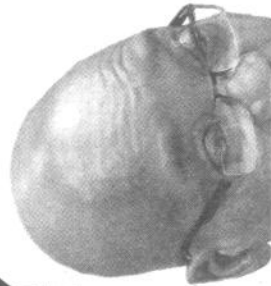


News

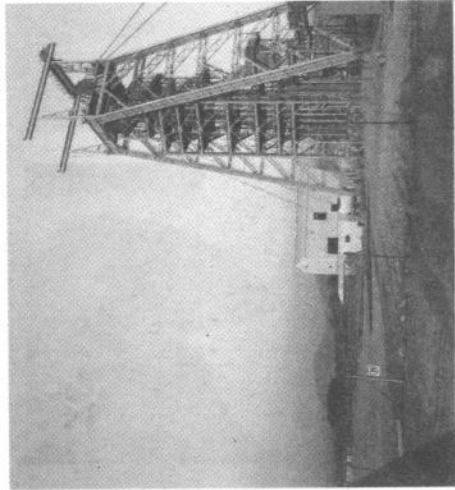
IN THE RUN-UP TO THURSDAY'S STATE OF THE NATION ADDRESS, WE ASSESS HOW THE PRESIDENT HAS LIVED UP TO HIS PROMISES. ALTHOUGH 2012 WAS A TUMULTUOUS YEAR FOR ZUMA, MARRIED BY THE NKANDLA SCANDAL, ACCORDING TO CITY PRESS' CALCULATIONS HIS GOVERNMENT HAS STARTED DELIVERING ON 85% OF ITS UNDERTAKINGS, BUT 15% OF MOOTED PROJECTS ARE STILL NOT UNDER WAY. CARIEN DU PLESSIS AND SABELO NDLANGISA UNPACK THE ISSUES

Can Mr Delivery do even better?



I have a dream that my four little children will one day live in a nation where they will not be judged by the colour of their skin, but by the content of their character

— Martin Luther King Jr



ACID MINEWATER DRAINAGE

For now the danger of rising acid mine water in the Witwatersrand has subsided somewhat. Last year President Jacob Zuma announced that R248 million would be invested over two years to deal with the issue.

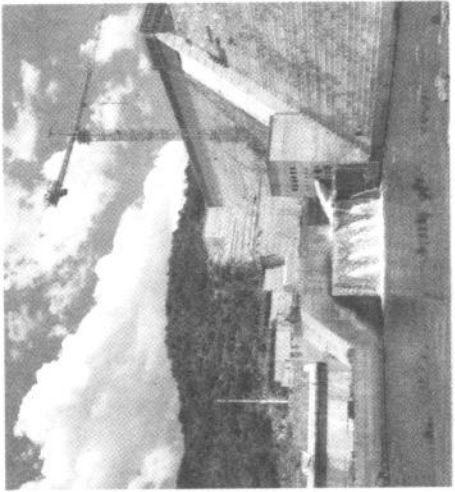
Although there have been some accusations of the project running over budget and half-treated water being pumped into the Vaal River, the immediate danger was dealt with well.

Underground water levels linked to acid mine water in the Witwatersrand had been rising, and a plan had to be made to pump the water out and remove the toxic heavy metals before the water was released to surface water sources.

DA spokesman for environmental affairs Marti Wenger was updated recently on the progress, and she told City Press that giant steps had been taken in the "most problematic" area, the Western Basin. Decanting work is continuing there and the water is being treated. The treatment plant was also recently upgraded.

Emergency work is continuing in mining's Central Basin, where the water is rising at such a rate that it could reach a critical level by October or November. "There is a contractor on site, and they got exemption on the environmental impact assessment to proceed," she said.

Contractors have been busy on the site since Friday last week and a pump station has been assembled. — Carien du Plessis



MZIMVUBU DAM

The department of water affairs this week said it was still doing a feasibility study concerning the construction of a dam in Eastern Cape.

