



MEDIA STATEMENT
For Immediate Release
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IUCMA RESPONDS TO ALLEGATIONS REPORTED IN THE SUNDAY WORLD NEWSPAPER

The Inkomati-Usuthu Catchment Management Agency (IUCMA) dismisses the allegations published in the Sunday World newspaper on 03 August 2025, which seek to create the false narrative that the IUCMA contravened recruitment processes when filling the Executive: Water Resources Management position.

The Sunday World's article is maliciously predicated on an internal working document which was still subject to additional verification and processing, where it is incorrectly contended that the IUCMA "sidelined its HR department when hiring a foreign national who did not have a work permit and whose qualifications it did not verify". These contentions are baseless and without merit. On the contrary, the incumbent of the position was in fact in possession of a Permanent Residency Permit, which allows the holder to freely work in South Africa, and this was disclosed to the IUCMA during the recruitment process. All qualifications of the incumbent were fully verified and are in order. The recruitment process was handled through the guidance and assistance of an expert recruitment agency, and every effort was taken to ensure that the process was transparent and fair to all candidates. The incumbent was ultimately appointed on merit and they have gone on to contribute immensely towards the provision of sufficient, equitable and quality water resources for all in the Inkomati-Usuthu water management area. Deliberately incorrect and false reporting of this nature only serves as an unnecessary distraction from our important mandate.

While we do not consider the IUCMA above public scrutiny, we do, however, support accurate and responsible investigative journalism that adheres to the fundamental tenets of journalistic integrity and the Code of Ethics and Conduct for South African Print and Online Media. It was observed that prior to publishing the article, the Sunday World failed to give the IUCMA sufficient time to formulate a considered response, nor were any of the role players approached for comment. In a matter such as this, which has the potential to detrimentally affect the reputation of the institution and those involved, there was an expectation of fairness, as well as additional investigation and verification. The IUCMA accordingly grants the Sunday World the opportunity to immediately retract these spurious allegations and to issue a formal apology to the institution and to Mr Charles Mohalaba, before other options for recourse are explored.

End.

Enquiries can be submitted in writing via email to Ms Sylvia Machimana at sylviam@iucma.co.za.

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Inkomati-Usuthu Catchment Management Agency (IUCMA).