



Joint Media Statement

Friday, 16<sup>th</sup> February 2024

To: All Media

**Magalies Water Continues to Monitor Water Supply Systems in Dr. Ruth Segomotsi Mompoti District as Part of Operations and Maintenance**

Magalies Water continues to regularly engage the leadership of Dr. Ruth Segomotsi Mompoti District (Dr. RSM District) on all operational and maintenance related of the infrastructure related challenges across the district. In terms of the contract between Magalies Water and the Dr. RSM District, the Water Board has been appointed as service provider to render operation and maintenance related work on the infrastructure on behalf of the district municipality as the asset owner.

The water supply challenges in the district precede the appointment of Magalies Water, consequently the Board and management have on more than one occasion met the district Executive Mayor Cllr. Motseokae Maje as well as the Member of the Mayoral Committee (MMC) for Engineering and Technical Services Cllr. Pitso Seepamere. To date Magalies Water enjoys a cordial relationship with the municipality and its key focus is to ensure that provision of potable bulk water is sustainable with reduced incidents of supply interruptions. Regrettably, some of the challenges in the district will be resolved over the medium-to-long term period.

**Naledi Local Municipality**

Pudimoe Water Treatment Works located outside Pudimoe township and is supplied with raw water from the Vaalharts Irrigation Scheme which supplies water to a population of 100,000 within the Naledi Local

Municipality and Greater-Taung Local Municipality. The plant consists of three (3) Modules, Module One (1) with a design capacity of 6Mℓ/d, Module Two (2) with a design capacity of 7Mℓ/d and Module Three (3) with a design capacity of 7Mℓ/d. The combined design capacity of all three Modules is 20Mℓ/d. Currently, Module Three (3) supplies water to Naledi LM, whereas Module One (1) supplies water to Dryharts with an average of 5Mℓ/d each. Module Two (2) supplies Greater-Taung LM with an average operating capacity of 6Mℓ/d.

Treated water is pumped from the Pudimoe plant (Module 3) to a 1Mℓ concrete reservoir (located just outside Dryharts village), water then gravitates to the Brussels Boster pump station. Water is then pumped from the Brussels pump station through the 10Mℓ concrete reservoir (located at Colour Block) to the Huhudi concrete reservoir (4.5Mℓ). Naledi Local Municipality is responsible for the distribution of treated water from Huhudi reservoir to Huhudi Township, Extension 25, 28, and Colour Block. This essentially means that Magalies Water cannot account for the water distribution challenges experienced beyond Huhudi Reservoir as the liability lies with Naledi Local Municipality, in terms of the agreement.

The Brussels pump station has been adversely affected by incidents of vandalism, which continue to compound challenges related to water supply to Huhudi. In recent months, we have experienced vandalism, in between periods of load-shedding and appeal to the community or anyone with information to report these incidents to law enforcement agencies, for appropriate action to be taken. Vandalism of critical infrastructure is detrimental to the objectives of sustainable water supply to the community of Huhudi and should be considered sabotage.

### **Kagisano-Molopo Local Municipality**

Various areas within the municipality, such as Ganyesa, Tlakgameng, Moshwana, and Morokweng have functional boreholes which are dependent on consistent electricity supply. In the event of power supply interruptions, communities are not able to access water. The assessment conducted has highlighted the importance of installing back-up generators in order to mitigate the effects of power outages which directly affect water supply. The district municipality as the asset owner, will be engaged in this regard in order to bring about a permanent solution to these challenges.

### **Greater-Taung Local Municipality**

Magalies Water is responsible for the operations and maintenance of the existing infrastructure. The existing

infrastructure being referred to; is Pudimoe Water Treatment Works, Pudimoe Concrete reservoir (6Mℓ), Matlhako pump station & reservoir, Ncweng pump station & plastic tanks, Mogopela B pump station & steel tank, Mogopela booster pump station, Mogopela A plastic tanks, Khibicwane concrete reservoir (8Mℓ), Khibicwane pump station, Cokonyane concrete reservoir, Khibicwane steel tank, Taung North pump station & reservoir, bulk pipelines, and reticulation networks.

Treated water is pumped from the Pudimoe plant (Module 2) to a 6Mℓ Pudimoe concrete reservoir (located just outside Pudimoe Township). Pudimoe reservoir is comprised of several outlets, namely: Pudimoe Township supply line (gravity), Matlhako 1 and 2 supply line (gravity and pumping), Mogopela B and Myra supply line (pumping). A portion of the water would then gravitate to the 8Mℓ Khibicwane concrete reservoir (located at Khibicwane village). There are two supply pipelines from Pudimoe to the Khibicwane reservoir, namely: the old asbestos and GRP pipeline. There are two off-takes from the GRP pipeline supplying water to Kamp 7 and Mogopela A areas. Thereafter, water would then gravitate from Khibicwane reservoir to the following areas: Khibicwane, Lokaleng, Pinagare, Ext 4,5,6 and 7, Taung Depot, Taung Station, Rooival, Itireleng, Matolong, Kgatleng, Veertien, Chiefs court, Richblock, Jim Molale 1,2 and 3. A certain portion of water is pumped to the following villages: Cokonyane, Khibicwane Ext, and Ditshilong.

The Pudimoe water supply system is currently constrained. The existing infrastructure does not meet the current water demand in those areas. This is the result of amongst other factors; raw water shortage (which affects the supply of treated water), the impact of load shedding, population growth (leading to increased water demand), and tampering and/or vandalism of water infrastructure.

## **Current Control Measures**

### **Short-Term**

#### *Raw water rationing*

- Raw water is currently being rationed such that there is an equal distribution of available raw water to supply these three Pudimoe modules (1,2 and 3).
- The success of this exercise solely depends on the quantity of raw water received from the Vaalharts Irrigation Scheme.

#### *Overnight restriction of Pudimoe and Khibicwane reservoirs*

- Both reservoirs are closed overnight to build capacity at the reservoirs.

- However, this control measure is not that effective because during that period, no water would be gravitating to the Khibicwane reservoir and the Khibicwane reservoir level would remain critically low.

#### *Treated water rationing*

- There is ongoing water rationing amongst various communities such that each village may receive equitable water supply, depending on the reservoir levels against water usage.
- The allocation of water depends on the availability of water at the reservoirs.
- Currently it is impractical to develop, implement, and stick to the water distribution time slots as the reservoir level remains the determining factor.

#### *Water disruption notices*

- The communities were informed (in the form of notices) about the current water supply challenges confronted by Magalies Water and were also advised to use water sparingly.

#### **Medium-Term**

- The medium-term solution is to supply treated water to Taung Central from the new Taung plant (which is currently under wet commissioning). However, the Khibicwane reservoir has to be connected to the Taung plant via a 3.5 km pipeline as part of the project.

#### **Long-Term**

- Magalies Water is currently in the process of developing the Master plan for the entire North West areas of operation. This would assist the district municipality in terms of planning for future water projects.

End.

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