



**Olifants
Management
Model (OMM)
Programme**

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COMMUNITY NEWSFLASH

IMPROVING LIVES THROUGH WATER

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LWUA Celebrates ISO, NOSA Certifications and Regional Award

The Lebalelo Water User Association (LWUA) recently celebrated multiple safety, health, environmental and quality (SHEQ) certifications and a top regional NOSA award, marking a new milestone in its commitment to SHEQ excellence.

On 23 October 2024, at its Modubeng headquarters in Limpopo, LWUA received NOSA 4-star certification

alongside ISO 9001, 14001 and 45001 certifications.

In addition to this, the South African, NOSA and ISO flags were raised, symbolising LWUA's commitment to global SHEQ standards.

LWUA also secured a prestigious NOSA Northern Region award, emerging as the top performer among mining, manufacturing and commercial sector companies graded on the rigorous CMB253 system.

NOSA's Technical Manager Johan Rheeder praised LWUA's safety culture and risk management approach, highlighting its inclusive strategy. CEO Bertus Bierman highlighted the transformation from potential disestablishment to a leader in water infrastructure, while Chairperson Johan Jansen thanked the team and emphasised the value of partnerships with NOSA and NQA in achieving these milestones.



**LWUA Receives
NOSA 5-Star
Platinum Award**



Building on the recent celebrations, LWUA's SHEQ systems have once again proven their excellence. Following only our second audit, LWUA has achieved the prestigious NOSA 5-Star Platinum Award!

This exceptional milestone incorporates compliance with ISO 9001, 14001 and 45001 standards. Looking ahead, the Association is actively working to integrate

three additional ISO standards: ISO 50001:2018 (Energy Management), ISO 55001:2014 (Asset Management), and ISO 37101:2016 (Sustainable Development in Communities), with plans to achieve certification by 2025.

Thank you to our dedicated team and partners for your unwavering commitment to excellence - this achievement is a testament to your hard work and dedication.



OMMP Flows Ahead with Steady Progress

The Olifants Management Model Programme (OMMP), LWUA's flagship R25 billion capital expenditure initiative, continues to make significant strides.

This innovative programme is a 50:50 collaboration between public and private sectors, aiming to fast-track the development of bulk raw and potable water infrastructure in the Sekhukhune District and Mogalakwena Local Municipalities, while enhancing water supply to Polokwane Local Municipality. By integrating potable water infrastructure alongside bulk raw water supply, the OMMP will ensure reliable access for communities and businesses, including mines and industrial users, while optimising existing infrastructure such as the De Hoop and Flag Boshielo dams.

Key Achievements

- **Completion of SE2 Phase 1:** Construction of a pipeline, reservoir and pump station in Steelpoort was commissioned by former Minister of Water and Sanitation, Mr Senzo Mchunu, on 26 April 2024; and
- **Progress on Stage 1:** The OMMP study phase, launched in 2022, concludes in December 2024, while early works for Stage 1 began in Q2 2024. Construction of Phase 2B & 2B+ and the Northern Limb Water Treatment Works is on track to start in Q1 2025, with completion of early works expected by Q2 2025.

The OMMP will unfold over six stages within a decade, with final completion targeted for 2034.

OMMP funding progress

The cost to build the OMMP is split equally between Commercial Members (private sector) and Institutional Members (Government).

Commercial funding relies on long-dated debt from local banks, while Government contributions include grants and concessional loans.

- Stage 1 funding of R7.7 billion is well-advanced, with Government's portion approved and commercial funding nearing completion; and
- Government has also confirmed funding for Stage 2.



What's next for the OMMP?

Looking ahead, LWUA anticipates the following milestones:

- Gazetting of the amended Constitution and rebranding of the Association;
- Completion of the OMMP Study Phase by December 2024;
- Conclusion Stage 1 Early Works Contracts by Q2 2025;
- Finalisation of commercial funding and commencement of Stage 1 construction during the 2024/2025 financial year; and
- Stage 2 FID in the 2025/2026 financial year, with construction commencing thereafter.

LWUA remains committed to improving lives through water by advancing this transformative programme.

Advancing Stage 1:

Highlights from

LWUA's Annual

General Meeting

At LWUA's Annual General Meeting on 28 November 2024, Members approved key resolutions to further enable OMMP implementation, including:

- The approval of the Stage 1 Final Investment Decision (FID);
- The approval to establish a Special Purpose Vehicle (SPV) for newly-built OMMP infrastructure;
- The approval to incur debt (subject to Conditions Precedent being

met), transactions and contracts to advance Stage 1;

- The approval to explore the possible inclusion of a renewable energy solution for the Northern Limb into Stage 1 loan agreements (if proven to be more cost effective); and
- The approval to explore the optimisation of funding arrangements for Commercial Members.



