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GAME-CHANGER FOR MATSULU PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES



From Left to Right: Cllr. Donald Magongo– Ward 27; Cllr. Sabelo Masuku-Ward 28; Deputy Minsiter of DRDLR, Mrs. Candith Mashego-Dlamini; Silulumanzi Managing Director, Mr. Marius van Aardt.

In June 2018, the Masibambisane Centre for People with Disabilities, in Matsulu, became the recipients of a generous donation of a brand new brickmaking machine and accessories, a secure storage container and sewing machines from Silulumanzi.

This donation is part of Silulumanzi’s corporate social investment drive to plough back into communities by investing in projects that contribute to the improvement of the lives of those that are most vulnerable. The brickmaking machine and sewing machines will ensure that the 101 beneficiaries remain physically and mentally active whilst doing something that earns them money. Their loved ones will also benefit through the additional income generated by the sale of the products made by these special people.

Silulumanzi will support the centre on an ongoing basis to ensure the machines are working, and assist them to find buyers for the goods made. In this manner we contribute to growing the Township economy and making a difference in the communities we serve.

Vital Partners. Essential Solutions.

Where ARE we?

1 November 2018 is the 19th anniversary of our company. It provides us with a moment to pause and ask: **Where are we?** We can look back at the many achievements, accolades and awards received in rendering water and sanitation services to communities on behalf of the municipality. At the same time we realize that many communities still do not enjoy uninterrupted supply of clean drinking water or sanitation services. You may ask, why is this situation persisting? The root causes are rapidly expanding new settlements and population growth while the provision of services to these are not keeping up. The situation is further complicated by aging existing infrastructure and limited Government funding to eradicate the backlog.

On top of this, out of dire need some resort to making unauthorized connections to the water system, while there are some who do so to avoid paying for services. This drags the already fragile systems further down closer to collapse. We are in discussions with the municipality for the next 5-yearly review to better address the service backlog and create an awareness amongst all citizens to cooperate with the municipality so as to improve levels of service. The value of water must be appreciated and shared responsibly. Services rendered must be paid to ensure the long term financial stability of the municipality. The job is still far from done and we will keep on trying new ideas! **Please save, share and appreciate water!**

MD’s Corner

Marius van Aardt



Inadvertently, most pollution will eventually end up in water. All over the world our water bodies are getting more polluted. The large islands of floating plastic pollution in the oceans have made headlines recently. Most of this pollution start upstream with us as individuals where plastics, toxins, etc are carelessly dumped, ending up in streams, storm water systems and sewers.

Our raw water source, the Crocodile river, is still relatively clean and the water is still treatable by conventional means. However, it is expected to deteriorate if we do not strictly control pollution from urbanization and from the increasing intensive farming practices in the catchment. The increased pollution load could push up the treatment cost of water and damage our environment. We can all help by minimizing the purchasing and use of single-use plastics such as shopping bags, straws and bottled water and drinks. I am pleased to note the return of paper straws in some places already! Do not put toxins such as oil, paint, chemicals down the sewers or storm water systems. **Reuse! Recycle! Reduce!**





MANDELA DAY 2018 - giving back

Mandela Day serves to remind each of us to reflect on whether we are living up to Madiba's remarkable legacy: The values of compassion, forgiveness, decency, love and respect for all people. At Silulumanzi, we are committed to helping improve the quality of life in the communities among which we live and work. This year we organised special activities to commemorate the day. Silulumanzi staff around the areas we serve, made a difference through a variety of activities namely: home visits to the elderly, food parcels donations, vegetable garden seed donations and planting seeds, sharing breakfast meals with the elderly, and cleaning up of the yards and testing and repairing water supply such as taps, toilets and geysers.



In the City of Mbombela, employees paid a visit to 51 elderly citizens at the Oranjezicht Retirement Village. The visit and treat for the elderly citizens, with some of them living on their own or alone, was supported by Shirley from Guardian Angels who played a key role in creating this memorable day. The team spent time with the elderly citizens where breakfast packs and meals were shared, accompanied by stories told over

laughter & friendly banter. On the day prior to the visit our Non Revenue Water technical team identified and fixed water leaks in ten flats, as well as an elderly lady's geyser that has been broken for some time and who had to carry hot water daily from a neighbour.

