board and continuing the work of the interim board whose tenure ended late last year, Dr. Keneilwe Sebege and her team of board members accompanied by the company's Chief Executive Mr. Sandile Mkhize alongside his executive committee descended on Vryburg, the administrative seat of the Dr. Ruth Segomotsi Mompoti District Municipality.

The meeting follows two meetings with the political leadership of the municipality over establishing a new working relationship, following the disestablishment of the now erstwhile Sedibeng Water, which had a long-term bulk water supply contract with the district as a bulk water provider. The district includes a number of local municipalities namely - Naledi, Kagisano-Molopo, and Greater Taung.



**Board Members sitting left-to-right: Ms. Priscilla Mashaba, Ms. Yongama Pamla and Ms. Tebogame Malaka**

Executive Mayor Cllr Motseokae Maje accompanied by MMC on Engineering and Technical Services Cllr. Pitso Seepamere and the municipality's senior management team, said while the municipality's relationship with Sedibeng Water was marred with challenges, the need for water is paramount, he continued "I am very hopeful that this meeting, will be different from our previous engagements, as there is a substantive board and the issue of disestablishment has been concluded, as such my interest is how we will jointly respond to the water challenges in the district" he said.



**Sitting left-to-right: Magalies Water Chief Executive Mr. Sandile Mkhize, Board Chairperson Dr. Lydia Sebege and Deputy Chairperson Ms. Yvonne Matolong**

Chairperson of the board, said many communities have had to contend with institutional arrangements which did not address their challenges and the time for more pragmatic solutions has come as there is a board with full powers which needs to work with water services authorities in addressing water supply challenges. The board concluded their visit to the district by visiting the Pudimoe Water Treatment Plant, which Magalies Water has been appointed to manage and operate on behalf of the district municipality.



**Dr. Ruth Segomotsi Mompoti Executive Mayor. Cllr. Motseokae Maje along side MMC for Engineering and Technical Services Cllr. Pitso Seepamere**



# Ngaka Modiri Molema District Municipality Optimistic of Improved Service Delivery

The Magalies Water board concluded its two-day visit to the Far West Area (Ngaka Modiri Molema and Dr. Ruth Segomotsi Mompati Districts) by having a meeting with the political leadership of Ngaka Modiri Molema District Municipality (NMMDM) in Mahikeng. This is one of the areas which was previously serviced by the defunct Sedibeng Water.

The municipality is a Water Services Authority (WSA) to five local municipalities in the region. The local municipalities include ; Mahikeng, Ratlou, Ramotshere Moiloa, Tswaing and Ditsobotla.



**Right: Ngaka Modiri Molema District Municipality's Executive Mayor Cllr. Khumalo Molefe and Whip of Council Cllr. Crosby Maema**

The meeting among others discussed critical issues, which have had a negative impact on service delivery as it relates to sustainable water supply to communities in the region. District Mayor Cllr. Khumalo Molefe, said the existing difference in opinion on how the historical debt which is currently in dispute cannot be the reason for failure to accelerate service delivery "we are aware of the some of the unavoidable and contentious issues that exists between our institutions, however that cannot be the reason for us not to find each other in pursuit of improving service delivery" he said.



**Left-to-Right: Board Chairperson Dr. Lydia Sebego, Deputy Chairperson Ms. Yvonne Matolong and Chief Executive Mr. Sandile Mkhize**

Board Chairperson Dr. Lydia Sebego said, Magalies Water and the District Municipality, needed to ensure that whatever differences may exist, must not be at the expense of communities in the region.

Company Chief Executive Mr. Sandile Mkhize, said the bulk water provider had always been committed to establishing a working relationship with the municipality, despite the challenges that may be there. He continued "where we operate we have proven that we have the technical skills and capacity. Part of the action items, which will follow includes the fast-tracking of a long-term service level agreement between Magalies Water and the municipality, which will define the terms of engagement and deliverables between the water provider and water services authority" he remarked. The board also conducted an oversight visit to the Mmabatho Water Treatment plant.



