

Water shortage lasted longer than expected

Residences and businesses in the Ballito and Umhlali areas had to do without water for nine hours on Monday, July 6.

Umgeni Water's planned shutdown on the pipeline that supplies to the Avondale Reservoir in Ballito on Sunday, July 5 was met with two major problems.

Umgeni Water public relations officer Shami Harichunder said, "We had planned the shutdown to last for eight hours from

1pm to 9pm on Sunday. However, one of the pipelines leaked and a delivery valve at the start-up of the La Mercy pumps did not open fully. This extended the shutdown and caused major delays resulting in water being cut off for 21 hours instead of eight."

"Even with the shutdown and those two problems there was enough water on the reservoir but with the long delay the level dropped to under 40%. We did not expect it to drop as low as it did. Unfortunately these things cannot be foreseen," said Harichunder.

Siza Water general manager Shyam Misra apologized for the inconvenience caused.

"We urge all to use water sparingly for the next few days to ensure that should there be any

further problems with the Umgeni Water supply to the reservoir the level is allowed to increase to cater for such emergencies, he said.

Areas like the Ballito Business Park, Seaward Estates, Umhlali, Foxhill, Sheffield Beach, Shakashead, Umhlali Country Club, Kingston Estates and surrounding areas went without water from 10am till 7pm Monday.

Seaward Estate general manager Joe Reeler said he was impressed with the way Siza Water handled things.

"They called us yesterday afternoon to advise us that there will be a water shortage for 12 hours. They even supplied the estate with a portable water tanker later in the day and residents without water used buckets to get it. But not everybody on the estate was affected," said Reeler.

