

To: Amathole District Municipality - Municipal Manager DR. T.T. MNYIMBA

Amathole District Municipality IDP Manager

By email: idpcomments@amathole.gov.za

Amathole District Municipality Integrated Development plan (IDP) Submission

RE: Submission on the Draft Amathole District Municipality IDP – Mncwasa Water Scheme

13 May 2022

INTRODUCTION

1. This submission is made on behalf of the Mncwasa Water Scheme Community Advisory Committee constituting Chief Xolile Gcinibandla Ndevu, Chief of Imiganu Traditional Authority; Councillor Phumelele Methu of Ward 19, Councillor Phumzile Msaro of Ward 28 and Councillor Lungisa Mahobe of Ward 18; Community Development Worker, Vuyisa Malangeni; Viva con Agua; and the Equality Collective (together ‘the parties’). The submission is made in response to the call for comment by the Amathole District Municipality (ADM) on its draft Integrated Development Plan (IDP).
2. The parties represent the interests of community members from wards 18, 19 and 28 falling within the Mbashe Local Municipality and in the supply area of the Mncwasa Water Scheme which supplies water to approximately 33 000 people.
3. This submission seeks to bring to the attention of ADM challenges concerning the Mncwasa Water Scheme (the Scheme).
4. We make the case for infrastructural adaptations and for the refurbishment of the Mncwasa Water Scheme to be included as a priority project in this financial year and to be appropriately reflected in the 2022/2023-2026/2027 IDP.

BACKGROUND - MNCWASA WATER SCHEME

5. The Mncwasa Water Scheme supplies water to approximately 6,100 households in the coastal region of the Mbashe Local Municipality, close to Zithulele Hospital. The area around the hospital, which is served by the scheme, is rapidly developing as a service centre

and the hospital itself is increasingly recognised as a locus of health care excellence in the region.

6. The Scheme was finalised in 2015 and was set to change the lives of our community members. Five years later, the Scheme is not delivering consistent and reliable access to water.
7. With the support of ADM, in April 2021, we conducted a survey diagnosis¹ of the Scheme interviewing close to 300 people. On the day surveyed, over half of the respondents (55%) indicated that there was not water available that day and 82% of respondents indicated that water is not available every day. Of those who indicated that water is not available every day, 41% indicated that they had not had water since the previous year. As one community member noted, ‘water is life’ and now they are drinking water with the cows, pigs and donkeys of the village.
8. The Survey Diagnosis, which was supported by two experienced engineers, also included comprehensive recommendations. It was recommended that ADM:
 - a. Address all readily identifiable faults: Broken taps, reservoirs and BPT control valves identified from the survey should be attended to.
 - b. Ensures 2 duty pumpsets are operational at all times and has 1 standby pumpset available.
 - c. Ensures the Eskom phase imbalance challenges are addressed and/or standby power generation capacity is provided.
 - d. Builds a second pipeline from the command reservoir, with its own outlet, to the Zithulele T-off, to ensure an equitable water supply to the Zithulele leg.
 - e. Ensures judicious flow control within the scheme.
 - f. Devises a longer-term strategy to improve community monitoring and reporting.
 - g. Provides ongoing monitoring and operations as well as puts in place a repair and maintenance system.

¹ Mncwasa Water Scheme Survey Report, https://e1f02f26-8100-44a9-ab20-e1d826a4bd68.filesusr.com/ugd/f6ead8_dbab675619c748fa8536719e45445524.docx?dn=MNCWASA%20WATER%20SCHEME%20SURVEY%20REPORT_DRAFT

9. These recommendations were fully canvassed at a joint meeting with senior ADM officials. Following that meeting, we were informed that the Mncwasa Water Scheme would be included in the Business Plan application for the Water Services Instructure Grant (WSIG).
10. A Technical Report was then prepared for this purpose that echoed the recommendations and concluded that a ‘series of changes to pipeline configurations and optimisation of pipe sizes will be implemented along with a series of interventions to reduce water losses. A series of refurbishment activities will also be implemented.’”
11. The estimated cost for the work identified amounted to approximately eight million rand (R8 000 000).

PRIORITISATION - MNCWASA WATER SCHEME

12. In April this year we received confirmation from ADM officials that the Mncwasa Water Scheme would be one of the projects implemented in the 2022/23 financial year.
13. However, after reviewing the draft ADM IDP we noticed that the Mncwasa Water Scheme is not listed as a project under the WSIG (see pg 238 - 240). Only minor refurbishments to the Scheme are listed at the Water Treatment Works (see pg 105).
14. We request an explanation from ADM concerning the status of the prioritisation of the Mncwasa Water Scheme.
15. We also request that the Mncwasa Water Scheme be included as a priority project for ADM in this financial year and that it expressly be included in the IDP.

CONCLUSION

16. The upcoming planning for the IDP provides a unique opportunity to shape the ADM’s priorities for the next five years.
17. It is our view that a strong case has been made that the Mncwasa Water Scheme challenges must be urgently attended to as our communities are not receiving lawfully compliant water supplies.

18. We have been working hand-in-hand with ADM to date and trust that you will respond positively to this request.

19. We look forward to your response concerning the above matters and measures to incorporate our request into the 2022/2023-2026/2027 IDP

Sincerely,

Chief Xolile Gcinibandla Ndevu
Chief of Imiganu Traditional Authority

Representing the other Mncwasa Water Scheme Advisory Committee Members:

Chief Xolile Gcinibandla Ndevu
Chief of Imiganu Traditional Authority

Vuyisa Malangeni
Community Development Worker

Lungisa Mahobe
Councillor of Ward 18

Phumelele Methu
Councillor of Ward 19

Ajay Paul
Director, Viva con Agua

Phumzile Msaro
Councillor of Ward 28

Tess Peacock
Director, Equality Collective