

**DEPARTMENT OF WATER AFFAIRS AND FORESTRY
DEPARTEMENT VAN WATERWESE EN BOSBOU**

No. 1008

18 July 2003

**RESTRICTIONS ON THE USE OF WATER FOR AGRICULTURAL PURPOSES IN THE
INKOMATI WATER MANAGEMENT AREA.**

By virtue of the powers vested in me under section 63 read together with section 72 of the National Water Act (No.36 of 1998), I, Arnold Michael Muller, in my capacity as Director General of the Department of Water Affairs and Forestry :-

- (a) Believe that a water shortage exists in the Inkomati Water Management Area; and
- (b) To maintain such a flow as may be specified by the Interim Inco-Maputo Agreement measured at Komatipoort Gauging Station (X2H036), of which the contribution from the Crocodile River and Komati River will be monitored separately;
- (c) Direct in terms of Item 6(1)(i) of Schedule 3 of the National Water Act, 1998 that as from the date of publication of this Notice: -
 - (i) **The taking of water for agricultural purposes (excluding Schedule 1 use) from the water resources set out below and subject to the terms set out there under**, reduced from a maximum rate of four hundred and thirty seven cubic meters per week per hectare ($437\text{m}^3/\text{week}/\text{ha}$) to a maximum of one hundred and seventy six cubic meters per week per hectare ($176\text{m}^3/\text{week}/\text{ha}$):
 - Crocodile River and all its tributaries upstream of Kwena Dam
 - Crocodile River and all its tributaries downstream of Kwena Dam excluding the White River and all its tributaries and the Sand River
 - Elands River and all its tributaries up to the confluence with the Crocodile River
 - Kaap River and all its tributaries up to the confluence with the Crocodile River
 - Komati River and all its tributaries upstream of Swaziland

For which,

Pumping hours may only be scheduled during Mondays to Saturdays from 07h00 to 16h30. Pumping on Saturdays may only take place with the recommendation of the Crocodile River Major Irrigation Board to the Regional Director: Mpumalanga. **Irrigation Boards may also implement shorter pumping hours to meet the targets for the system as a whole.**

and,

- Komati River and all its tributaries downstream of Swaziland up to the Mozambique Border be restricted to the following total peak water abstractions during the months May 2003 to September 2003 inclusive The measuring weir at Tonga must spill at all times with a volume that will be determined from time to time and all in-stream storage weirs shall be maintained at spilling level:

MONTH	MAXIMUM TOTAL RATE OF WATER ABSTRACTION PER CATCHMENT (cubic metres per second (m ³ /s))				
	Mhlambanyati River and Lomati River Left Bank Tributaries downstream of Mhlambanyati River	Lomati River Left Bank downstream of Mhlambanyati River, excluding the Left Bank Tributaries	Lomati River Left Bank and the Left Bank Tributaries upstream of Mhlambanyati River, and Lomati River Right Bank and the Right Bank Tributaries	Komati River and the Tributaries between the Swaziland border and Tonga Gauging Station (X1H003)	Komati River and the Tributaries downstream of Tonga Gauging Station (X1H003)
May 2003	0,25	0,67	0,42	1,20	1,45
June 2003	0,18	0,50	0,36	1,20	0,97
July 2003	0,20	0,54	0,39	1,20	1,14
August 2003	0,25	0,67	0,47	1,20	1,45
September 2003	0,23	0,62	0,44	1,40	1,38

Permissible peak abstractions after 30 September 2003 will be published after a re-assessment of the water resources during August 2003.

- (ii) **The taking of water for agricultural purposes (excluding Schedule 1 use) from Irrigation Board Canals set out below and subject to the terms set out there under must be reduced to the following to allow for a continuous abstraction over a seven-day period:**

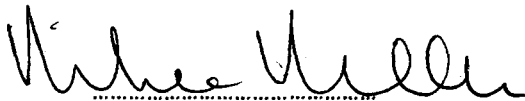
- Intake at the Malelane Irrigation Board Canal may not exceed 1753 litres per second (l/s)
- Total intake for the Friedenheim Irrigation Board Canal may not exceed 350 litres per second (l/s)
- Intake at the Eureka Irrigation Board Canal may not exceed 160 litres per second (l/s)

- (iii) If the flow at Border Gauging Station (X2H036) decreases to less than the flow specified in terms of (b) above, all taking of water for irrigation purposes from the river below the required minimum must be suspended until the flow recovers.
- (iv) The taking of underground water for agricultural purposes in this Water Management Area must be reduced by 60% of the registered monthly average abstraction.

GENERAL

Irrigators who wish to abstract during the Eskom off- peak hours must apply through the relevant Irrigation Board or Water User Association to the Regional Director: Mpumalanga, as the case may be, for the necessary approval.

This Notice overrides any other or previous authorisation issued by the Department relating to these areas.



DIRECTOR-GENERAL

DATE