

# Durban residents face water restrictions

**The eThekweni Municipality have a disaster management plan in place and will be relocating formal and informal housing, situated along the flood plains of Umgeni River, when they shut down the Reservoir Hills/Durban Heights reservoir, for seven days, to conduct maintenance, an inspection, and the commissioning of a new booster pump station between Monday's 12 and 17 October.**

Ward Councillor Jayraj Bachu said when the Municipality begins discharging water from tanks to conduct the repairs, it could cause the high volume of water to burst the banks. However, Bachu was briefed at a planning meeting held at the water department on Monday, 5 October, that a disaster management team will be on standby to avert any problems.

Bachu told the *Weekly Gazette* that the two informal settlements (Umgudule and Quarry road west) and formal housing (Cartwood and Morewood Road) in the vicinity of the river flood plains, might be affected in a worse case scenario.

"There is nothing to panic about. Precautions are being taken. We are moving the affected informal settlements to a site in New Germany Road, temporarily. They will be accommodated in tents. These facilities will have toilets and a water tanker," said Bachu.

eThekweni water senior operations manager Bhavna Soni said water will be available, however, she urges the community to use water sparingly during the seven day period because the supply of water will be restricted. The booster pump station has been designed to augment the

supply of water to the Northern areas that are currently experiencing water shortages.

"We will be receiving 30% less than our current water demand from our bulk Supplier, Umgeni Water. During the shutdown, we will be draining the main reservoir. You may experience slight turbidity in the water. Please do not be concerned as on-going water quality tests will be conducted to ensure the water is safe to drink," stated Soni

Soni said that water tankers would assist areas experiencing water interruptions.

"If major areas are affected, then we will identify water collection points and communities will be informed via radio, flyers or posters," said Soni.

In the seven day restriction

period, the eThekweni Municipality is urging the community not to

- (1) Wash cars
- (2) Water gardens
- (3) Fill swimming pools
- (4) Waste water in any way. Shower in place of bathing and close the tap when brushing teeth etc.

The shutdown will affect the following areas: -

1. Northern areas - i.e. north of the Umgeni River
  2. Central areas - between the Umgeni River and the Umlazi River and as far west as the Pinetown/Fields Hill area
  3. Southern areas -from the Umlazi River in the north to Craigeburn in the south
- Should you have any queries or concerns contact eThekweni water Toll free on 0801313 013 or Ward councillor Jayraj Bachu 072 840 4822.



(L-R) Bernard Gabela (customer service), eThekweni disaster management officials; Malcolm Canham, Billy Keeves and Brett Goodwill, with Bhavna Soni (senior operations manager, eThekweni water), Ward 23 Cllr Jayraj Bachu and Zamo Ngobese (Housing) at the Reservoir Hills water planning meeting.

