

NEWSLETTER

IMPROVING LIVES THROUGH WATER



ISSUE 1 | 2025



The Lebalelo Water User Association has officially been renamed the Badirammogo Water User Association following the gazetting of our amended constitution on 16 May 2025.

[Read more on page 2.](#)

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SAFETY FIRST, ALWAYS

SAFETY IS EVERYONE'S RESPONSIBILITY

Have you paused today to consider the safety of your team, your site or even yourself? Remember to take 20 seconds to: **Stop, Look, Think, Decide, Act.** For us, safety is not just a tick box exercise – it's a commitment that starts with each one of us. By reporting near misses, staying alert and following clear response plans, we prevent harm before it happens.

SAFETY HIGHLIGHTS



While no Lost Time Injuries or Near Misses were reported, there have been a few fleet vehicle incidents. Fleet incidents are being addressed through driver training, reporting and investigative procedures as well as implementing outcomes-based proactive measures.



One security incident was reported in February and resolved swiftly. The incident involving local communities highlighted the need for improved stakeholder engagement when procuring local services.



We continue to implement the SafetyCulture digital platform across our organisation. The platform supports security, facilities, fleet functions and training with custom templates, escalation pathways and reporting tools tailored for both Operations and Projects.



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FROM LWUA TO BWUA

A BOLD NEW CHAPTER IN COLLABORATIVE WATER INFRASTRUCTURE DEVELOPMENT

We are proud to announce that the Association's transformation from Lebalale Water User Association (LWUA) to Badirammogo Water User Association (BWUA) is official following the gazetting of our amended Constitution on 16 May 2025. Badirammogo – a Sepedi word meaning “working together” – captures the essence of the Association's evolution: from a traditional water user association to a strategic infrastructure partner driving collaboration between the public and private sectors.

This change goes beyond a simple rebrand – it marks a shift in our vision, mission and

mandate, while staying true to our singular purpose, which is ‘improving lives through water’. It also reflects the transformation of the Association's role through the Olifants Management Model Programme (OMMP), the expansion of our area of operation and the broadening of our mandate beyond bulk raw water provision to the construction of potable water and reticulation infrastructure for communities. While BWUA will not be responsible for the operation or maintenance of potable infrastructure (this remains with the relevant Water Services Authorities or Providers), we will continue

to finance, build, operate and maintain bulk raw water infrastructure.

It's a strategic shift to keep pace with regional needs and Government's priorities, and is aimed at unlocking sustainable economic growth, enhancing service delivery and, ultimately, enhancing the quality of life where we work and live.

As we work through this transition, a number of changes to our corporate identity will be rolled out in phases – we remain committed to keeping you informed as the process unfolds.