## Ngaka Modiri Molema District and Magalies Water Working to Resolve Historic Debt

Magalies Water senior management held a technical meeting with senior officials from the Ngaka Modiri Molema District Municipality (NMMDM) to deliberate on several key issues which included but were not limited to:

- (1) Historical debt stemming from the Sedibeng Water and Botshelo Water era respectively.
- (2) Reviewing of current service level agreements
- (3) Identifying current projects and determining the progress as well as a way forward for those projects that stalled due to financial constraints.
- (4) Challenges faced by the municipality pertaining to illegal water connections impacting on infrastructure, water losses and ultimately service delivery.
- (5) Role clarification between Magalies Water and the district municipality where certain projects are concerned.
- (6) Improvement of communication and stakeholder relations between Magalies Water and Ngaka Modiri Molema District Municipality.

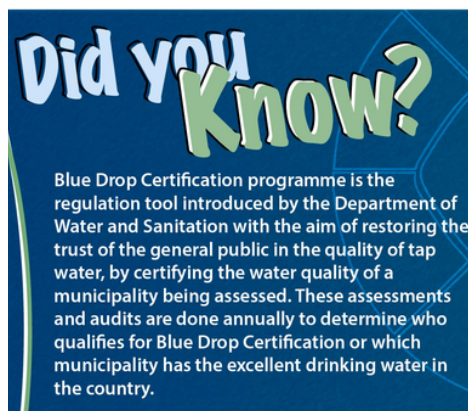


Sitting from left-to-right: Magalies Water's Chief Executive Mr. Sandile Mkhize and Ngaka Modiri Molema District Municipality Municipal Manager Mr. Allan Lesaba and technical team members from two organizations



Magalies Water and NMMDM representatives at a special meeting intended to resolve historic debt which has been in dispute for several years and has been transferred to Magalies Water.

The recommendations were that going-forward, the two parties need to establish a task team that would be responsible for ensuring that issues raised were attended to with immediate effect and a proper project plan is put in place to manage progress thereof.





## North West Portfolio Committee Visits Mmabatho Water Treatment Plant

North West Provincial Legislature's Committee on Premier, Finance, Cooperative Governance, Human Settlements and Traditional Affairs, led by Chairperson Aaron Motswana and Job Dliiso led a delegation to meet Magalies Water at the Ngaka Modiri Molema District Municipality's Mmabatho Water Treatment Plant.

Magalies Water was led by Chairperson: Capital Investment and Stakeholder Committee Mr. Itumeleng Mosala, accompanied by acting Chief Executive Mr. Ofentse Nthutang and compliment of officials from engineering and water services.



from their taps, we had to act. We will be taking this to the door of the water services authority which is the municipality, to get to the bottom of this" he said.

Mr. Ofentse Nthutang, said they are aware of the ongoing confusion pertaining to the operation and maintenance of both water and wastewater treatment plants, which are operated by Magalies Water and Mahikeng Local Municipality respectively "we have had to explain over numerous occasions in detail about the responsibilities which we have taken over from the erstwhile Sedibeng Water, which do not include the operation and or maintenance of the local wastewater treatment plant, situated several kilometres from where we are. The wastewater treatment plant is managed by the local municipality and that has not changed. Any issues pertaining to failures to treat wastewater and other spillages, which could emanate from poor maintenance, and be discharged into the system improperly, should be directed to the responsible institution" he concluded.



**Members of the North West Provincial Legislature - Standing Left to Right : Mr. Job Dliiso , MPAC Chairperson from Mahikeng Local Municipality Cllr. Tshepiso Motshabi and Committee Chairperson Aaron Motswana**

Committee Chairperson, said they were worried following recent media reports which alleged that the plant was not managed as required by law "obviously we were shocked to learn of allegations that the water treatment plant's operations do not meet the minimum requirements as prescribed by law in order to ensure that the water quality from this plant can withstand any form of scrutiny" he remarked.

Job Dliiso said, the water supply issues which have been reflected in the media, affecting many parts of Mahikeng, could not be left without a probe. He continued "as soon as it became apparent that communities around Mahikeng are buying something as basic as water, which ordinarily they should receive



## Minister of Mineral Resources and Energy Conducts Oversight Visit to the Brits Water Treatment Works

Minister of Mineral Resources and Energy, Gwede Mantashe conducted an oversight meeting at the Brits Water Treatment Works in the North West in his capacity as the champion of Bojanala District Development Model.



