

# Big plans to improve North Coast water supply

BY HEIDI GIBSON

North Coast rural development remains a key focus area of Umgeni Water – the second largest bulk water supply operation in the country.

Two of the state-owned business enterprise's five strategic projects are in the North Coast area.

This means interruptions to KwaDukuza will become a thing of the past Umgeni Water chief executive officer Mzimkulu Msiwa said.

Speaking at the presentation of the annual report recently, Msiwa said the two projects - namely the Ngcebo bulk water supply scheme and the Avondale to Honolulu pipeline - would open up development opportunities and support the new airport.

The two projects have cost the company R97 million already. They are both due for completion this year.

In the longer term Umgeni Water is also looking at getting supply from the Lower Tugela River.

The capital cost of the first phase of this scheme will be in the order of R700 million but estimates for completion are around one billion rand.

This scheme will bring water to a regional water treatment plant, near Sundumbili and then deliver it by pipeline south to local developments and north to rural communities.

The town of KwaDukuza will link into the sys-

tem and it is envisaged that it should be able to supply as far south as Ballito.

In the north, potable water will ultimately also be delivered by pipeline to Mandeni and surrounding rural areas.

Talking about the Ngcebo bulk supply project, Msiwa said it should bring water to about 16 000 people in the KwaMaphumulo municipal area.

The Avondale to Honolulu bulk pipeline along the N2 from eThekweni towards KwaDukuza will be about 17-and a-half kilometres long when it is finished.

The other three strategic projects include one that will help the people of Ntuzuma, near Durban, a pipeline along the N3 between Msunduzi and eThekweni and another that will help supply to the Umlaas Road area, near Camperdown.

Msiwa said there are other North Coast projects in the design phase that will bring water to the people of Maphumulo and Ndwedwe.

As far as tariff increases are concerned, he said these would be lower than expected depending on what electricity giant Eskom had in store.

The challenges that lay ahead include responding to the global economic recession and climate change.



Ilembe district municipality officials and Umgeni Water board members celebrate the start of the Ngcebo bulk water supply project. Turning the first sod earlier this year are (centre) Ilembe district municipality mayor Welcome Mdabe. With him is (first left) Umgeni Water chief executive officer Mzimkulu Msiwa.

