

DEPARTMENT OF WATER AND SANITATION

NO. 1247

10 NOVEMBER 2017

INTENTION TO DISESTABLISH MHLATHUZE WATER AND TRANSFERRING OF STAFF; ASSETS AND LIABILITIES INTO UMGENI WATER AND CHANGING NAME OF UMGENI WATER INTO KWAZULU NATAL WATER BOARD

I, Nomvula Paula Mokonyane, Minister of Water and Sanitation, hereby, in terms of section 28 of the Water Services Act, 1997(Act No. 108 of 1997), propose the following -

- a) the disestablishment of Mhlathuze Water established in terms of section 28 of the Water Services Act.
- b) that the staff, assets and liabilities including operations of Mhlathuze Water be transferred to the Umgeni Water .
- c) that the Name of Umgeni Water be changed to KwaZulu-Natal water board.
- d) that the disestablishment will be done in terms of Section 28 (1) (a) (b) (c) and (d) of the Water Services Act, 1997 which states that: **"The Minister may, by notice in the Gazette, establish a water board; give it a name or approve a change of its name; determine or change its service area or disestablish it"**.

I further give the reasons for the disestablishment as follows:

The Department of Water and Sanitation is implementing the rationalisation of water services and water management institutions in line with the Institutional Reforms and Realignment (IRR) and the policy position approved by Cabinet in 2013 as published on Government Gazette Notice No. 888 on 30 August 2013.

Currently there are two existing Water Boards in the KwaZulu-Natal Province and in order to enhance the supply of water in the Province, it is prudent to realign them and establish a single effective Regional Water Board so as to improve service delivery and to expand in the un-serviced areas, especially in the northern parts of KwaZulu-Natal. This would enable both Water Boards to consolidate their assets and skills for key rural infrastructure development projects. This initiative shall ensure positive socio-economic impacts for the entire KwaZulu-Natal Province. The primary driver for creating fewer, stronger water boards with larger geographic footprints is that stronger and more regional water boards can play a much more effective role in the financing and management and delivery of regional water infrastructure and supporting municipalities in providing water services. This will result in more effective delivery of services, cross subsidisation especially in rural areas.

The realignment of the Water Boards in KwaZulu-Natalis also intended to address the institutional Challenge associated water service delivery challenges created by the limited capacity of uThukela Water Partnership (Pty) Ltd, a regional municipal utility that was established to serve the districts of uThukela, Amajuba and UMzinyathi municipalities. It will also align roles and responsibilities of water user associations and irrigation boards to minimise duplication of functions amongst various entities reporting to Minister of Water and Sanitation.

All interested persons are invited to comment in writing on the disestablishment of Mhlathuze Water and changing the name of Umgeni Water to KwaZulu-Natal water board for a period of 60 days. All such comments must be addressed to:

Director-General
Department of Water and Sanitation
Private Bag X313
PRETORIA
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For attention: Ms T Sigwaza
Email: sigwazat@dws.gov.za
Tel: 012 336-6600



MRS NP MOKONYANE, MP
MINISTER OF WATER AND SANITATION
DATE: