

WATER NEWS

2025/26 1st EDITION



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VISION

Sufficient, equitable and quality water resources
for all in the Inkomati-Usuthu Water Management Area

MISSION

To efficiently manage water resources by empowering our stakeholders
in our quest to contribute towards transformation by promoting equal access to
water and protecting the environment

VALUES

Integrity
Batho Pele (Stakeholders Orientation)
Accountability
Diversity
Transparency

SLOGAN:

“INKOMATI-USUTHU CMA, YOUR PARTNER IN
WATER MANAGEMENT”

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Inkomati-Usuthu CMA

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INKOMATI-USUTHU WATER MANAGEMENT AREA



CROCODILE RIVER





FOREWORD

BY THE CEO:

Mr Mokgema Mongane

Dear Stakeholders

It gives me great pleasure to present the 2025/26 first edition of Water News2day, a platform that highlights the dedication, transformation, and resilience that define the Inkomati-Usuthu Catchment Management Agency's (IUCMA) journey.

In this edition, you will read about the strides we've made in resource protection, the transformation of irrigation boards, and youth engagement. I am particularly inspired by the remarkable impact of our Sustainable River Rehabilitation Programme, demonstrating that restoring rivers is not merely about removing debris but about restoring dignity, livelihoods, and ecological balance in the communities we serve. These are not just projects; they are legacies in the making.

The past year has highlighted the significance of partnerships. From school-based the Mining Technical Task Team in

Upper Komati, our progress is driven by inclusive collaboration. We remain strongly dedicated to involving all stakeholders in managing our catchment fairly and sustainably.

I wish to commend our interns and young professionals whose testimonies, captured in these pages, serve as proof that the future of water management is in capable hands. Our youth-focused initiatives during Water Month and Youth Month reaffirm our belief that learning leads to leading.

As we reflect on the insights within this newsletter, let us remember that access to clean water is not a privilege but a right. Through sound governance, scientific solutions, and community partnerships, we will continue working towards water security for everyone.

Yours in service,

Mr. Mokgema Mongane, Chief Executive Officer



INKOMATI-USUTHU

CATCHMENT MANAGEMENT AGENCY

**The Governing Board and staff members of the IUCMA
welcome the newly appointed CEO.**



Mr. Mokgema Mongane

SOME DAMS IN THE INKOMATI-USUTHU

WATER MANAGEMENT AREA



Located along Crocodile river, the **Kwena Dam** is a combined gravity and arch type boosting a total catchment area of 954 sq.km.

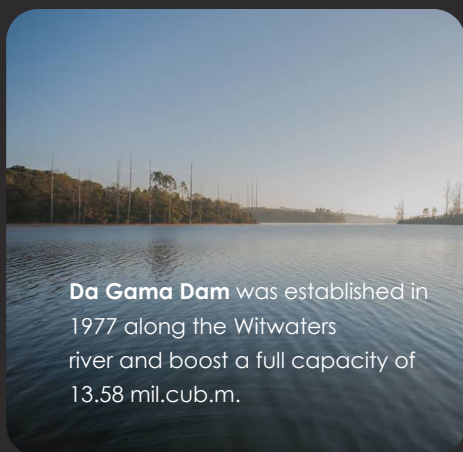


The **Driekoppies Dam** along the Lomati river boost a full capacity of 251 Mm³ and was opened in 1998.

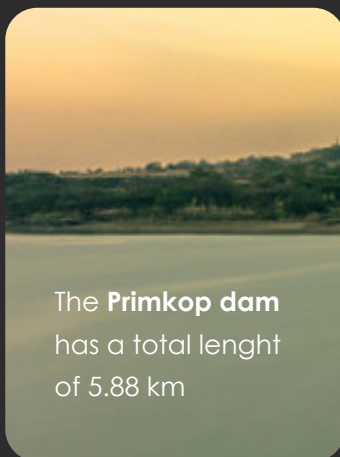
The **Jericho Dam** in Mpama river was built in 1966/68 with a full capacity of 59.5 mil.cub.m.



Da Gama Dam was established in 1977 along the Witwaters river and boost a full capacity of 13.58 mil.cub.m.



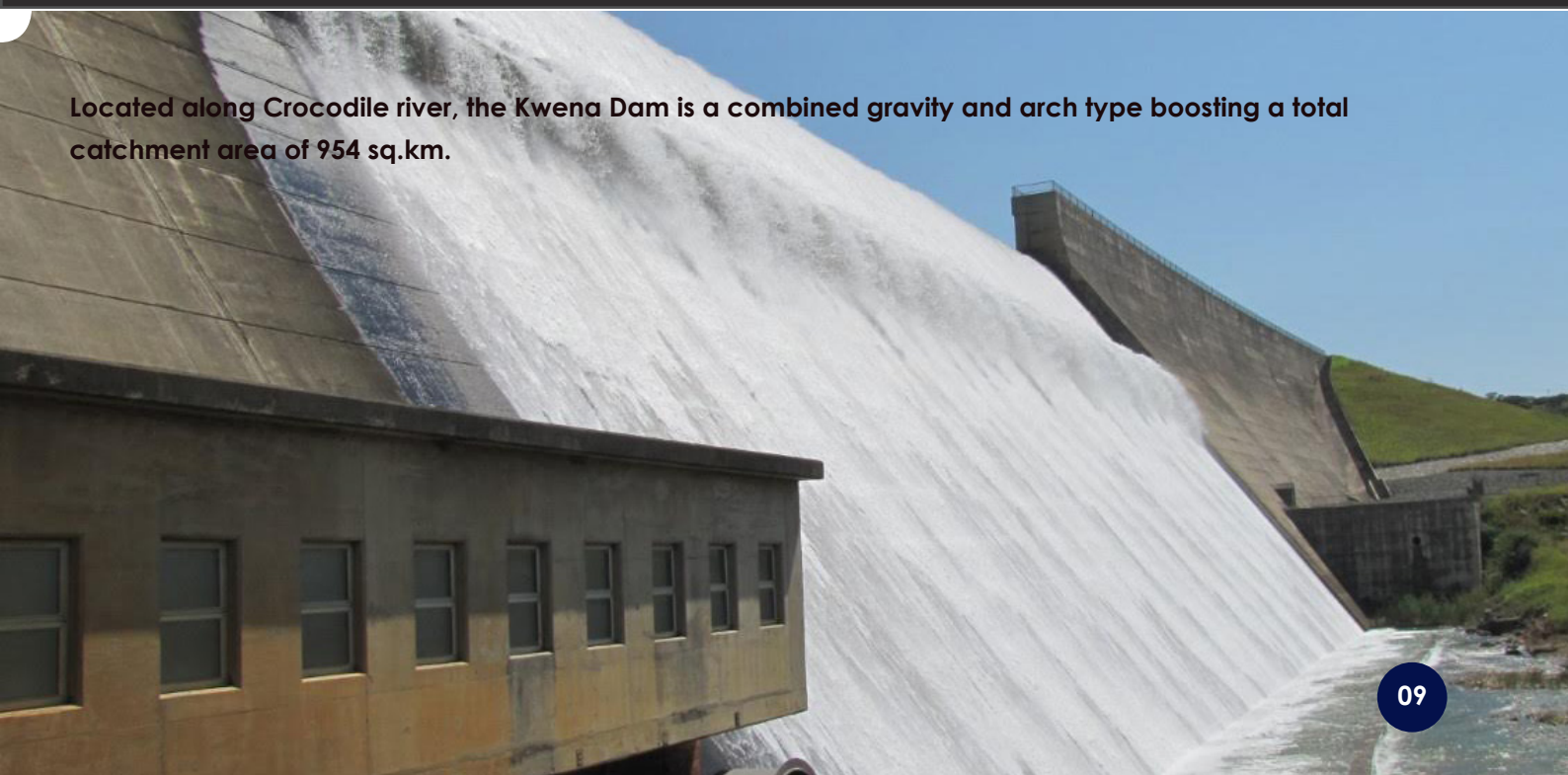
The **Primkop dam** has a total lenght of 5.88 km



