



INTERNET ARTICLE

KOBWA PROVIDES WATER ACCESS AND DIGNIFIED SANITATION

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The Komati Basin Water Authority (KOBWA), is a bi-national institution that was established through the Treaty on the Development and Utilization of the Water Resources of the Komati River Basin between the Republic of South Africa and the Kingdom of Swaziland. On 29 March 2016, KOBWA officially handed over water and sanitation projects to schools and community centres surrounding the Driekoppies Dam in the Nkomazi Local Municipality. The handover was done as part of the Water Month celebrations as KOBWA is an institution that reports to the Department of Water and Sanitation (DWS) who is the custodian of water resources in the country.

The projects were truly in line with the theme **“Water for People, Water by People”** as KOBWA provided what the communities required. The projects included water tanks, sanitation facilities and fencing for the protection of the projects. KOBWA’s stance fully encompasses the Department’s slogan of **“Water is Life – Sanitation is Dignity”**. The beneficiaries of the year 2015/2016 initiatives included; Zimiseleni Home Based Care, Bambelani Luncheon Club, Maghuba Service Centre, Buhleni Home Based Care, Lusitolwetfu Drop-In Centre and Zithulele Primary School.

In his handover address, Mr. Collin Zwane KOBWA’s Chief Executive Officer, stated that the main purpose of the KOBWA is to provide water for irrigation to farmers downstream of the two dams, Maguga Dam in Swaziland and Driekoppies Dam in South Africa. He stated that in addition to supporting water initiatives in the Mpumalanga province, KOBWA was also contributing to the attainment of the Sustainable Development Goal number 6 which is to **“Ensure Availability and Sustainable Management of Water and Sanitation for All”**. Mr. Zwane appealed to the benefiting institutions to look after their projects and ensure that they do benefit the communities that they are meant to support. He also commended the management from the local education circuit for their unwavering support to KOBWA’s water and environment educational programs and projects. KOBWA also officially launched the school drought-relief intervention, where local schools that are adversely affected by drought were given water tanks with water.

In its message, the Department of Water and Sanitation applauded the good work by KOBWA in providing essential water and sanitation services to the needy communities. The Department also commended and encouraged strong relations between its agencies as shown by the relationship between KOBWA and the Inkomati - Usuthu Catchment Management Agency in the success of the handover event. The attendees were also reminded of the key message, **“Water has no substitute”** and encouraged to be water ambassadors and spread the message of water conservation in their schools, centres and the entire community.

On behalf of the beneficiaries, Ms Sophie Khoza from Zimiseleni Home Based Care thanked KOBWA for the projects which play a major role in the upliftment and development of the communities and stated that KOBWA is like a father to them. She further stated that the interventions by KOBWA have opened the floodgates and led to more donations. She promised and committed that the beneficiaries will take good care of the projects to ensure that the infrastructure lasts.



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