



**In the picture are:**  
 From left are representatives of Umgeni Water, Ilembe District Municipality and Local Traditional Leadership: Mzimkulu Msiwa, Ashwin Paday, Councillor Mbatha, Nhlanhla Gasa, Mayor SW Mdabe and assistants to the local chief



## Sod Turning Ceremony **Kwangcolosi, Tribal Court**

Two major infrastructure projects have been unveiled to ensure communities to the north of KwaDukuza (Stanger) receive a sustainable supply of safe drinking water in the future.

The projects are the Ngcebo and Maphumulo Bulk Water Supply schemes, both of which are strategically important as social projects that, when fully operational, will make a significant dent in the water backlogs in the Ngcebo and Maphumulo areas in the iLembe District. Both schemes will eventually supply an estimated 99 000 people.

Plans for the projects were revealed by KwaZulu-Natal water board Umgeni Water at a sod turning ceremony in Ngcebo, outside Kranskop, on Wednesday, 26<sup>th</sup> November 2008. The function, to officially launch the Ngcebo Bulk Water Supply scheme, was attended by senior representatives of Umgeni Water, including the Chairman of its Board Nhlanhla Gasa; its Chief Executive Mzimkulu Msiwa and its General Manager of Engineering and Scientific Services Pumezo Jonas. The iLembe District Municipality was represented by its Mayor SW Mdabe; the Speaker of Council JB Nzuza and Councillors from the Maphumulo Local Council.

Umgeni Water, a bulk water service provider to the Ilembe District Municipality, will handle the implementation of the schemes. Work on the Ngcebo Bulk Water Supply system will begin in January 2009 and is expected to be completed in October 2009.

The expected cost of the two projects is in the region of R200 million, made up of R28 million for Ngcebo and R120 million for Maphumulo. From a socio-economic perspective, both projects will have a tangible impact on the quality of life for the communities they will serve. The impact will be seen in a considerable increase in the standard of water supply in terms of quality and quantity. The construction phase of the projects will result in numerous jobs being created for members of local communities, resulting in the injection of additional spend in the local economies.

In presenting the projects to a large and enthusiastic group of locals, Umgeni Water's GM of Engineering and Scientific Services Mr Pumezo Jonas said Umgeni Water took over the planning of a bulk water pipeline to Maphumulo in 2007. At this stage in the planning process, Umgeni Water expressed concerns over the cost of pumping water from the uThukela River, then the proposed source of raw water supply.

"An alternate water source was identified as a dam on the Imvutshane River, which is now being investigated," said Mr Jonas.

The implementation of the Ngcebo and Maphumulo Bulk Water supply schemes will augment water supply to these areas, which are currently served by 12 stand-alone schemes that are characterised by unsustainable supply. Ngcebo and Maphumulo are considered to be among the so-called water backlog areas where many households have inadequate or no access to safe drinking. The government has set 2014 as the year in which water backlogs have to be eliminated.

Mr Jonas said raw water for the Ngcebo pipeline would be drawn from the uThukela River, treated at the existing water treatment plant at Middeldrift and then supplied through reticulation infrastructure, some of which have been constructed and others are to be constructed by the Ilembe District Municipality. In order to obtain improved efficiencies, the Middeldrift water treatment plant would be upgraded.

The Ngcebo project entails the installation of a bulk pipeline from the Mpishe River to the waterworks, where raw water will be treated, and supplied to Mambulu, Ekhatha, Mphise and KwaHlongwa through a reticulation system.

The Maphumulo Bulk Water Supply scheme comprises two phases, first a temporary supply and then ultimate supply. Phase one will comprise 2Ml/day abstraction from the Imvutshane River; a raw water pipeline and pump station; a 4Ml/day water works; a 400mm diameter rising main over 11km; a booster pump station and a command reservoir of 2Ml

Phase 2 of the Maphumulo Bulk Water Supply scheme comprises a dam on the Imvutshane River; a permanent abstraction tower from the dam on the Imvutshane River; a bridge over the river on an existing rural road and upgrading of the water works to 12Ml/day.