Witklip dam along the Sand river near Sabie was opened in 1969 boosting a full capacity of 12.97 mil.

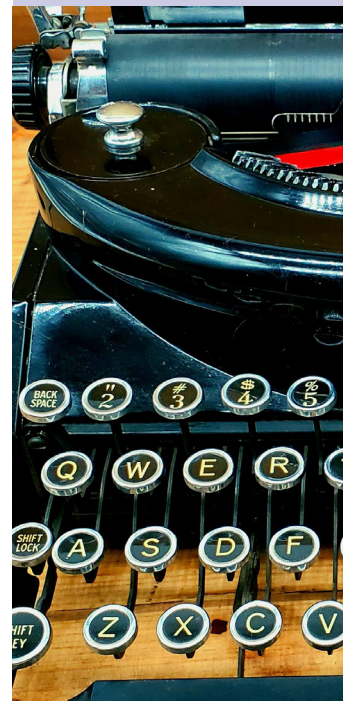


Located along Crocodile river, the **Kwena Dam** is a combined gravity and arch type boosting a total catchment area of 954 sq.km.





Editor's *Note*



Warm greetings, readers!

It is with great excitement and pride that I present this vibrant edition of Water News2day, the IUCMA's voice on important issues such as water stewardship, transformation, community empowerment, and innovation.

In this edition, we recognise milestones that reflect not only operational achievements but also human stories of growth, learning, and hope. From learners exploring science during Water Month to interns discovering their purpose through public service, the IUCMA continues to put people at the centre of water governance.

As editor, I've had the privilege of curating content that reflects our agency's dynamic efforts, from field-based rehabilitation and youth empowerment to policy-level transformation of irrigation boards. Each article offers a glimpse into a coordinated vision where science, service, and storytelling come together.

What stands out most in this issue is the clear theme of action: we see communities cleaning rivers, learners innovating for conservation, and professionals strengthening cybersecurity in water resource systems. These stories demonstrate that change is not abstract; it is happening tangibly here in our catchment.

A heartfelt thank you to our contributors who shared their voices and efforts. Your stories enrich this platform and exemplify the IUCMA's ongoing dedication to inclusive, transparent, and effective water management.



We invite you to engage, share, and be inspired.

Sincerely,

Ms. Sylvia Machimana, Editor – Water News2day



QR CODE FOR THE
IUCMA WEBSITE



PROGRESS ON THE TRANSFORMATION OF IRRIGATION BOARDS INTO WATER USE ASSOCIATIONS IN THE INKOMATI-USUTHU MANAGEMENT AREA.



Ms. Gugu Mabuza
Institutions & Participation

The transformation of Irrigation Boards into Water User Associations (WUAs) was called for by the Minister of Water and Sanitation, in accordance with the National Water Act (NWA) No. 36 of 1998, in 2023. Section 92 of the NWA provides for the establishment of Water User Associations (WUAs), which mandates that all registered water users must establish a WUA. Section 98 of the NWA provides for the transformation of Irrigation Boards, established under the 1956 Water Act, into Water User Associations (WUAs) through a consultative process.

The Irrigation Boards (IBs) are solely responsible for managing irrigation water. In contrast, the Water User Association (WUA) oversees all water uses, including irrigation, industry, municipalities, mines, and other applications, as directed by the Minister of Water and Sanitation. The IUCMA is currently facilitating the transformation of Irrigation Boards and the establishment of WUAs in three phases:

- Phase 1 of the project was concluded, during which broad-based stakeholder consultation sessions were held with the registered water users in the Water Management Area from 2023 to 2024. Proposed scenarios were presented to stakeholders during consultation sessions, taking into consideration the hydrological boundaries.

- Phase 2 of the project involved each sector in the specific irrigation district nominating representatives to form part of the Transitional Steering Committee (TSC) or Interim Management Committees (MANCOs) of the proposed WUAs. The role of these TSC or Interim MANCOS was to develop proposals and the constitution of the proposed water user associations. The proposal was submitted to the IUCMA for evaluation using the transformation guidelines developed by the Department of Water and Sanitation.

Three (3) Water Users' Associations, proposed to be transformed or established from the amalgamation of the 23 Irrigation Boards in the Inkomati-Usuthu Water Management Area, are as follows:

1. White River Water User Association, which amalgamates seven irrigation boards
2. White Waters Water User Associations amalgamate 3 irrigation Boards and
3. Lowveld Escarpment Water User Association amalgamates 14 irrigation boards

Three (3) Water Users' Associations, proposed to be transformed or established from the amalgamation of the 23 Irrigation

Boards in the Inkomati-Usuthu Water Management Area, are as follows:

1. White River Water User Association, which amalgamates seven irrigation boards
2. White Waters Water User Associations amalgamate 3 irrigation Boards and
3. Lowveld Escarpment Water User Association amalgamates 14 irrigation boards

Out of the three proposals, only two, the White Waters Water User Association and the White River Water User Association, were provisionally recommended to the DWS for final evaluation and approval, pending minor adjustments to their proposals. The Lowveld Escarpment WUA proposal is also due for final recommendation to the Department of Water and Sanitation for approval and gazetting once all the remaining information is received.