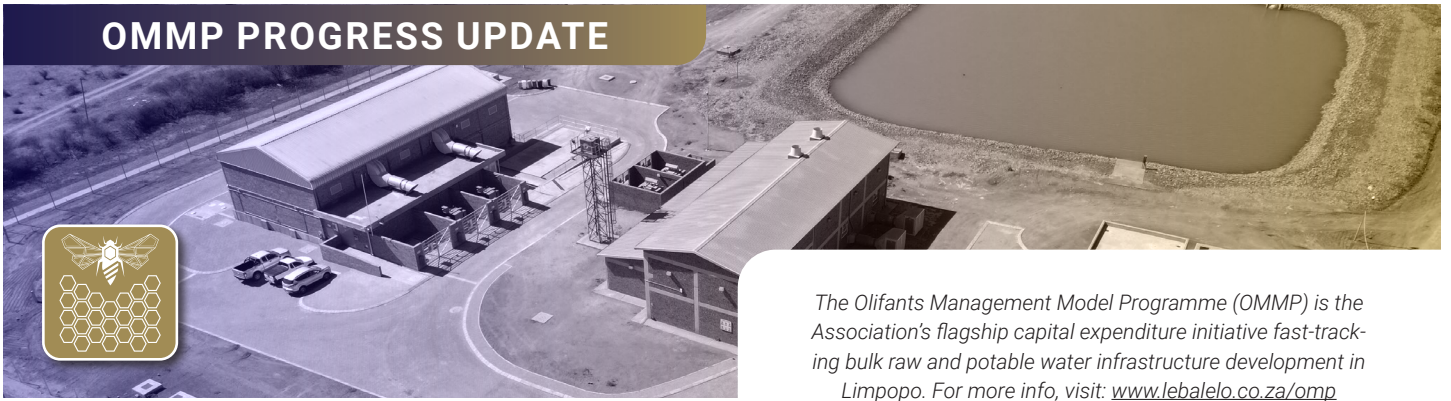
BWUA INTERNAL LAUNCH

The Association hosted an internal launch event at the Protea Hotel Polokwane Ranch Resort on 21 February 2025 to introduce the new BWUA identity to employees, contractors, service providers and key stakeholders.

Attendees were invited to show their support by writing their names and placing them on a symbolic commitment plaque – a gesture celebrating unity and shared purpose.



OMMP PROGRESS UPDATE



The Olifants Management Model Programme (OMMP) is the Association's flagship capital expenditure initiative fast-tracking bulk raw and potable water infrastructure development in Limpopo. For more info, visit: www.lebalelo.co.za/omp

STAGE 1 ALL SET TO START

As of 1 May 2025, we are poised to begin implementing Stage 1 of the Olifants Management Model Programme (OMMP), following approvals secured through the support of current and future members. Stage 1 includes the construction of Phase 2B & 2B+, as well as the Northern Limb Water Treatment Works, and spans 117 km from Flag Boshielo Dam to Sekuruwe, north of Mokopane.

Subject to final negotiations and lender confirmation, the Engineering, Procurement and Construction (EPC) contract for Stage 1 is set to start in Q3 2025, followed by site establishment and the start of construction. The recently completed Early Works Contract (EWC) 1 and the in-progress EWC 2 are in place to protect the overall programme schedule.

The OMMP will be delivered in six stages over the next decade, with final completion targeted for 2034.

FUNDRAISING UPDATE

The OMMP is a 50:50 public-private collaboration, with costs shared equally between the Association's Institutional and Commercial Members.

Institutional fundraising is advancing well, with National Treasury confirming full approval of Budget Facility for Infrastructure (BFI) 1 and 2 funding, channelled via the Infrastructure Fund (IF) on behalf of the Department of Water and Sanitation (DWS), for Stages 1 and 2 of the Programme. The first tranche of DWS grant funding was disbursed in February 2025, paving the way for the commencement of Stage 1

Commercial fundraising is also progressing, with three major banks engaged and lender security requirements finalised. Project agreements have been concluded and are now being submitted to Bank Credit Committees, the IF Management Committee and Commercial Members' Boards.

KEY ACHIEVEMENTS TO DATE

- ▶ **Completion of the OMMP Study Phase**, including the approval of the Final Business Case and Stage 1 Final Investment Decision;
- ▶ **Completion of Early Works Contract 1**, which refined the reference design and provided engineering inputs for regulatory processes, including Water Use Licence and Environmental Impact Assessment amendments as well as wayleave applications;
- ▶ **Establishment of a wholly owned Special Purpose Vehicle**, Lebalelo Regional Water (Pty) Ltd, to house OMMP infrastructure;
- ▶ **Formal support for the OMMP** from Mogalakwena Local Municipality through a signed MoA;
- ▶ Award of an **abstraction Water Use Licence** (94 ML/day) for OMMP Stage 1 (Phase 2B and 2B+);
- ▶ **Approval of BFI 1 and 2 funding** for OMMP Stages 1 and 2 from National Treasury; and
- ▶ **Gazetting of the amendment** to the Association's Constitution.

WHAT'S NEXT?

- ▶ Completion of Early Works Contract 2 (Q3, 2025);
- ▶ Award and partial release of the Stage 1 EPC contract (Q3, 2025);
- ▶ Site establishment and commencement of OMMP Stage 1 construction (Q3, 2025);
- ▶ Commercial Financial Close (Q3, 2025); and
- ▶ Stage 1 sod turning ceremony (Q3, 2025).



THE HOTLINE

SPEAK UP WITH CONFIDENCE

We are committed to integrity and accountability. Our confidential hotline allows employees, contractors, suppliers, partners and stakeholders to report conduct that may breach our values. All reports are taken seriously, reviewed by the appropriate authority, and whistleblowers are kept informed with full confidentiality.



