

# Umdoni Residents' Water Woes Continue

**THE RISING Sun** has recently been inundated with calls from the residents of Umzinto Heights, Ghandinagar, Dududu, KwaCele, Malangeni, Park Rynie and Braemar, who are frustrated with the water problems that have been experienced for some months now. They say that the excuses made by Ugu are meaningless and that requests for water tankers are rare. Calls for assistance from the municipality are almost always ignored. These residents say that despite being paying customers, Ugu is not forthcoming with answers to the real reason for these repeated water supply interruptions.



Water from a tap in Braemar.

It is a known fact Ugu that is facing the problems of aging infrastructure and inadequate budgets. Lack of efficiency and response from Ugu itself has increased the frustration of paying customers who feel neglected. Braemar residents have suffered for so long that they now call themselves the stepchildren of Ugu. Recently, this community had brown water coming out of the taps. Customers in Dududu are suffering to such an extent that some people have been absent from work for days due to being sick after drinking dirty water. School children are also staying at home as there is no water to take baths. This disrupts their education. There is no water for cooking and washing in this area.

Sometimes residents do not have drinking water. Their only hope is rain. Calls to Ugu are useless as even water tankers appear only rarely. If they do come, they arrive late at night or the trucks park in one place, expecting the residents to walk long distances. They are forced to secure transport to take them to areas that have water. Another affected community lives in Falcon Road in Ghandinagar. For the past two years they have had no water from Friday to Tuesday. However, only some houses are faced with this problem. What irks the residents are the various excuses when they contact Ugu to ask for assistance.

According to Ms K. Pillay, who lives in Falcon Road, it is most frustrating as water is a basic necessity of which they are being deprived, despite their water bills being paid up to date. When they do have water, they need to ensure that all empty containers are filled for washing, cooking, cleaning and flushing the toilet.

They also need to have money on hand to buy fresh water for drinking. The worst affect-

ed are the elderly, the infirm and mothers with babies. All these residents ask how Ugu expects them to survive without water, especially now that the third wave of the Coronavirus is upon us. Another resident, Mr Gumdeen said that it is unfair that other residents in the area have water when he does not. What makes it worse it that there are no water tankers. Imagine hardly ever having water and then getting a ridiculously high bill for water one did not use. There is just no efficiency in Ugu Municipality. He once went to record his meter reading and was shocked to note that he had been charged for 80 litres of water he had not used.

Umzinto Heights residents were without water for three days recently and this is an ongoing occurrence in this area.

According to Mrs Simbu, she worries about the old and the bed-ridden who are unable to collect water. There are also those who have no transport.

It is not fair that paying customers do not have the use of water tankers but outlying areas have tankers dispatched to them. Ugu makes numerous excuses which have all been heard before but no improvements are forthcoming. Why can't Ugu plan ahead as Ugu knows that the infrastructure is old and water supplies are interrupted by broken pipes, etc.

Even the domestic water tanks are now empty and it breaks the residents' hearts to see water overflowing from the reservoir while they suffer. School children and people coming home from work have it really hard with no water for baths. With the coronavirus affecting us all, people constantly need water to keep themselves and the environment clean, but Ugu has made that very difficult to achieve.

On behalf of the Umzinto Heights residents, Mrs Simbu wants to thank Councillor Asghaar Khan for always coming to their aid.

He is constantly inundated with calls regarding Ugu and Eskom issues and he is always willing to help.

According to the World Health Organisation, 829 000 people die each year from diarrhoea as a result of unsafe drinking-water and poor sanitation.

Safe drinking-water, sanitation and hygiene are crucial to human health and well-being.

They are not only prerequisites to health, but contribute to livelihoods, school attendance and dignity and help to create resilient communities living in healthy environments. With this in mind, residents have asked how they are meant to survive under unhealthy conditions.

A response from Ugu Municipality had not been received at the time of print.

**FOR SEAMLESS ALUMINIUM GUTTERS**

## Life Gutters

Elliot Hall Cell: 082 468 3375  
Email: lifegutters@gmail.com

### DEALS 4-U MOUNT ALBERT STORAGE, PENNINGTON DRAFT BASIC ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT

Deals 4-U proposes to construct and operate storage units and a private mechanical workshop on the property known as Mount Albert along the R102 approximately 400m from the main Pennington intersection, Pennington, Umdoni Local Municipality, Ugu District Municipality.

Environmental authorisation following a basic environmental assessment process is required in terms of the National Environmental Management Act, 1998, and the 2014 EIA Regulations as amended. The Draft Basic Assessment Report (DBAR) can be viewed at Pennington Library and at Mount Albert from 8 June 2021.

Please register as an Interested and Affected Party stating your interest, concerns and comments on the DBAR before 9 July 2021 to

**The Independent Environmental Advisor**  
by email: sarah.wine@iuncapped.co.za;  
fax: 086 242 2646;  
post: PO Box 586 HOWICK 3290; or  
tel: 071 975 4865,  
Attention Sarah Allan.

Date of Notice: 8 June 2021.



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JRB bearings team Yunus Salejee (co-ordinator), Dino Koulountis (co-owner), John Rosendahl, (co-owner) and Suleman Siraj.

## Successful Open Day At JRB Bearings

JRB Bearings in Park Rynie hosted its first ever trade show on Saturday, May 29. The open day was well-supported by various Durban stakeholders such as Actom Electrical, AQS Liquid Systems, CMH Peugeot and Nissan, Safequip, DAB Pumps and Indy Oils, who displayed their products.

From tools and shoes to biltong, the stalls had much to offer. Covid-19 protocols were adhered to to ensure the safety of all visitors. Co-owners John Rosendahl and Dino Koulountis said that JRB was unique in the local trade and wanted to show that by means of the trade show. "We are very happy with the response from customers at the show and we are optimistic about hosting more trade shows in the future."



Resource Drilling.



Crystal and team from CMH Peugeot and Nissan.



Dave Reid from Orca.



SafeQuip.



Dean Pillay and Martin Van Ballegooyen of Actom Electrical Machines.



Tiana van der Walt, Chantel Steyn and Julia-Lee van der Merwe of R&M Express at their biltong stand.



Anoop from Sabat Battery.



Jody at the La Shastha Shoes Stand.

Indy Oils.