- In Phase 3, once the three (3) proposed water user associations are approved and gazetted, the establishment of the new Water User Associations in other parts of the Water Management Area, outside the current Irrigation Districts (Upper Komati and Usuthu catchments), will be initiated. The water users in these areas do not have Irrigation Boards and work directly with the IUCMA and the DWS to pay their water use charges for water resource management, infrastructure, and water research levies, respectively.

Inspiring the Next Generation: Celebrating Water Month Through Action, Education, and Collaboration



Siboniso Mahlalela
Communication & Intergovernmental
Relations

The Inkomati-Usuthu Catchment Management Agency (IUCMA), in collaboration with stakeholders from the water and environmental sector, Silulumanzi, and the Department of Water and Sanitation (DWS), joined forces to commemorate World Water Month in a unique and impactful manner.

The celebrations began with Silulumanzi's cleaning campaign and a visit to the water treatment works in Mbombela. This initiative aimed to educate learners from various primary schools outside Mbombela about the importance of protecting the environment and water resources. Learners were also introduced to the processes involved in water purification, illustrating the journey that water takes to reach our taps.

In a similar initiative, the Department of Water and Sanitation officially launched the Adopt-A-School National Programme at Benjamin Primary School in Matsulu, near Mbombela.

The event commenced with a school tour, during which delegates assessed the condition of water and sanitation facilities, including a vegetable garden that supports the school's nutrition programme. Stakeholders pledged to work together to restore the school's dignity by focusing on improving water quality, infrastructure, and empowering learners. DWS technical teams have committed to testing the school's borehole water and training learners to identify and fix water leaks.

School Principal, Mr Sipho Lekhuleni, welcomed the programme enthusiastically, expressing hope that it would significantly enhance the school's water and sanitation facilities over the next two years. KOBWA CEO, Mr Trevor Shongwe, commended the ongoing collaborative efforts of KOBWA, DWS, and IUCMA in educating learners about the value of water conservation.



Demonstration: Stakeholders demonstrating the importance of separating and packaging waste during Silulumanzi's cleaning campaign.



Drama: Baswa Lemetse educates the audience on the devastating impact of waterborne diseases through a compelling performance.

Delivering the keynote address at both the Adopt-A-School launch and the Science Schools Competition, Mpumalanga DWS Provincial Head, Ms Dudu Sifunda, highlighted the importance of access to clean water and dignified sanitation in promoting academic excellence. She urged stakeholders to invest in careers within the water sector through exhibitions and outreach programmes aimed at learners.

Several stakeholders from the public sector have demonstrated their support through generous contributions. KOBWA donated 25 pairs of gumboots for gardening, while SANParks (Krugers National Park) contributed five 90-litre Hippo Roller drums and vegetable seeds. DWS provided 10 handwashing buckets and detergents. Silulumanzi offered a 10,000-litre JoJo tank and school signage, while the Department of Forestry, Fisheries and the Environment (DFFE) donated indigenous trees to enhance the school's environment. Mpumalanga communities.

The Baswa Le Meetse group captivated guests with vibrant music, drama, and dance performances, all centred around water conservation and environmental protection.

The Water Month celebrations concluded with Silulumanzi hosting its inaugural Science Schools

Competition, themed around World Water Day. Learners showcased innovative methods for water conservation and demonstrated their understanding of water as a vital and precious resource. Letsakutfula Primary took first place, John Mduli Primary School secured second place, and Buhlebuyeta Primary School finished in third place.

These collective efforts represent a significant step towards restoring dignity in schools while fostering environmental consciousness and a deeper appreciation for water among young people. This understanding will enable them to better educate their communities and future generations about the importance of preserving this precious resource.



ENCOURAGEMENT: Ms Dudu Sifunda, DWS Mpumalanga Provincial Head encourages learners to measure in Maths & Science.



First Place: Learners from Letsakutfula Primary celebrate their first position during the Science Schools Competition.



Second Place: Learners from John Mdluli Primary School celebrate their second position during the Science Schools Competition.



Third Place: Learners from Buhlebuyeta Primary School celebrate their third position during the Science Schools Competition.

Water

saving tips



Kettles should
not be filled

to the brim but with just enough water for your needs. This will reduce your electricity bill too.



Taking a bath can use between

80 and 150

litres of water per bath.



Do not overfill

containers like pots, as this may result in using more energy to heat the water.



Fix a **leaking toilet** otherwise it can waste up to

100 000 litres

of water in one year.



PROTECT OUR STREAMS

OR ALTERNATIVELY DROP US A MESSAGE ON
THE "CONTACT US" BUTTON ON THE WEBSITE.

***Take action against pollution and be
involved in cleaning campaigns***



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*Inkomati-Usuthu CMA, your
partner in water management*



DON'T DISPOSE DIAPERS IN RIVERS AND DAMS

*Dispose diapers in rubbish bins
and stop pollution*

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parther in water management*

MPUMALANGA GOVERNMENT COMMEMORATES 49 YEARS SINCE THE 1976 SOWETO UPRISING.



Mr. Siboniso Mahlalela
*Communication & Intergovernmental
Relations*

The Mpumalanga Provincial Government commemorates 49 years since the historic 1976 Soweto Uprising with a vibrant Youth Day 2025 celebration held on 16 June at Mangweni Stadium in the Nkomazi Local Municipality, under the theme "Skills for the Changing World Empowering Youth for Meaningful Economic Participation." The event brought together communities, young people, and government departments to reflect on the legacy of youth activism and to inspire contemporary solutions for youth development.

In his keynote address, the Honourable Speedy Mashilo, Acting Premier, paid tribute to the courageous youth of 1976, acknowledging their role in shaping the path towards democracy. He urged today's youth to follow in their footsteps by embracing education, innovation, and leadership.

"Let us empower ourselves with knowledge and vision, so that we do not only commemorate June 16, but we live its purpose daily by uplifting our communities and contributing to a transformed economy. The youth of 1976 laid their lives for a purpose. They were driven by a resolve to bring down apartheid in favour of a non-racial, non-sexist, democratic, united and prosperous South Africa. We will forever remain grateful to them," said Mashilo.