SUP progressing well at four schools in Limpopo

As part of the Olifants Management Model Programme (OMMP), our School Upgrade Programme (SUP) is a cornerstone initiative aimed at enhancing the learning environments of participating schools.

The SUP is tailored to address the specific needs of each school, encompassing upgrades to facilities and equipment. Beyond infrastructure improvements, the programme

encourages educational innovation through teacher training and the provision of cutting-edge interactive learner whiteboards. These initiatives ignite curiosity and creativity in classrooms, empowering educators and learners alike.

We are currently upgrading four schools in Limpopo: three in the Mogalakwena Local Municipality and one in the Fetakgomo Tubatse Local Municipality.

Upgrades are expected to be completed at two of the schools by the end of December, with the remaining two schools completed in January 2025.

In addition to the upgrades, we also installed 44 interactive whiteboards across three schools participating in the SUP and trained 42 teachers in their effective use. These whiteboards are enhancing STEM learning outcomes for Grades R–9.

PEN Programme: Making a difference at ECD Centres in Steelpoort

In partnership with Participate, Envision, Navigate (PEN), an NGO specialising in Early Childhood Development (ECD), we are improving ECD centres to meet the Department of Basic Education's standards.

Launched in April 2024 in Steelpoort, the programme has been focused on upskilling daycare owners, training practitioners and creating tailored improvement plans to ensure children receive quality education.

Key achievements include:

- Establishing a training centre and toy library in Steelpoort;
- Employing two local coaches to support ECD practitioners, with a third coach to join in 2025; and
- Conducting classroom layout and lesson planning training sessions in October, benefiting 13 and 21 centres respectively.

The programme aims to support 30 ECD centres across six Traditional Authority areas over the next three years.



**Speak up confidently
with LWUA's hotline**

LWUA upholds integrity and accountability through a confidential whistleblowing hotline.

Employees, contractors, suppliers and stakeholders can report concerns about conduct that breaches the Association's values.

Reports are reviewed thoroughly, with whistleblowers' confidentiality maintained. Report anonymously via:

- **Hotline:** 0861 267 822 or 087 803 0040
- **WhatsApp:** 079 889 0030
- **Email:** report@lebalelo.co.za



Building Futures: Partnerships, empowerment and accredited growth



The Nal'ibali-Lebalelo Literacy Programme

The Nal'ibali-Lebalelo partnership continues to promote literacy and a love of reading in seven local communities. Recent milestones include:

- **Story Powered Activations:** Engaged 571 children across six schools in July 2024, encouraging creativity through

story reading and activities themed on Nelson Mandela's legacy; and

- **Mandela Day Event:** Donated 67 "Ke Leeto" books to Mecklenburg Hospital and the Dilokong Protective Workshop for the Disabled, alongside educational activities for children.

Supporting education in our communities

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Key highlights from the last few months include the following:

- Supported a two-week learning camp for 41 students from seven local schools, providing groceries and stationery to aid their studies in Mathematics, Physical Science and Life Science. Our intervention played a key role in the remarkable

improvement of the Matric Class of 2024 pass rate in the Malokela Circuit, which increased to 89.4% from 81.4% in 2023; and

- Conducted a clinic activation at Mmutlane Clinic, engaging parents in their children's education and distributing 50 Nal'ibali supplements.



Advancing growth through agricultural development

In partnership with the Limpopo Department of Agriculture and Rural Development, the LWUA team donated seeds, insecticides and compost to 30 farmers and learners at Kwata Primary School. This initiative strengthens food security and supports sustainable agricultural practices.



Building stronger communities through sporting events

Our recent soccer tournament brought together six communities, fostering unity and healthy competition. Hosted on 7–8 December 2024 at the Phala Soccer Ground in Ga-Phala, the event was a resounding success, with active participation from guest of honour Kgoshi Phala in the prize giving. 1st place went to the Phala soccer team, with Super Castle and Bakoni in second and third place respectively.



Driving development through accredited training

- The MICTSETA statements of results (SORs) for 52 educators who attended the interactive learning whiteboard training from 2019-2022 have been released and will be distributed in due course. The SORs for 21 educators trained from 2023-2024 are expected during the course of 2025; and
- The 7 learners from local SMMEs who completed the SETA-accredited NQF Level 5 project management training in 2023 were found competent and will receive their Services SETA SORs and Certificates of Competence in due course.