

<b>MEDIA RELEASE</b>	PSA welcomes commissioning of R474 million Mpophomeni Wastewater Treatment Plant in KwaZulu-Natal
<b>DATE</b>	28 July 2025
<b>EMBARGO</b>	None
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The Public Servants Association (PSA) welcomes the commissioning of the Mpophomeni Wastewater Treatment Plant in KwaZulu-Natal, valued at R474 million, aimed at addressing water shortages and sanitation issues.

Mpophomeni is an old township with infrastructure that has not kept up with population growth. This resulted in regular pipe bursts and sewage overflows, causing health hazards and environment risks. Residents of Mpophomeni and surrounding communities under the uMngeni Municipality can now bid farewell to water shortages, sewage spills, and sanitation backlogs. Government has taken a step towards addressing water issues by commissioning this project. The plant was unveiled on 18 July 2025 by the Deputy Minister of Water and Sanitation and will assist some 27 000 people in and around Mpophomeni. The plant is designed to produce high quality effluent that complies with standards. Expansion of this project will supply 12 million litres per day.

Residents of Mpophomeni and surrounding areas have been struggling with water shortages in the past. Some areas had to wait for water tanker trucks that were sent to the community to deliver water for daily needs. This water shortage significantly affected the community, with many vulnerable residents, especially women, children, and the elderly, bearing the brunt of having to cope by harvesting rainwater or purchasing water, making it a daily struggle for those relying on social grants.

The PSA welcomes the newly commissioned plant as it marks a major step forward for service delivery, water security, and sanitation. This project will benefit the community, businesses, and government departments such as the Department of Health as clinics and the uMngeni Hospital will have greater access to water. Other departments, such as the Department of Education, will also benefit as schools will have clean water. Service delivery is improved and the right to clean water, as stipulated in the Constitution of South Africa, has materialised.

The PSA calls on the Department of Water and Sanitation and the uMngeni Municipality to collaborate and ensure that the project is run efficiently. The PSA further urges community members to play their part in protecting this infrastructure as civic cooperation is key to long-term sustainability.

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