He further noted that challenges such as youth unemployment, poverty, and gender-based violence must be addressed urgently, stating: "It cannot be business as usual when our youth are still roaming our streets unemployed."

The Acting Premier highlighted several success stories and transformation initiatives in the province that demonstrate the government's commitment to youth development and inclusive growth. One notable example is the official launch of a new boarding facility in Mkhondo Local Municipality, planned for later this year. This facility aims to enhance access to education, particularly for rural learners, and improve the overall quality of schooling.

Another significant achievement is the extensive reach of the Premier Youth Development Fund (PYDF), which has benefited all 17 local municipalities across the three districts in the province. This fund supports local youth projects and economic empowerment, ensuring that resources reach even the most marginalised communities.

Mpumalanga also stands out as the only province in South Africa with fully operational National Youth Development Agency (NYDA) offices in every district. This network enhances access to youth support services and skills development opportunities. Furthermore, the NYDA's recent rollout of an Enterprise Resource Planning (ERP) system enables young people to apply for services online, track their application progress, and interact digitally, thereby improving efficiency and accessibility.

The Premier also highlighted the significant step of transferring Elijah Mango College to Ehlanzeni TVET, thereby accelerating skills development in line with the theme of equipping youth for a changing world. This move signals the government's intent to strengthen technical and vocational education and training (TVET) opportunities for young people.

The event included an exhibition featuring various government departments and agencies. These stalls showcased programmes for youth development, educational support, entrepreneurship funding, and health services, highlighting the government's commitment to inclusive service delivery.

Among the exhibitors was the Inkomati-Usuthu Catchment Management Agency (IUCMA), which utilised the platform to engage young people about the significance of water conservation, career opportunities in the water sector, and sustainable resource use.

The Acting Premier, along with other dignitaries, delivered several tangible empowerment interventions to support the local community. These included the handover of wheelchairs to individuals in need, thereby improving mobility and independence. Vegetable seedlings were

also distributed to households to encourage local food production and enhance food security. Furthermore, two community centres received official registration certificates, formalising their status and enabling them to operate more effectively. To promote literacy and improve access to information, a donation of 250 library books was made to Shinyukane Secondary School. These acts of support reflected the government's dedication to creating opportunities, enhancing lives, and promoting social upliftment at the grassroots level.

Acting Premier Mashilo reminded young people that the future of the province lies in their hands. He referenced the newly adopted Medium-Term Development Plan (2024–2029). He reiterated its commitment to reducing poverty, increasing youth access to education and skills training, and promoting ethical leadership and social cohesion.

He urged young people to seize opportunities presented by platforms such as the Premier Youth Development Fund, NYDA's digitised support system, and the growing emphasis on digital skills, entrepreneurship, and innovation.

“When you become frustrated and choose not to continue the fight for a better Mpumalanga, you must know that you are failing the youth of 1976 who marched against an unjust education system,” he said.

In conclusion, the message was clear: empowerment is not a slogan but a sustained effort that must be reflected in daily actions, collaborative partnerships, and policy implementation. Youth Day 2025 served as a powerful reminder of past sacrifices and a bold call to action for a generation determined to lead South Africa into a brighter, more equitable future.



SUPPORT: Kgoshi Lameck Mokoena graces the commemoration with his presence.



EDUCATIONAL INITIATIVE: From (left) Inkosi SM Ngomane, Nkomazi Mayor, Cllr Magagula and Acting Premier Hon. Speed Mashilo hand over 250 library books to Shinyukani Secondary School.



ENTERTAINMENT: Learners from Silindokuhle Special School entertain guests with a vibrant musical performance.



KEYNOTE ADDRESS: Acting Premier, Hon. Speed Mashilo highlights key successes in the province's transformation.



WELCOMING & PURPOSE: Nkomazi Local Municipality mayor, Cllr Phindile Magagula warmly welcomes attendees and outlines the purpose of the event.



MOBILITY: Acting Premier hands over wheelchairs as part of government efforts to uplift vulnerable community members.



STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT: IUCMA officials actively engage with stakeholders during a knowledge-sharing session.



FOOD SECURITY: Acting Premier hands over seedless vegetables as part of efforts to eradicate poverty and promote food security.



VOTE OF THANKS: Ehlanzeni Distric Mayor, Cllr Terror Shabangu thanks the youth for their support at the event.

RESTORING RIVERS, RESTORING HOPE:

IUCMA'S RIVER REHABILITATION PROGRAMME REVIVES COMMUNITIES AND WATERWAYS.



Mr. Hasani Makhubele
Institutions & Participation

The Inkomati-Usuthu Catchment Management Agency (IUCMA) plays a crucial role in protecting one of South Africa's most vital resources: water. While the agency's mandate is clear, the reality on the ground presents a different narrative. Rivers are increasingly threatened by pollution, particularly in rural areas where population growth has outpaced the development of basic services. In these communities, the lack of proper waste management systems has resulted in the concerning practice of dumping waste directly into rivers, streams, and wetlands. Ironically, these very water sources are then utilised for drinking, farming, and watering livestock, creating a harmful and unsustainable cycle.

To address this growing challenge, the IUCMA introduced the Sustainable River Rehabilitation Programme (SRRP), a bold pilot project implemented over the 2023/24 and 2024/25 financial years. This initiative forms part of the agency's broader commitment to fulfilling its responsibilities under the National Water Act and the Pricing Strategy for water resource management. At its core, the SRRP is designed to restore degraded water ecosystems, shift community behaviours, and build long-term water security.

Pilot sites for the programme were carefully selected across six key sub-catchments in the Inkomati-Usuthu Water Management Area: Mahlobyanini Stream in Lilydale (Sabie catchment), Craigieburn Wetlands (Sand catchment), Mahhorwane Stream in Mzinti (Lower Komati), Mlondozi River in Ekulindeni (Upper Komati), Buyelani in Mbombela (Crocodile catchment), and Mahlabathini Stream in Amsterdam (Usuthu catchment). These areas were chosen not only for their environmental vulnerability but also for their potential to demonstrate meaningful change through rehabilitation.

Through the SRRP, the IUCMA aimed to achieve several key objectives: restoring the ecological health of streams and rivers, reducing pollution from solid and foreign waste, eliminating harmful practices such as illegal dumping, and empowering communities to become active stewards of their water resources. The programme also promoted citizen science by encouraging public involvement in monitoring local water quality and environmental conditions.

