



UNIVERSITY OF TM
KWAZULU-NATAL
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Research Topic:
**Water Politics and Governance in South Africa: A case study
of the Msunduzi Municipality water service delivery system,
Pietermaritzburg.**

Ms Philile Gwala

AAPAM Conference 2022



EDGEWOOD CAMPUS



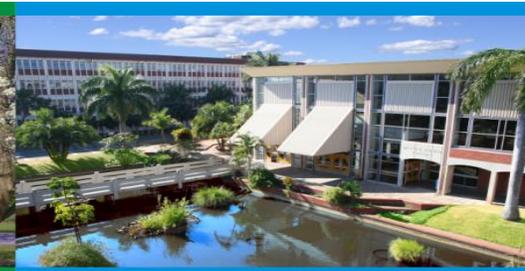
HOWARD COLLEGE CAMPUS



NELSON R MANDELA SCHOOL OF MEDICINE



PIETERMARITZBURG CAMPUS



WESTVILLE CAMPUS

UKZN INSPIRING GREATNESS

The World's Water Situation

- Climate change, mismanagement of fresh water reserves, population growth, the demands of irrigated agriculture spur demands for water availability globally (Adom, Simatele, & Reid, 2022; Mishra, 2021).
- These factors have negatively impacted agricultural productivity, human health, and increasingly, impacts on political stability (Moe, 2006).
- This results in four main domains, namely; the everyday politics of water control, the politics of national water policy, inter-state hydropolitics, and the global politics of water (Mollinga, 2008:17; 2016:1322).
- Within these domains, there are various actors, issues, multiple modes of contestation and different sets of institutional arrangements which all impact on who gains efficient and effective access to water (Scheumann, Neubert, & Kipping, 2008; Sultana, 2013).
- This scenario has been described as “a crisis of governance” (Rogers and Hall, 2003:15)
- The Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) defines water governance as a “range of political, institutional and administrative rules, practices and processes (formal and informal) through which decisions are taken and implemented, stakeholders can articulate their interests and have their concerns considered, and decision-makers are held accountable for water management” (OECD, 2015:4).

- Following the end of apartheid, the South African government made changes in water regulations from previous apartheid rules that recognized private ownership of water, and aimed at responding to a post apartheid reality (Mirumachi & Hurlbert, 2022; Chiluwe, Nkhata, & Tewari, 2022).
- Despite these key legislations for which South Africa is recognized internationally (Mudhara and Senzanje, 2020; Roberts, 2008), the various provisions for public service functionality (Sections 195 and 196 of the Constitution and the Batho Pele Principles), and a dedication to the Sustainable Development Goals, more than three million South Africans still lack access to a basic supply of safe drinking water (Lebek, Twmey & Krueger, 2021; Statistics South Africa, 2021). Additionally, the supply of water is not stable (Department of Water and Sanitation, 2019).
- Research further points to challenges in general service delivery (Ngumbela, 2022), a policy gap (Richards, Mkenda, & Bjornlund, 2022), poor implementation (Nojiyeza, 2022) and general mismangamenet, as some of the issues affecting general service delivery within South Africa.

The right to Water

**Before
1994**

Only
Water Act
(1956)
dealing
with water
resources

Post 1994

1996

**The
constitution of
South Africa**

- **Section 24 of the constitution:** *“Everyone has a right to an environment that is not harmful to their health or well-being”*
- **FBS Policy:** Free basic services for the poor including water supply, sanitation, refuse removal and electricity

