

Municipality assures people water is safe to drink

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WATER quality tests conducted by Talbot Laboratories on behalf of the Msunduzi Municipality indicate that Northdale water is safe for human consumption, said acting spokesperson Evodia Mahlangu. Last week Northdale residents were worried because their tap water smelt "fishy".

Residents phoned the *Mirror* and said that they were scared to use the water and wanted assurances from the municipality that it was safe to drink.

The tests were conducted using samples from Belfort reservoir, Scorpio, Bombay and Ginger roads. Odour tests indicated that all the water had a musty smell. Steven Naidoo, a concerned resident and parent, said his child was sent home from Springhaven Primary School last week as the pupils were not allowed to drink water at the school.

"I am concerned about the situation. The municipality



The Msunduzi Municipality says that the water in Northdale is safe to drink.

to market their products due to the high standard of water supplied by Umgeni Water.

Umgeni Water's corporate stakeholder manager Shami Harichunder told the *Mirror* that Umgeni supplies water in bulk to municipalities and in recent weeks it has been doing tests from the Msunduzi flood plane.

"We have found no presence of bacteria in the water," said Harichunder.

Umgeni Water is conducting more tests to establish the source of the odour.

must explain why the water smells. Nobody should have to drink smelly water," said Naidoo.

Mahlangu said that the taste of the water may be related to the presence of one of two micro algae that are commonly known to taint drinking water.

"These two are known to occur under elevated ambient temperature regimes such as those experienced

currently. The effect is purely aesthetic and non-toxic," said Mahlangu.

Vendors of water purification equipment will need to go to great lengths