The results were inspiring. Over 90 short-term job opportunities were created, with a strong focus on youth and marginalised community members. For many, this was their first step into the formal job market, providing them with experience and confidence. The rehabilitation of riverbanks and waterways also opened new possibilities in agriculture and small-scale agri-business, contributing to food security in the regions.

On the environmental front, the SRRP achieved visible success. Rivers once choked with rubbish began to flow again. Aquatic habitats showed signs of recovery, and biodiversity gradually started to return. Young people, trained and mobilised as environmental stewards, played a vital role in cleaning riverbanks, removing invasive plants, and educating their neighbours about sustainable practices. In some communities, the initiative even sparked the creation of new NGOs focused on recycling and waste separation, sorting plastic, glass, aluminium, and cardboard from non-recyclables to reduce landfill waste and promote reuse.

Beyond the numbers and physical changes, perhaps the most powerful outcome was the shift in community mindset. People began to view rivers not as dumping sites but as part of their heritage, sources of pride, cultural identity, and traditional knowledge. Community members spoke of reconnecting with the land and water in ways that fostered a renewed sense of dignity and purpose. In their words, "This project brought hope where hope was fading fast."

The Programme has laid a strong foundation for future initiatives. Among the key lessons learned was the importance of education and awareness; genuine, lasting change begins with knowledge. Furthermore, the programme's success highlighted the power of partnerships. Collaboration among municipalities, non-governmental organisations, government departments, and the private sector proved essential in creating a lasting impact.

As IUCMA reflects on the success of this pilot initiative, one thing is clear: rehabilitating rivers can also rehabilitate communities. The SRRP is more than just a cleanup project; it serves as a model of what's achievable when people, policy, and purpose unite for the benefit of the environment and those who rely on it.

STRENGTHENING WATER RESOURCE PROTECTION: MINING TASK TEAM RE-ESTABLISHED IN THE UPPER KOMATI.



Ms. Busisiwe Mahlangu
Compliance Monitoring & Enforcement



Ms. Caroline Tlowana
Resource Quality Management

In a significant move to protect our rivers and water resources, the Inkomati-Usuthu Catchment Management Agency (IUCMA) has re-established the Mining Technical Task Team (TTT). This team will focus on tackling the environmental damage caused by mining in the Upper Komati catchment area.

The official relaunch of the TTT took place on 20 May 2025, during a stakeholder meeting hosted by Ilima Coal Mine (Pty) Ltd. At the meeting, Mr Mashudu Gangazhe was appointed Chairperson, and Mr Livhuwani Mukwevho assumed the role of Deputy Chairperson. IUCMA will serve as the secretariat for the team. All members were encouraged to review and provide feedback on the draft Terms of Reference by 20 June 2025.

This re-establishment has received strong support from various sectors, including mining companies, the Department of Petroleum, Mineral Resources and Energy (DPMRE), the Department of Water and Sanitation (DWS), the Council for Geoscience, and other key players. Going forward, the TTT will meet quarterly to discuss progress. Mining houses will be expected to report on actions taken to manage pollution and reduce environmental risks. Updates will be shared with the DMPR Working Group to ensure alignment and accountability.

A Team Effort to Manage the Catchment

The IUCMA, established under the National Water Act (Act No. 36 of 1998), is responsible for managing and protecting water resources within the Inkomati-Usuthu Water Management Area. This region encompasses four major catchments: Sabie-Sand, Crocodile, Komati, and Usuthu. The Komati River flows across three countries, South Africa, eSwatini, and Mozambique, making it a vital resource for communities, industry, agriculture, and ecosystems.

As mining activities increase, so do the challenges of striking a balance between economic development and environmental protection. The IUCMA employs Resource Directed Measures (RDM) and Source Directed Controls (SDC) to ensure that water use supports long-term sustainability. Tools such as Resource Quality Objectives (RQOs) and the ecological Reserve, which are already approved and gazetted, assist in guiding decisions regarding the management of the catchment.

What Will the Task Team Do?

The re-established Technical Task Team (TTT) is dedicated to delivering practical and measurable improvements in water quality within the Upper Komati catchment. Its primary focus is to identify and prioritise areas most severely affected by mining activities, both past and present, to facilitate targeted interventions. The team will develop and propose a combination of short-term actions, such as immediate pollution control measures, and long-term strategies aimed at preventing future environmental damage. A key element of the TTT's approach is to strengthen collaboration between regulatory bodies, local municipalities, and the mining sector to ensure coordinated and sustained action.

In addition, the team will design a comprehensive protection and remediation framework that specifically addresses the challenges posed by both operational and abandoned mines. Robust monitoring and evaluation systems will be established to track progress, assess the effectiveness of interventions, and enable swift responses to emerging issues. This evidence-based approach will support informed decision-making and contribute to building public confidence in the catchment's rehabilitation efforts.

Working Together for a Cleaner Future

Success will depend on everyone playing their part. Through the TTT, stakeholders now possess a shared platform to discuss issues, eliminate roadblocks, and take action. With commitment and cooperation, it is possible to reverse the damage and safeguard the Upper Komati catchment for future generations.

Let's join forces and take responsibility for our rivers, our communities, and our future.

ANNUAL TARRIFF CONSULTATION INVITATION (2026/27)

The Inkomati Usuthu Catchment Management Agency (IUCMA) is mandated to convene a process of tariff determination of water use charges for the catchment in terms of section 57(1) and (2) of the National Water Act 36 of 1998 read with paragraph 6.3 of the Pricing Strategy for Raw Water Use Charges published under Government notice No. 201 of 16 March 2007 in Government Gazette No. 29697. The process of determination requires extensive and engaged public participation to be convened by the IUCMA as per section 80(e) of the National Water Act 36 of 1998.

The IUCMA would like to extend an invitation to all water users and interested parties to participate in the tariff consultation scheduled as follows:

DATE	TIME	VENUE	SUB-CATCHMENT
04 July 2025	10:00	Ingwenyama Lodge (White River)	Crocodile, Lower-Komati, Sabie & Sand
08 July 2025	10:00	Amsterdam Community Hall	Upper Komati and Usuthu
18 July 2025	10:00	Emnotweni Arena	All catchments - Strategic Water Users

At these meetings, as part of the background to justify the water use charges determined by the IUCMA presentations on the establishment of the IUCMA, the powers and functions of the IUCMA, Annual Performance Plan for 2025/26 that includes the 2025/26 budget and water use determination will be made.

The Department of Water and Sanitation will give background to justify the water use charges determined by the Minister for funding of water resource development and use of water works as well as for achieving the equitable and efficient allocation of water.

