

Temporary Shutdown of the Lower Thukela Bulk Potable Water Pipeline

Joint Statement by iLembe District Municipality and Umgeni Water Thursday, 12 May 2022

Two new leaks have been detected on the bulk pipeline that conveys drinking water from the Lower Thukela Bulk Water Supply Scheme in Mandini to KwaDukuza. This has necessitated shut down of the pipeline for Umgeni Water asset management staff to conduct emergency repairs.

Repair crew will move to the sites of the two leaks at 18h00 today and work through the night to complete the work. Approximately 12h hours have been allocated for the work. Recovery time of the entire system - bulk and reticulation – is expected to take longer for restoration of full supply to consumers.

During the shutdown of the pipeline, Umgeni Water will not be able to supply potable water to the reservoirs of iLembe District Municipality. This means that consumers in the following areas are likely to be affected by intermittent water supply or low pressure when they open their taps:

Sakhamkhanya, San Souci, Skhekembula, Ohlanga, Mdlebeni, Lindelani, Shakaville, Zamani, Darnall, Zinkwazi, Blythedale, Stanger Manor, Warrenton, Doesburg, KwaDukuza Central Business District, Glenhills, Nyoniyamanzi, Lot 16, Gledhow North, Ntshwini, Groutville, Mission, Thembeni, Dube Village, Malende, Hangoes and Zilungisele.

An appeal is being made to consumers not to collect more water than is required for use during the temporary shutdown. Unnecessary storage of water and particularly in large volumes will result in reservoirs rapidly depleting and many consumers being unable to receive water through their taps.

The municipality will be deploying water tankers to the affected areas. The routes and schedule of these tankers will be provided to Ward Councillors. As additional support measure, staff of iLembe District Municipality will update residents with progress on the repair project through loud hailing.

Umgeni Water provides an assurance that every effort will be made to try to complete the work in the allocated period. Umgeni Water and iLembe District Municipality wish to thank consumers for their understanding and patience and apologise for any inconvenience that may be caused.