Call: 0861 267 822 or 087 803 0040



WhatsApp: 079 889 0030



Email: report@lebalelo.co.za

RECENT EVENTS

CATAPULT PITCH – AFRICA ENERGY INDABA

5 March, Cape Town

The Association presented its Energy Infrastructure Development Project to prospective financiers during a side event of the Africa Energy Indaba, hosted by Rand Merchant Bank, Minerals Council South Africa and the African Infrastructure Development Association (AfIDA).

CEO INTRODUCTION TO MAGOSHI

10 April, Ga Phasha

The Association's Chief Executive Officer, Dr Kobus Duvenhage, met with traditional leaders from Association's seven doorstep communities. The purpose of the meeting was to showcase Association-funded socio-economic development programmes being implemented, provide an update on progress with the implementation of the Olifants Management Model Programme and discuss key community-related issues. The meeting reinforced the value of the Association's ongoing collaboration with Magoshi in supporting our community initiatives.



2025 WATER AND SANITATION INDABA

27-28 March, Johannesburg

At the request of the Deputy Minister of Water and Sanitation, the Association attended the Indaba, which brought together key stakeholders to discuss strengthening water security, accelerating infrastructure delivery and improving service provision across South Africa.

CERTIFICATION CEREMONY

10 April, Ga Phasha

We hosted a certification ceremony to celebrate community members who completed SETA-accredited training programmes sponsored by the Association. The event recognised 51 educators trained in interactive whiteboard technology and 7 learners from local SMMEs who completed project management training. Attendees included Magoshi from our communities and Circuit Managers from the Department of Education. The ceremony highlighted our commitment to skills development and collaboration to create lasting opportunities for growth within communities.



2025 PLATINUM GROUP METALS INDUSTRY DAY

3 April, Johannesburg

The Association attended the high-level industry event, which brought together the leading industry players, including Platinum Group Metals (PGMs) producers, end users, industry specialists, analysts and investors, to discuss the latest opportunities and challenges facing the PGMs sector.

SOUTHERN EXTENSION 2 PHASE 1 TRAINING

14-17 April, Steelpoort

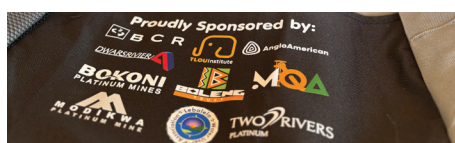
Our Operations and Maintenance teams participated in a comprehensive training programme at the Spitskop Pumpstation 2. The purpose was to ensure team members were familiar with the systems and processes to enable efficient operation and effective response during breakdowns. The sessions covered a range of key topics, including Structure, Pipeline and Cathodic Protection, Mechanical Systems and Electrical and Control & Instrumentation (C&I). This initiative forms part of the Association's ongoing commitment to operational readiness.



EASTERN LIMB JOINT CAREER EXPO

5-9 May, Driekop

The Association was one of the sponsors of this year's expo, marking our debut as both an exhibitor and a member of the organising team. As an organisation committed to improving lives through water, we recognise that education is key to sustainable development.



For the first time, 317 Grade 12 learners from five high schools within LWUA's host communities participated in the expo. These schools, all part of the Malokela Circuit, included Mape Secondary School, Motloulela Secondary School, Potoko High School, Shakung Secondary School and Mmutlane Technical High School.



MEETING COMMUNITY NEEDS



SCHOOL UPGRADE PROGRAMME (SUP)

UPGRADES AT 4 SCHOOLS NOW COMPLETE

As a key Socio-Economic Development (SED) initiative of the OMMP, the SUP focuses on improving targeted schools' infrastructure and facilities according to each school's needs (e.g. converting pit latrines and enviro-loos to flushable toilets with an on-site wastewater treatment plant, solar power and much more) and providing each school with interactive learning whiteboards and teacher training - 44 whiteboards have been installed across participating schools, and 42 educators have been trained on their effective use.

Upgrades are now complete at the 4 recently targeted schools across Mogalakwena and Fetakgomo Tubatse Local Municipalities in Limpopo.