This community participation is convened by the IUCMA as contemplated in section 80(e) of the National Water Act 36 of 1998. Persons and or institutions having an interest in the water use charges who confirm their availability will receive the documents through e-mail and at the venue on the day of the Consultation Meeting.

Enquiries can be directed to Ms. G. Shongwe and Ms. W. Mabuza at telephone number 013 753 9000 or by electronic mail at shongweg@iucma.co.za and mabuzaw@iucma.co.za respectively.

For more info visit www.iucma.co.za

We would like to thank you in anticipation of your attendance and hope to see you there.



From learning to leading: Inside the IUCMA internship journey.



Ms. Sylvia Machinama
*Communication & Intergovernmental
Relations*

An internship at the Inkomati-Usuthu Catchment Management Agency (IUCMA) isn't just a steppingstone to the world of work, but a launchpad for meaningful environmental stewardship, public sector engagement, and professional development.

Located in Mpumalanga, with its head office in Nelspruit (Mbombela), the IUCMA manages water resources under the National Water Act in the Inkomati and Usuthu Water Management Area. It remains dedicated to fair, sustainable, and integrated water resource management, driven by its core values of empowerment, stakeholder participation, and ecosystem protection.

Why choose an IUCMA internship?

An internship at IUCMA offers more than just work experience; it provides a gateway into meaningful and impactful public service. Interns are exposed to real-world challenges that directly contribute to water resource management and environmental sustainability in the Inkomati-Usuthu Water Management Area. Whether supporting water-use authorisation, assisting with revenue management, designing communication materials, or helping to monitor river health, interns actively participate in work that makes a difference. The environment at IUCMA is both professional and supportive, fostering personal and professional growth through hands-on mentoring, cross-department collaboration, and a culture of continuous learning. With a wide range of disciplines available, interns are empowered to explore diverse career paths and identify their strengths. All of this is made possible through IUCMA's structured Graduate Development Programme, which offers clear learning pathways and practical engagement opportunities, providing a solid foundation for any young professional entering the water sector or public service.

Next, let's hear directly from eight former interns who represent the diverse, enriching experiences IUCMA provides. Their stories collectively highlight an IUCMA journey driven by hands-on professional exposure, personal development, and project-focused support, all united by a desire to contribute meaningfully to sustainable water management.



I. Mahlalela Siboniso Bright – Communication & IGR

During my tenure as a Communication and Intergovernmental Relations intern at the Inkomati-Usuthu Catchment Management Agency (IUCMA), I was exposed to a dynamic and professional working environment. I had the privilege of working within a supportive and passionate team that encouraged collaboration, creativity, and continuous learning.

The experience allowed me to apply my academic knowledge in real-world settings. I contributed to the layout and design of internal publications, managed website content updates, created digital marketing banners, and supported stakeholder engagement initiatives through Intergovernmental Relations (IGR). I was also introduced to the procurement processes for communication materials and developed a deeper understanding of the importance of clear, consistent messaging.

This opportunity significantly enhanced my skills in digital communication, content creation, stakeholder engagement, and overall strategic communication. I intend to use these skills to build a meaningful career focused on impactful communication, strong stakeholder relations, and effective brand positioning in either the public or private sector.



2. Shongwe Ntokozo- Institutions & Participation

My overall experience at the Inkomati-Usuthu Catchment Management Agency (IUCMA) has been both enriching and rewarding. I had the opportunity to work with a team of highly skilled and dedicated professionals who are very passionate. The work environment was supportive, inclusive, and collaborative, which enabled me to grow both personally and professionally.

I gained valuable insights into the challenges and responsibilities involved in managing water resources. Additionally, the experience enhanced my communication skills, broadened my understanding of the Institution, and the importance of community participation in water management.

Overall, my time at IUCMA was a positive and impactful experience that has strengthened my commitment to working and contributing my skills in any sector in the future.



3. Sibambo Nomsa- Revenue Management

My experience at IUCMA as a Revenue intern has been incredibly enriching. I've gained valuable insights into revenue management processes, and the team's support has been fantastic. I've enjoyed working on real-world

projects, analysing data and contributing to revenue growth strategies.

During my internship, I've developed skills in data analysis, interpretation, Revenue forecasting, market research, trends analysis, communication and presentation. I've also strengthened my problem-solving, time management and teamwork skills. Moving forward, I plan to apply these skills in various ways. I will leverage data analysis and revenue forecasting skills to drive business growth in future roles. I will continue to develop my market research skills to stay current with industry trends and remain competitive. I will also utilise my communication and presentation skills to effectively convey complex data insights to stakeholders. This internship has provided me with a solid foundation in revenue management, and I'm excited to build upon these skills in my future career.



4. Cebile Zodwa Ngobeni- Information Technology

During my tenure as an IT Technician at IUCMA, I gained valuable hands-on experience and had the opportunity to explore various aspects of the IT field. IUCMA has been a great environment to start my professional journey, offering both support and opportunities for growth. One of the highlights of my internship was being able to pursue training in Microsoft Azure Fundamentals and Administration, which aligned perfectly with my career development goals. The skills and knowledge I've acquired here have strengthened my technical foundation, and I look forward to applying them in future roles as I continue to grow in the IT industry.



5. Mbalenhle Ngobe- Strategic Support

The graduate development programme has been a milestone in my career, providing invaluable experiences that will significantly assist me in accomplishing my goals. During this programme, I have developed a deeper interest in planning, monitoring, and evaluation, recognising its critical role in achieving organisational outcomes. It has been a period of learning and growth, and the knowledge I have acquired from strategic planning, data analysis, performance management, quality assurance and monitoring and evaluation will contribute positively to my career. Additionally, I am grateful for the support and guidance I have received from my mentor and other colleagues with whom I have collaborated. They have been an incredible resource, and I have benefited from their wisdom and encouragement.



6. Sibusiso Mathonsi- Information Technology

My internship at IUCMA has been an incredibly enriching experience, enabling me to deepen my technical expertise while also advancing my professional growth. I was actively involved in configuring the organisational network

This role not only enhanced my technical capabilities but also helped me develop interpersonal skills through consistent engagement with colleagues across all divisions. It was particularly fulfilling to break the stereotype of IT professionals being purely technical, as I was able to build confidence through meaningful, people-centred support. Driven by curiosity and a proactive mindset, I identified operational gaps within the organisation outside of my formal duties that could impact financial efficiency. This led me to conduct internal stakeholder engagement and perform business analysis, culminating in the development of an "Existing Lawful Use" (ELU) system. Using my software engineering background, I designed and built this solution, which gained significant attention within the organisation. I plan to carry forward these valuable experiences, combining technical knowledge, business insight, and stakeholder collaboration in my future career.



