



Media Statement

Monday, 8th January 2024

To: All Media

Recent Water Quality Challenges Prevalent in Rustenburg Municipal Jurisdiction

Subsequent to a notice issued by Magalies Water on the 26th of December 2023, in respect of water quality concerns in the Vaalkop – Bospoort Supply Scheme, that affected Magalies Water's area of supply within Royal Bafokeng Administrative (RBA) areas and Rustenburg Local Municipal (RLM) jurisdiction, specialists from the Water Services Division, embarked on a fact-finding mission to establish the genesis and causes of the coloured water. Preliminary and final results later found that the water supplied did not contain pose any health-risks to consumers despite the brown colour it possessed.

Scientific testing and analysis of the potable water was done in order to have a detailed and scientifically of the causes, effects and remedial actions required to improve the quality of the water on the side of the bulk customers. As of the 28th of December 2023, water quality in the supply scheme had started to show improvements, and consequently in the water being distributed water supply scheme to RBA and RLM. After system optimization and process refinement, the water was compliant with the requirements of the SANS 241 specifications as stipulated by law.

Recent water quality challenges were triggered by numerous factors deriving from natural process that are beyond Magalies Water's control. Specifically, erratic changes in raw water quality were due to sporadic shift in climatic conditions that induced stratification and other biogeochemical processes in the Vaalkop Dam hence impairing the quality of water abstracted from this mega-impoundment and further afield. In response, Magalies Water took swift and agile initiatives to correct the prevailing challenges and changed the abstraction level in partnership with Department of Water and Sanitation and this was informed by the depth

sampling of the water column since the raw water constituted elevated levels of manganese and organic matter in the previous abstraction point and that was posing adverse operational challenges.

This has been redressed with supreme vigilance. As a result, Magalies Water ascertain the customers in the RLM distribution network that the integrity of the system has been restored and it is now producing water that meets and surpass SANS 241 specifications. Albeit that, the system is being monitored closely and robust management and mitigatory measures are in place to offer real time results for timeous response to water quality challenges. Magalies Water is cognizant of the alarming growth in water demand in the Rustenburg Local Municipality, and RBA Supply Area and will consistently to supply the agreed quantities/quotas with supreme quality at all material times.

Magalies Water appreciates the co-operation, patience and understanding of bulk customers who were inconvenienced during this period and allowed for the implementation of corrective measures, without compromising the service quality.

End.

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