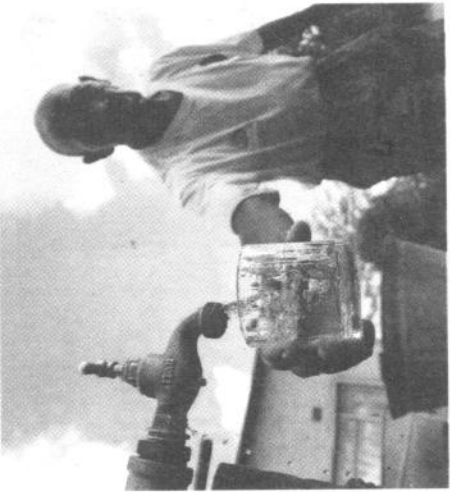
Last year, President Jacob Zuma promised major infrastructure roll-out projects in the province which included the building of the Umzimvubu Dam.

"In the former Transkei part of the Eastern Cape we are committed to building a dam using the Umzimvubu River as the source, in order to expand agricultural production," Zuma said in his state of the nation address last year.

Bigboy Moagi, spokesperson for the department of water affairs, this week said his department was still on track with the project.

He said the feasibility study, which commenced in January last year, would be completed in December, running concurrently with the environmental impact assessment.

A detailed design was planned to start in January 2014, to be completed by 2015. Moagi said they planned to start with construction in 2015/16 and finish by 2018. — Lubabalo Ngcukana



WATER FOR SOME

Zuma has made good on his promise to find "an urgent solution" to the water woes plaguing the community of Ngobi, outside Hammanskraal.

Zuma mentioned the plight of this North West village during his state of the nation speech last year, which was followed by an official visit in June to unveil the 10 newly revamped boreholes that supply water to the community.

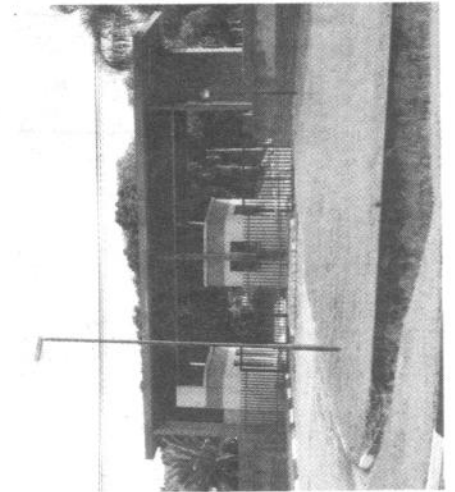
Their pumps had not been working properly, resulting in erratic water supply to Ngobi and neighbouring villages.

"You will have water forever," he told the villagers as he opened a tap. Government was left with egg on its face, though, when it was reported a month later that Ngobi was still without water.

This week, the residents of Ngobi said their water woes were still far from being a thing of the past. But they said water supply was more reliable now.

Amos Pine, whose home Zuma visited last year, still stores backup water in a plastic drum in his back yard, just in case his tap goes dry. It was his daughter, Mmatshoko, who wrote to Zuma complaining about the water-supply problems.

A new water reservoir to increase water supply for Ngobi and surrounding villages was still being built. — Sabelo Ndlangisa



NEW UNIVERSITIES

Treasury has allocated more than R2 billion for the capital and operational expenditure of two new universities to be built in the Northern Cape and Mpumalanga, following the endorsement of feasibility studies.

Higher education and training spokesperson, Vuyelwa Qinga, said the project to establish the universities in Kimberley and Nelspruit was on track.

Progress has been made, said Qinga, to select the sites in both provinces. Full feasibility studies for infrastructure and operations had been done.

Qinga added that the progress made also included: » An inspirational vision for each university, which has garnered broad support and the committed partnership of several other universities;

» Land assembly and the establishment of spatial-planning frameworks for each institution;

» Establishment of partnerships with several universities for academic programme development and implementation, as well as comprehensive planning for ensuring longer-term sustainability and human resource needs; and

» Drafting of institutional guidelines for adoption by interim councils, as well as draft statutes for each university.

Qinga indicated that academic processes in the universities would start with a limited number of subjects in 2014 while construction would start in the second half of this year. — Cathy Dlodlo and Sizwe sama Yende