EARLY CHILDHOOD DEVELOPMENT (ECD)

ECD PROGRAMME MAINTAINS TRACTION

Through our partnership with Participate, Envision, Navigate (PEN), we are developing Early Childhood Development (ECD) centres in Steelpoort, Limpopo to meet the Department of Basic Education's standards. Launched in April 2024, the programme aims to support 30 ECD centres across six Traditional Authority areas over three years.

SUCCESS STORY

Kwata Primary School, where the SUP pilot was completed in March 2023, has shown substantial academic performance improvements post the upgrades to the school.

Highlights of pass rate improvements in 2024 compared to 2022, include: Gr 4 (27.9%), Gr 5 (45.1%) and Gr 7 (34.7%).



KEY STATISTICS (2024/25 YEAR TO DATE)

- ▶ 20 ECD centres currently registered;
- ▶ 38 coaching visits conducted;
- ▶ 13 ECDs borrowed from the Toy Library;
- ▶ 17 ECDs trained via Vuk'uzenzele; and
- ▶ 16 ECDs participated in lesson planning training.

MEETING COMMUNITY NEEDS



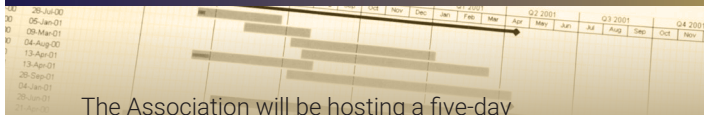
NAL'IBALI-ASSOCIATION LITERACY PROGRAMME

PROGRAMME EXTENDED, IMPACT ASSESSMENT UNDERWAY

The programme, which focuses on promoting reading and storytelling, has been well received by children, parents and educators alike, and will continue to be rolled out for another three years across the Association's seven host communities.

Nal'ibali is implementing an assessment plan to help track impact on adult and child beneficiaries (baseline first, then endline). Baseline assessments conducted have highlighted serious gaps in literacy, language and numeracy skills, similar to national findings. An endline evaluation is scheduled for November 2025 to measure the programme's impact on both children and adult participants, guiding future support and scaling.

BUILDING SKILLS, DRIVING PROGRESS

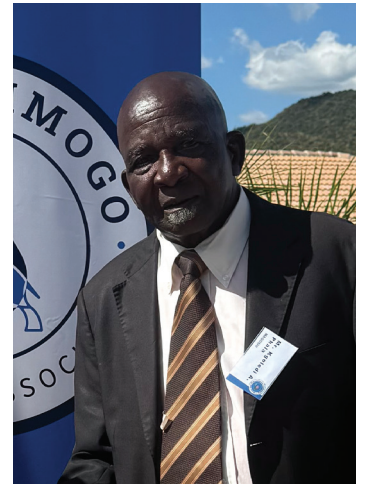


The Association will be hosting a five-day SMME Development training course in Q2, 2025. Applications have been received in response to the call for expressions of interest, targeting ten SMMEs from our host communities. To increase awareness, the advert was also shared with the Local Economic Development Unit of the Fetakgomo Tubatse Local Municipality.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO KGOSHI PHALA

Kgoshi Phala, a respected and long-standing stakeholder of the Association, passed away on 16 April 2025.

Representatives of the Association attended the funeral to pay respects, acknowledge the valuable relationship between the Association and Kgoshi Phala and honour his contribution to development and collaboration in the region.



8 SCHOOLS CONTINUE RECEIVING INTERNET

While we continue to support eight schools in our host communities with Internet access, we are also actively engaging service providers to expand access to additional schools that remain unconnected, reinforcing our commitment to education and development across our area of operation.

MAKING WAVES

ASSOCIATION CHAIRPERSON APPOINTED ACTING CHIEF EXECUTIVE OF ARM PLATINUM

Our congratulations go to the Association's (now former) Chairperson Johan Jansen on his appointment. We wish him every success as he leads African Rainbow Minerals Platinum into its next chapter.

THE ASSOCIATION CONTINUES TO GROW

Please join us in welcoming our newest appointees, Johannes Mavuso (OMM Programme Director), Maureen Lebea (HRBP) and Kaylin Maart (Cost Controller).

