



Joint Media Statement

Wednesday, 29<sup>th</sup> November 2023

To: All Media

### **Magalies Water Notes Maquassi Hills Local Municipality Experiences Water Supply Challenges**

Magalies Water is aware of the current situation affecting consumers within the jurisdiction of Maquassi Hills in respect of the current water supply, which is unable to adequately meet the growing water demand. In terms of the new institutional arrangement, flowing out of the reconfiguration of water boards, Vaal Central Water sells bulk water to Magalies Water through a cross-border scheme (inter-provincial boundary water supply system), which Magalies Water further distributes to Maquassi Hills Local Municipality.

Currently, the pumps which are supplying the scheme with potable water on the side of Vaal Central Water, have been taken for repairs and information available to Magalies Water indicates that the repairs will be completed in three weeks' time. Added to this, the absence of stand-by pumps and a backup generator at the Leeudoringstad pump station has exacerbated the situation, causing continued system-related strain with respect to supply and demand.

Out of the seven (7) boreholes, only two (2) are operational and the balance are out of service as a result of acts of vandalism. The municipality is working with all stakeholders involved, to ensure that the boreholes, once repaired and recommissioned for service are protected with means necessary, to prevent any vandalism which has had an adverse effect on the provision of water to communities.

Consequently, the municipality will undertake immediate interventions as follows:

- Refurbish (2) two municipal boreholes for water tankering purposes and increased access to potable water, by the following target dates:

Oasis Bed and Breakfast by next week Tuesday (05<sup>th</sup> of December 2023)

Wolmaransstad Golf course by next week Friday (08<sup>th</sup> of December 2023)

- Refurbish the Wolmaransstad Ext 13/17 borehole by the 11<sup>th</sup> of December 2023, for utilization by the community of Wolmaransstad ext.13/17.

The Municipality will issue a weekly Water Tankering schedule to alert the community of their programme as from the 30<sup>th</sup> of November 2023. In the interim the Municipality will source water from private boreholes owners through the arrangement with private owners.

The Municipality presented on its proposal in respect to loadshedding exemption at the meeting held with Eskom on the 29<sup>th</sup> of November 2023. Eskom requested the Municipality to resubmit their application for reconsideration after highlighting challenges affecting the community.

End.

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