7. Katsuko Goolam- Water Use Authorisation

My overall experience at the IUCMA was enriching and diverse, encompassing the evaluation and processing of water use licences in line with legislation and guidelines to promote sustainable water quality management. I was involved in the validation and verification of Existing Lawful Water Use, which included processing applications, conducting site inspections, and calculating dam capacities. I also actively reviewed environmental documents, responded to stakeholder queries, and enforced compliance through inspections, audits, and the issuance of directives. Furthermore, I contributed to the River Ecosystem Monitoring Programme (REMP) by conducting fieldwork, including fish and macro-invertebrate sampling and assessing riparian vegetation, which deepened my understanding of water resource protection and ecological monitoring. My overall experience working with the staff at IUCMA was truly amazing and inspiring. The team was supportive, knowledgeable, and dedicated to sustainable water management, which made my time both rewarding and motivating. We worked so well together that it often felt like a family, even outside the office. This friendly and supportive environment made my experience enjoyable and helped me grow both personally and professionally.

I developed and strengthened a range of technical and analytical skills, including evaluating water use licences, reviewing environmental documents, and applying the National Water Act for compliance and enforcement purposes. I enhanced my fieldwork and ecological monitoring skills through assessments of fish, macroinvertebrates, and riparian vegetation. I also gained practical experience in processing and validating Existing Lawful Use applications. Additionally, I enhanced my stakeholder engagement, report writing, problem-solving, and decision-making skills, particularly when addressing complex environmental issues and non-compliance matters.

Moving forward, I intend to apply the skills acquired from the River Ecosystems Monitoring Programme (REMP) to effectively monitor and evaluate aquatic ecosystems. These competencies will enable me to contribute to informed water resource management and ecological conservation efforts, ensuring the protection and sustainability of freshwater environments.



8. Andile Mbokane- Records and Auxiliary

I would like to express my sincere gratitude to my mentors, supervisors, colleagues, and everyone who has contributed significantly to my wonderful career development throughout this internship. As a Records and Auxiliary intern, my responsibilities records and performing other administrative tasks. I have developed strong skills in controlling access to confidential information, formalising the record management policy, creating, capturing, maintaining, and protecting records, as well as data entry and information management using the Electronic Document Management System (ORBIT). I also possess skills in interpersonal problem-solving, independence, and client service. These skills not only enhanced my professional capabilities but also contributed to personal development. I am planning to apply these skills to an organisation that prioritises continuous learning and growth, as I am passionate and committed to delivering excellence and fostering innovation in the information science field by ensuring that organisational goals are achieved and aligned.

STRENGTHENING CYBERSECURITY IN WATER RESOURCE MANAGEMENT



Mr. Sibusiso Mathonsi
Information Technology

As digital systems become increasingly integral to managing water resources across South Africa, the threat of cyberattacks targeting critical infrastructure is escalating. The Inkomati-Usuthu Catchment Management Agency (IUCMA) recognises that protecting its information systems is not only a matter of operational efficiency but also of national importance.

In the context of escalating global cyber threats, including ransomware, phishing, and attacks on industrial control systems, the water sector has emerged as a potential target. A compromised system could disrupt water quality monitoring, delay environmental reporting, or expose sensitive stakeholder data. To mitigate these risks, IUCMA has prioritised cybersecurity as a fundamental aspect of its digital transformation strategy.

As part of its internal resilience efforts, IUCMA has launched a cybersecurity awareness programme aimed at equipping all staff with the knowledge to identify and prevent cyber threats. Through structured training sessions and regular updates, employees across departments are empowered to practise safe online behaviour, report suspicious activities, and adhere to best practices in data handling.

This dedicated ICT team plays a crucial role in maintaining the integrity of IUCMA's systems, overseeing secure network infrastructure, implementing access controls, and ensuring data encryption. The IT Division also conducts regular system audits and vulnerability assessments, ensuring that security protocols remain aligned with evolving threats. These proactive measures support IUCMA's broader mandate of safeguarding water resources through reliable, uninterrupted service delivery.

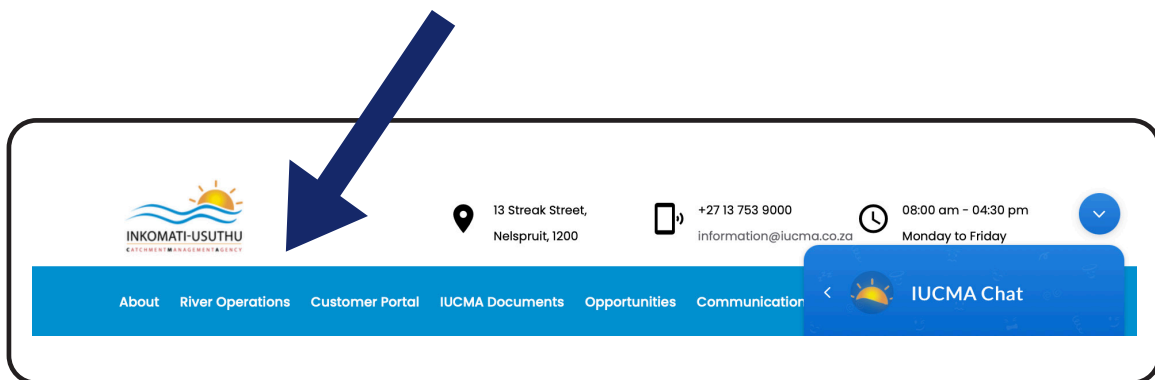
In an era where cyber risks are escalating globally, IUCMA's focus on digital security demonstrates a responsible and forward-thinking approach. By investing in both technology and personnel, the organisation is not only protecting its systems but also reinforcing public trust in its capability to manage one of the region's most vital resources.

River Operations Web Portal

River 
Operations
Web Portal

The Inkomati-Usuthu Catchment Management Agency is committed to bring you all the information you need to enable you to use water wisely and considerably. The IUCMA has established a web portal for River Operations that brings you the daily flows of the water in the Catchment. To gain access to this information, please log on to

<http://riverops.inkomaticma.co.za/>



River 
Operations
Web Portal

CAREER GUIDANCE

FOR LEARNERS INTERESTED IN WATER RESOURCE MANAGEMENT



*Ms Ntokozo Shongwe
Institutions & Participation*

The Inkomati-Usuthu Catchment Management Agency (IUCMA) is an agency that has been established in terms of the relevant section of the National Water Act, Act 36 of 1998. The IUCMA has been established by the National Department of Water Affairs (DWA) in terms of the Act, to specifically implement certain sections of the Act. The mentioned sections of the Act address the management, protection, development and prevention of pollution of the national water resources.

