

Board of Umgeni Water is re-appointed

Issued by the Corporate Stakeholder Management Unit, Umgeni Water

Thursday, 4th November 2021

The National Government Cabinet has endorsed the re-appointment of the previous Board of Umgeni Water that was disbanded by the former Minister of Human Settlements, Water and Sanitation, Ms Lindiwe Sisulu.

This was confirmed by Umgeni Water, which said Umgeni Water had received notification of the Cabinet decision on Thursday, 4th November 2021. The incoming Board of Umgeni Water will begin exercising its governance oversight role as Accounting Authority with immediate effect.

The Board in question was disbanded in August 2020 by the then-Minister of Human Settlements, Water and Sanitation, Ms Lindwe Sisulu, citing absence of Cabinet endorsement of the Board as the reason for her decision. This Board was replaced with an Interim Board.

Some members of the disbanded Board began a legal challenge to the former Minister's decisions (disbanding of the Board and appointment of an Interim Board) in the KwaZulu-Natal High Court, Pietermaritzburg. The High Court in its judgment last week ruled that the decisions to disband the Board and appoint an Interim Board were unlawful and set aside both decisions. The disbanded Board was appointed by the then-outgoing Minister of Water and Sanitation, Mr Gugile Nkwinti, in May 2019 for a term of four years. In terms of the judgement, the Interim Board will be disestablished.

The current Minister of Water and Sanitation, Mr Senzo Mchunu, has since ratified the appointment of the former Board and submitted Board members' names for endorsement – which was confirmed at Wednesday's Cabinet meeting. The Board has been re-appointed in order to strengthen governance within Umgeni Water. Members of the re-appointed Board have vast experience in the water sector and expertise in business, finance, legal and management disciplines.

The Board Members who have been re-appointed by the Minister of Water and Sanitation and endorsed by the Cabinet on Wednesday, 3rd November 2021, are:

Name and Surname	Recommended Designation
Ms Ziphozethu Mathenjwa	Member and Chairperson
Professor Thandwa Mthembu	Member and Deputy Chairperson
Mr Siboniso Shabalala	Member
Mr Mduduzi Eric Zakwe	Member
Ms Chamane Nompumelelo Beata	Member
Mr Visvin Reddy	Member
Mr William Mapena	Member
Mr Teboho Nkhahle	Member
Mrs Linda Ngcobo	Member
Ms Bongekile Zulu	Member
Mr Suleman Badat	Member
Mrs Mbali Barbra Ndlovu	Member
Advocate SimoseNkosi Chamane	Member

Corporate Stakeholder Management Unit, Umgeni Water Head Office, Pietermaritzburg