**Mineral Resources and Energy Minister - Gwede Mantashe receives briefing at the Brits Water Treatment Plant in his capacity as DDM Champion in Bojanala District**

The purpose of the visit was to monitor the progress by Magalies Water on the upgrade of the water treatment plant and other flagship projects in the district. Magalies Water's Deputy Chairperson, Ms Yvonne Matolong, accompanied by senior officials from Magalies Water took the Minister and his entourage, inclusive of the Executive Mayor of Bojanala Platinum District Municipality, Cllr. Matlakala Nondzaba, Executive Mayor of Madibeng Local Municipality, Cllr. Douglas Maimane and other government officials on a tour of the construction works.

Part of the construction includes the refurbishment of the Brits Water Treatment Works, upgrading of the plant from a 60 ML/day to on an 80 ML/day plant, upgrading of the raw water pump station and pipeline, upgrading of the distribution system up to the bulk water reservoirs.



**Deputy Board Chairperson Ms. Yvonne Matolong (sitting far right) led the Magalies Water delegation at the meeting with Minister Mantashe**

Minister Mantashe commended the work with some satisfaction, though it was noted that the project had been marred with challenges that delayed the completion of the various phases. Magalies Water, Deputy Chairperson highlighted the following as part of the recommendations to the Minister:

- For the Minister to note the historic challenges of the project faced by Magalies Water and progress to date, despite the delays.
- For the Minister to intervene in assisting Magalies Water to source funding of the refurbishment of the existing plant.
- For the Minister to intervene in the sourcing of phase four (4) of the projects which entails upgrading of the raw water pipeline and distribution pipeline to the command reservoirs.

“As the political principal deployed to champion this District's mega projects, with the Brits Water Treatment Plant being part, I must say that I am relieved to see tangible progress on this project as it has been quite some years since this work commenced. I therefore encourage those responsible for the implementation of the project to continue working around the clock to ensure that this project is completed” said the Minister.

## Magalies Water Launches Young Professionals Forum During Youth Month

In celebration of Youth Month, Magalies Water hosted staff members from its various water treatment plants across the North West and Gauteng provinces at the Rustenburg Civic Centre.



**Magalies Water's Research and Development Manager and Recipient of the Order of Mapungbwe Award - Professor Vhahangwele Mansidi**

The aim of the event was to recognize and celebrate young professionals within the organisation who are making an exceptional contribution within their respective fields of work and within the water sector as a whole. In particular, the most recognized achievement thus far was the recent of awarding of Magalies Water's very own, Professor Vhahangwele Masindi who was bestowed with the Order of Mapungubwe in Bronze by President Cyril Ramaphosa for his contribution in environmental sciences, focusing on water.



**Some of the attendees at the recently launched Young Professional's Forum**

Professor Masindi is responsible for the Research and Development portfolio within the organisation and is currently on the list of the "World Ranking of the Top 2% Scientists" from 2021 to date.



Coupled with this, the event provided the ideal platform to officially launch the Magalies Water Young Professionals Forum. The Forum is a platform designed to build an exceptional and fulfilling career in the workplace. Such a platform expands knowledge, by building amongst others, technical, administrative, and leadership skills necessary for future roles within and outside the organisation.

It will also give young employees the privilege to tap into opportunities outside their scope of work so they may unleash their true leadership potential and become agents change as well as personal growth and development.

The Forum will also focus on the following:

- Create an enjoyable working environment
- Build capacity and provide guidelines for good practices
- Enrich members with basic understanding of company policies
- Empower members to be efficient role players in society
- Job shadowing
- Provide support in terms of emotional, financial and career guidance

"This is a great and wonderful opportunity for all within Magalies Water to take advantage of. The programmes offered within the organisation for self-improvement enables one to move up the corporate ladder" said Ms Kele Mogamisi, GM: Stakeholder and Customer Services.

# ***Vision***

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

**Contact Details**

Customer Care Line: 0860 000 720  
Email: [info@magalieswater.co.za](mailto:info@magalieswater.co.za)  
[customerservices@magalieswater.co.za](mailto:customerservices@magalieswater.co.za)  
Whatsapp Number: 060 966 7994

**Physical Address**

38 Heystek St,  
Rustenburg, 0300