The IUCMA is the first agency to be established by the DWA in the Mpumalanga area. The IUCMA has the responsibility to protect and manage the Crocodile River, Sabie, Inkomati Rivers and their tributaries within the Inkomati Water Management Area.

Career options and study opportunities in the form of financial assistance are offered by IUCMA. Since the IUCMA is a science focused institution, subject choices during high school should include science, geographical sciences, biological sciences and mathematics.

The breakdown of career choices offered by the IUCMA is indicated below:

1. Water Resource Specialist/Manager

Academic qualifications:

- 1.1. Bachelor of Science degree in (Aquaculture; Biology; Chemistry; Chemical Engineering; Biochemistry; Microbiology, Limnology; Zoology; Botany; Civil Engineering)
- 1.2. Bachelor of Science in Environmental Sciences (Geography; Geographical Information System; Geology)
- 1.3. Bachelor of Technology Water Care
- 1.4. Bachelor of Technology Analytical Chemistry

2. Hydrologist

Academic qualification:

- 2.1. Bachelor of Science (Hydrology; Hydrological Modelling; Water Quality Modelling)

3. Aquatic scientist

Academic qualification:

- 3.1. Bachelor of Science (River Health; Aquaculture; Bio-monitoring; Water and Waste Water; Water Quality Management; Zoology; botany; Limnology)

4. Water Resources Planners

Academic qualification:

- 4.1. Bachelor of Science/Engineering (Water Engineering; Chemical; Waste Water Treatment; Water Resources Modelling)

5. Water Resources Compliance Monitoring and Enforcement

Academic qualifications:

- 5.1. Bachelor of Science degree in (Biology; Chemistry; Chemical Engineering; Biochemistry; Microbiology, Environmental Law; Hydrology; Geohydrology; Civil Engineering)

- 5.2. Bachelor of Science in Environmental Sciences in (Geography; Environmental Law, Geographical Information System)

- 5.3. Law degree (Environmental Law)

6. Geohydrologist

Academic qualifications:

- 6.1. Bachelor of Science (Hydro-geology; Hydrology)
- 6.2. Bachelor of Technology (Geo-hydrology; Hydrology; Water Resources Modelling; Water Quality Management)

7. Stakeholder Management

Academic Qualifications:

- 7.1. Bachelor of Arts (Developmental Studies; Public Administration; Public Management; Social Studies)
- 7.2. Bachelor of Technology (Developmental Studies; Public Administration; Public Management)

LIST OF SOUTH AFRICAN UNIVERSITIES

EASTERN CAPE



RHODES UNIVERSITY
Where leaders learn

Tel: 046 603 8148
Website: www.ru.ac.za
Email: registration@ru.ac.za

NELSON MANDELA
UNIVERSITY

Tel: 041 504 1111
Website: www.mandela.ac.za
Email: info@mandela.ac.za



University of Fort Hare
Together in Excellence

Tel: 040 653 2312
Website: www.ufh.ac.za
Email: admissions@ufh.ac.za



Tel: 047 502 2200
Website: www.wsu.ac.za
Email: postmaster@wsu.ac.za

***“For more Universities
view page 36 and 37”***

LIMPOPO

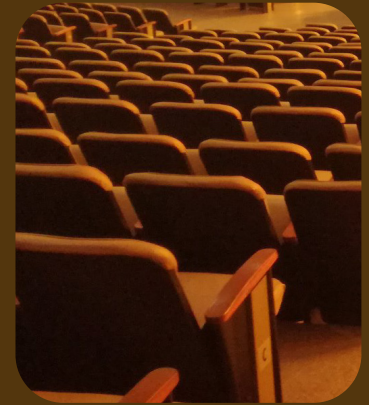


University of Venda
Creating Future Leaders

Tel: 015 962 8000
Website: www.univen.ac.za
Email: info@univen.ac.za



Tel: 015 268 9111
Website: www.ul.ac.za
Email: enrolment@ul.ac.za



FREE STATE



**Central University of
Technology, Free State**

Tel: 051 507 3911
Website: www.cut.ac.za
Email: tomttemple@cut.ac.za



Tel: 051 401 2114
Website: www.ufs.ac.za
Email: Studentadmin@ufs.ac.za



KWAZULU NATAL



Tel: 031 373 2411
Website: www.dut.ac.za
Email: info@dut.ac.za



Tel: 031 260 2227
Website: www.unizulu.ac.za
Email: enquiries@ukzn.ac.za

NORTH WEST



Tel: 018 299 1111/2222
Website: www.nwu.ac.za
Email: applicationsug@nwu.ac.za



**UNIVERSITY OF
ZULULAND**

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Website: www.ukzn.ac.za
Email: info@unizulu.ac.za



Tel: 031 907 7111
Website: www.mut.ac.za
Email: info@mut.ac.za

MPUMALANGA



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Email: info@ump.ac.za

GAUTENG



Tel: 011 717 1102
Website: www.wits.ac.za
Email: studentaffairs@wits.ac.za



Tel: 012 429 3111
Website: www.unisa.ac.za
Email: study-info@unisa.ac.za



**Tshwane University
of Technology**
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Website: www.tut.ac.za
Email: info@ump.ac.za



Tel: 012 420 4111
Website: www.up.ac.za
Email: ssc@up.ac.za



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Website: www.vut.ac.za
Email: reception@vut.ac.za



**UNIVERSITY
OF
JOHANNESBURG**

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Website: www.uj.ac.za
Email: mylife@uj.ac.za

WESTERN CAPE



**UNIVERSITY of the
WESTERN CAPE**

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Website: www.uwc.ac.za
Email: admissions@uwc.ac.za



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of Technology**

We empower people

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Website: www.uct.ac.za
Email: admissions@uct.ac.za

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**SOL PLAATJE
UNIVERSITY**

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Email: information@spu.ac.za



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Website: www.sun.ac.za
Email: info@sun.ac.za



Tel: 021 959 3900
Website: www.cput.ac.za
Email: info@cput.ac.za



Tel: 013 753 9000



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