The second team of employees visited John Mdhuli Primary School in Mattafin village to support their inhouse project aimed at developing their National School Nutrition Programme. This programme aims to foster better education by enhancing children's active learning capacity and alleviating short-term hunger. It provides an incentive for children to attend school regularly & punctually, as well as addressing certain micro-nutrient deficiencies. A donation of vegetable seeds was made by Semcoorp Silulumanzi to support the school to establish a vegetable garden. The team, assisted by John Mdhuli school learners, further helped to clean the school terrain.

In Matsulu the team took part in a great initiative of supporting the Directorate for Priority Crime Investigation's Hawks Unit in Mpumalanga, and municipal stakeholders in handing over a household structure for Ms. Nomthandazo Gamedze & her 7-year-old daughter. Their house burned down, leaving the family with nowhere to stay. The



yard was cleaned by the volunteers by removing rubble and overgrowth. The yard was then levelled and hazards removed to make it safe for the family and child. The next stop for the volunteers in Matsulu was the donation of vegetable seeds to start a vegetable garden at the Siphosethu Home Based Care Centre. This will assist the centre's care givers to grow their own food. The Siphosethu Home Based Care facility provides inpatient convalescent care, residential care as well as primary health care services to homes for the frail and elderly, as well as nursing homes for the severely handicapped. The team was joined by members of the Matsulu Parliamentary Constituency Office who participated in this initiative.



The South Nsikazi area saw another worthy cause

where the Grace Victims Support Centre for Women, in Gedlembane was paid a visit. The Grace Victims' Support Centre for Women is a non-profit organisation that provides support services, and serve as a temporary safe haven for people in difficult and dangerous personal circumstances. It offers a shelter and counselling facility for abused women and children. The centre also provides soft skills such as handicrafts, hair care and life skills. A donation of vegetable seeds was given and we assisted in planting these. Silulumanzi staff also cleaned the whole yard, and installed a water pressure pump for the toilets and baths. The centre has previously struggled with the supply of water to fill their tanks weekly.

"It was an honour for the Silulumanzi team to participate and spend time at the five venues in honour and memory of Tata Madiba. We will always remember his legacy, and should continue to make a meaningful and lasting difference in our society. Let us also dedicate our time and whatever resources we have in improving the lives of those in need," Public Relations Manager of Silulumanzi, Richmond Jele said when thanking the gathering at Gedlembane. Silulumanzi is looking at further support of the Centre in coming years.

WATER FACTS

An average household using **30 kl** (thirty thousand litres) of water monthly, or about 1000 litres per day, the water bill will be R1006.94. This equates to only **3.4 cents per litre** for drinking water delivered at your house, while many are prepared to pay up to R15 per litre for bottled water in the shops! Included in this bill is the taking away and treatment of wastewater if your house is connected to the sewer system. All customers enjoy Free Basic Services as whereby the first 6000 liters per month is free.



Just 1 dripping tap in your house, dripping 60 drops per minute, equates to 21 liters per day or 7665 litres per year! 1000 leaking taps will leak **7 665 000 litres per year!**...and we know there are many leaking taps, cisterns, irrigation systems out there...!

With air temperature of 30C°, water temperature of 25 C°, a **swimming pool** of 8 x 4 m can **lose 1 and 2 litres of water per hour!** Use a pool cover to reduce losses by up to 97%.

To ensure piped tap **water remains safe to drink** we sample and analyse the raw water; at each stage of the treatment process, as well as within the distribution system. **Over 500 samples** are analysed monthly in our laboratory. Water is tested for aesthetic, chemical and biological compliance. Sample results are also externally verified. If you receive piped water from Silulumanzi, it is safe to drink.

Customers can now use **i-Pay** and **Zapper** to pay for services.



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UNDER CONSTRUCTION

These are some of the construction and refurbishment projects we are busy with:

- Repairs and refurbishment of the south Nsikazi bulk water scheme:



Unclogging of raw water pumps



Sand filter refurbishment

- Refurbishment of sand Filters at Matsulu Water Treatment Works
- Refurbishment of Mbombela City old Water Treatment Works

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