



## water & sanitation

Department:  
Water and Sanitation  
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

### INTERNET ARTICLE

#### “Water knows no boundaries”

28 April 2015

*This expression best describes the festivities that shook the grounds of Ga-Khibane in Middlepits, Botswana this past Saturday as the local residents and officials and representatives from South Africa and Botswana celebrated the success of a joint water supply venture. Community members of Ga-Khibane and the surrounding villages sang and danced as Botswana’s Minister of Minerals, Energy and Water Resources (MEWR) Mr. Onkokame Mokaile hosted South Africa’s Minister of the Department of Water and Sanitation (DWS) Ms. Nomvula Mokonyane to jointly commission the Middlepits Cross Border Water Supply Project (MCBWSP).*

*The joyous event which was graced by chiefs and prominent community members and structures took place on Saturday, 25 April at Ga-Khibane Pump Station in Botswana.*

*The two countries signed the MCBWSP to co-operate on matters related to water supply or lack thereof within the two countries seven years ago and the project was completed in 2014.*

*Botswana’s MEWR Minister Mokaila believes the decision by the two countries to collaborate towards finding a sustainable and long lasting solution to the problem of water shortages was the best decision ever.*

*“When we signed this agreement in 2008, we made a promise to the people of this region that all efforts will be made to provide them with access to potable water and today’s event is indeed a milestone as it fulfils that promise”.*

*Mokaila further acknowledged that the water resources in the Southern African region are characterised by extreme spatial and temporal variability and scarcity is the norm. “All efforts to provide people with access to clean water should and will be exhausted”*

*His counterpart, South Africa’s Minister of Water and Sanitation Ms Nomvula Mokonyane could not agree more as she excitedly narrated how the partnership came about.*

*“It is indeed a privilege for me to be present at this moment to witness the official launch of this project which is a result of years and years of pure hard work between the two governments”*



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*She added that the project represents the true spirit of Africanism where one country cannot enjoy access to basic resources while their fellow neighbour is miserable.*

*The MCBWSP supplies water to five villages in the Middlepits area in Botswana. It comprises of a 25 kilometre pipeline on the Botswana side and 19 kilometres pipeline on the South African side.*

*The ceremony comes just days after Minister Mokonyane emphasized the importance of bilateral agreements between African member states during the 7<sup>th</sup> World Water Forum held in Daegu, South Korea. “Water is a global responsibility that requires shared vision and as a country together with our sister countries, we see the issues of water-related challenges as an opportunity to unify Africa”*

**Maduvha Maseda**

**Issued by the Department of Water & Sanitation**

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