1997

**Water
Services Act
of 108**

1998

**National
Water Act 36**

2000

**Municipal
Services
Act 32 &
Free Basic
Services
Policy**

Problem of water service delivery

- Water shortages
- Access to water
- Water governance issues

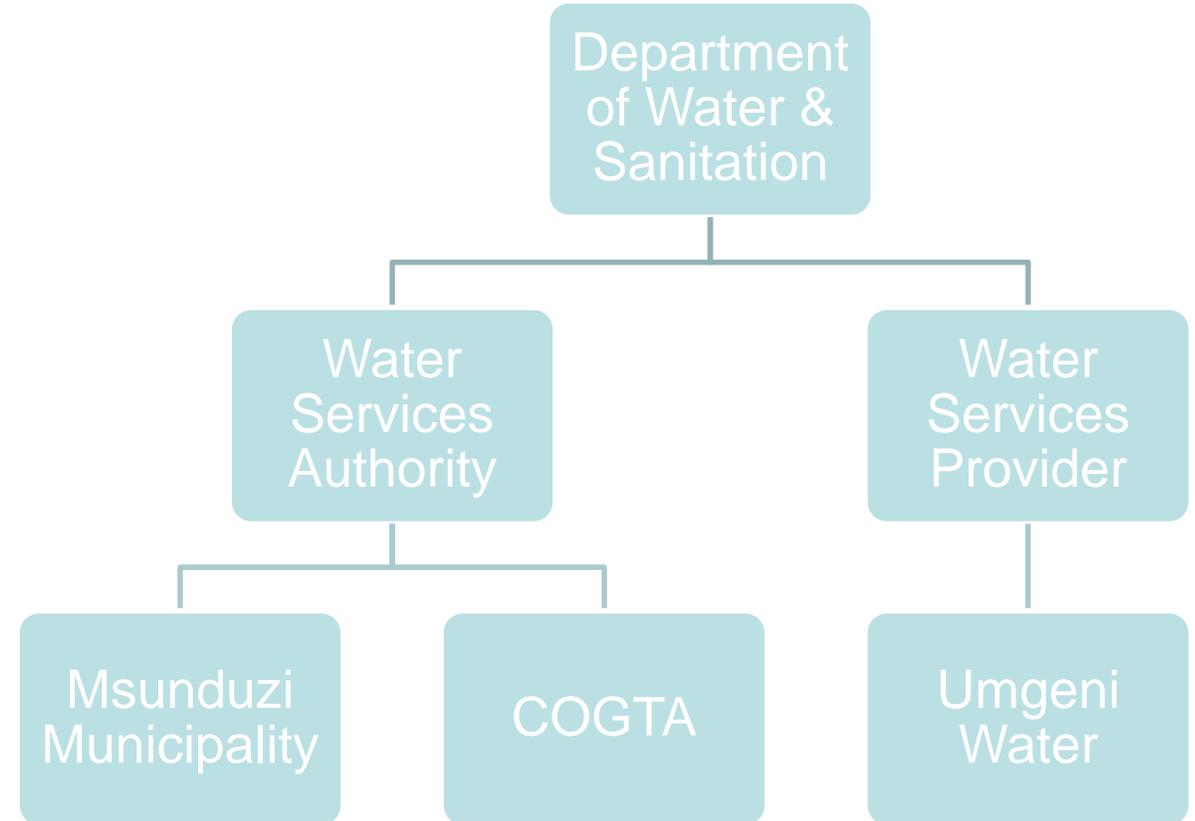
Study Objectives

- 1. To assess the water service delivery system in Msunduzi Municipality and the governance mechanisms for water service delivery in South Africa
- 2. To determine the water governance system's advantages and disadvantages in the Msunduzi Municipality's water service delivery system
- 3. To identify the primary players involved in the water governance in Msunduzi Municipality water service delivery system's as well as their interests
- 4. To examine whether collaborative governance mechanisms are being applied within the Msunduzi Municipality water service delivery system
- 5. To investigate the power dynamics in the system for delivering water services in the Msunduzi Municipality
- 6. To examine if current power dynamics in the Msunduzi Municipality water services delivery system promote or undermine stakeholder relationships and overall water governance

Stakeholders involved in the water provision of Msunduzi Municipality

- National government
- Provincial government
- Local government
- State owned Enterprise (Umgeni Water)

Institutional Arrangement in the Water Sector in Msunduzi Municipality



Proposed Research Methodology

- a mixed -method interpretive case-study approach
- a) The qualitative approach**, which seeks to examine the current governance approach as a first step in the study of the Msunduzi water governance system, will take the form of semi structured interviews.
- 9 key informants for interviews: They have been located through an examination of reports and websites. The informants from the Msunduzi municipality; CoGTA, Umgeni Water & the Department of Water Affairs and Sanitation
- b) The quantitative approach**, will seek to engage in a data collection process which will be aimed at understanding the existing perceptions on water governance in Msunduzi, this part will take the form of self-administered questionnaires.
- A study sample of 160 respondents will be drawn from the total number of employees, to complete a self-administered questionnaire made up of 30 closed ended questions

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