

Mvoti River bank collapses

STANGER WEEKLY REPORTER

KWADUKUZA residents were left without water for two days on separate occasions after the banks of the Mvoti River collapsed.

The banks, which allow water from the river to flow into the channel that feeds the Mvoti Water works, first collapsed on Wednesday, November 18, due to construction work leaving residents without water for more than 12 hours. The bank was re-built on the same day.

In the second incident, the flash floods, which hit the area on Thursday and early Friday, resulted in the bank collapsing again.

Residents were left without water for more than 20 hours while the bank was being re-built. Water was restored to all areas in KwaDukuza on Saturday morning after all the reservoirs built up their levels.

iLembe District Municipality deputy director, Notha Maphumulo believes the cause of the collapse was due to work being carried out by Umgeni Water.

"Umgeni Water is currently busy with a sheet piling project at the Umvoti River. We asked them not to start the project now as it is the rainy season and the banks are unstable. We never had this problem before but we were able to re-build the bank and restore the water supply," said Maphumulo.

He added that the heavy rain resulted in it collapsing again, however, they were able to restore it in less than 10 hours.

"We sent out tankers to all areas and tried our best to re-build the bank as fast as possible," said Maphumulo.

When contacted for comment, Umgeni Water's corporate stakeholder manager, Shami Harichunder said the channel at the Mvoti Water Works used by Umgeni Water to abstract raw water was flooded on Friday due to high flows in the river caused by heavy rainfall.

"Umgeni Water was unable to operate the raw water abstraction pumps which resulted in reduced water production. This then led to an inadequate supply of water to certain parts of KwaDukuza. Excavators were then deployed to repair the embankment."

He added that water tankers were sent into the area under the supervision of the municipality.

"The channel was repaired by the afternoon and water was able to flow into the channel. The municipality then had to build up sufficient reservoir levels in order to provide a reticulation service to consumers," said Harichunder.



Contract workers are seen re-building the Umvoti River bank which collapsed after the flash floods on Thursday and Friday

