



Coca-Cola and USAID Partnership Brings Clean Water and Sanitation to Eastern Cape Schools.

The Mayor of Nelson Mandela Bay, Ms Nondumiso Maphazi, has commended The Coca-Cola Company for helping the municipality improve water and sanitation infrastructure in township schools.

Ms Maphaza said this during the official hand-over of the water and sanitation project undertaken by Coca-Cola South Africa in partnership with Coca-Cola Fortune and the USAID Agency in the Nelson Mandela Bay Municipality schools in Zwide.

She said the municipality has a serious challenge of not being able to account for 24% of water wastage in the municipality, but they have realised that most of the wastage comes from the schools.

The hand-over was part of a nation-wide project where more than ten thousand South African learners, teachers and caretakers have gained access to clean, abundant water and sanitation through the international Water and Development Alliance (WADA) supported by the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) and The Coca-Cola Africa Foundation (TCCAF) in South Africa.

The Schools Leak Repair and Learner Education project, launched in the under-resourced community of Zwide in the Nelson Mandela Bay municipality earlier this year is funded by USAID and The Coca-Cola Africa Foundation, and administered in partnership with South Africa's Department of Water Affairs, the Department of Education, and the Nelson Mandela Bay Municipality.

Thanking the funders, the principal of the school Mrs P Tshomela said ‘We consider ourselves to be very fortunate that we benefited from this project. Our taps and cisterns were completely damaged and the state of our toilets was bad, the assistance from this project will help us focus our limited finances to other major needs like electricity for the school.’

This project has empowered schools in previously disadvantaged areas to reduce loss or wasteful consumption of water as well as educate teachers and learners to conserve water.

In each of the beneficiary schools, ‘Water Captains’ were appointed to take ownership of the schools’ water consumption and ensure that wastage is a thing of the past.

Tulisiwe Mkatshwa, Community Affairs Manager from Coca Cola South Africa was very positive about the educational aspect of the project and the way the project makes a difference in communities. She commented: “We are honoured to be part of this public private partnership that contributes towards making a positive contribution to communities that are less fortunate.”

The project, now complete, has already achieved the following results:

- Improved health, hygiene, and sanitation facilities at seven beneficiary schools (2 in the Eastern Cape, 3 in the Western Cape and 2 in Gauteng), benefiting 5,168 school children;
- Improved access to potable water supply;
- Eliminated known water wastage taking place on school properties by repairing and updating plumbing fixtures, which has been measured throughout the project and has realised an annual average saving of 4,404kl/school or R28,760/school.

Beyond improving the efficient use of school water supplies and water-using sanitation infrastructure, this project has raised awareness about

the importance of water conservation. Teachers, students, and caretakers have been equipped to sustainably manage and maintain water and sanitation resources.

WADA is a joint initiative between USAID and The Coca-Cola Company that operates in 22 countries worldwide, 18 of them in Africa, contributing to protecting and improving the sustainability of watersheds, increasing access to water supply and sanitation services for the world's poor, and enhancing the productive use of water. This alliance is a positive example of how public-private partnerships can give localized support to those with the greatest need for water and sanitation services, ensuring that water resources are managed to serve future generations.



TCCF Director Sherree Shereni and Nelson Mandela Metro Mayor Mrs Maphaza cut a ribbon at the hand-over ceremony at Nkuthalo School in Port Elizabeth.