

NEWSLETTER

IMPROVING LIVES THROUGH WATER



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SAFETY FIRST, ALWAYS

CONTINUED EXCELLENCE: BWUA RETAINS NOSA FIVE-STAR GRADING AND ISO CERTIFICATIONS

BWUA successfully completed its NOSA and NQA surveillance audits at the end of October 2025, maintaining its NOSA Five-Star grading and certification to ISO 9001, ISO 14001 and ISO 45001. The audit assessed BWUA's systems, operational practices and infrastructure across sites and offices, covering legal compliance, risk controls, contractor management, emergency readiness and environmental stewardship. This builds on BWUA's recent compliance with ISO 50001 (Energy), ISO 55001 (Asset Management) and ISO 37101 (Sustainable Development in Communities), achieved through independent external audit in August, confirming the Association's compliance with six ISO standards and the NOSA CMB253 Five-Star Integrated System.

BWUA achieved an effort score of 94.17% over 379,022 hours worked during the period, demonstrating a consistently high level of performance and commitment to continuous improvement. Auditors recorded no critical concerns and highlighted strong system maturity, excellent housekeeping standards, effective statutory inspections, clear signage and controls, and robust risk assessments, including confined space and fire risk. They also commended improvements in system discipline, permit-to-work processes and emergency preparedness. A single minor item relating to occupational driving behaviour remains open.

Reflecting on the process, CEO Dr Kobus Duvenhage stated: "We welcome audits because they sharpen our systems and ensure we stay true to our commitment to operate safely and responsibly. Thank you to the auditors for their insights, and well done to our team – your dedication and discipline underpin this excellent outcome as we strengthen our foundation ahead of scaling the OMMP."



OMMP PROGRESS UPDATE



STAGE 1 COMMERCIAL CLOSE ACHIEVED

On 12 December 2025, the Badirammogo Water User Association (BWUA) achieved Commercial Close for Stage 1 of the Olifants Management Model Programme (OMMP), a large-scale, multi-stage water infrastructure initiative in South Africa's Limpopo Province. The milestone was formalised at a signing ceremony where funding agreements were executed with the programme's financiers, paving the way for Financial Close and the commencement of construction. Stage 1, valued at R 8.5 billion, includes the construction of bulk raw water pipelines, pump stations, associated water treatment works and an integrated energy solution.

The ceremony featured remarks from senior representatives from BWUA (as Project Sponsor and Implementor), the Institutional Sector Financing partners – including the Infrastructure Fund (Institutional Senior Lender and Fundraiser), the Department of Water and Sanitation (Member and Equity Funder through National Treasury grant & WTE funding) – and the Commercial Sector Financing partners, including a consortium of South African Commercial Banks, namely ABSA, Nedbank and Standard Bank (Commercial Senior Lenders), and Climate Fund Managers providing international financing.

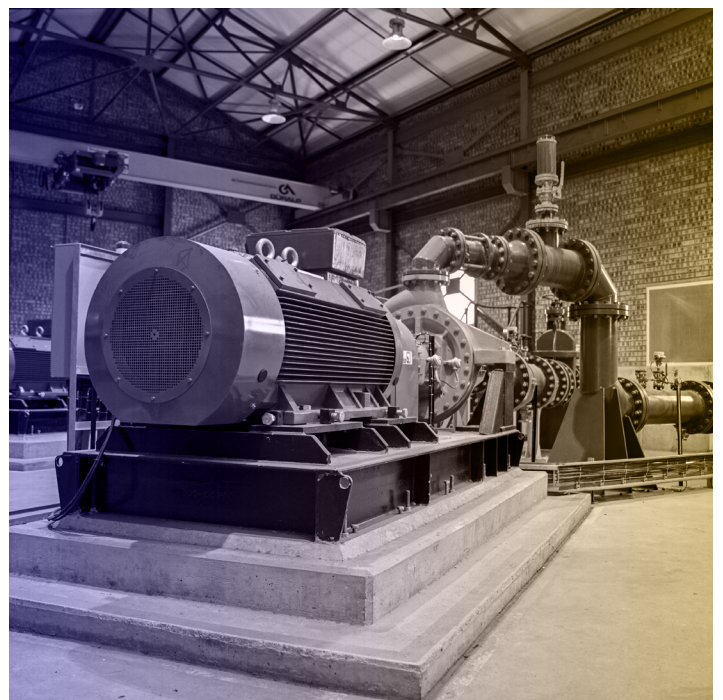
Commercial Close reflects strong confidence in the project's technical design, governance framework and long-term sustainability, demonstrating a replicable model for mobilising investment at scale for resilient, inclusive infrastructure development.



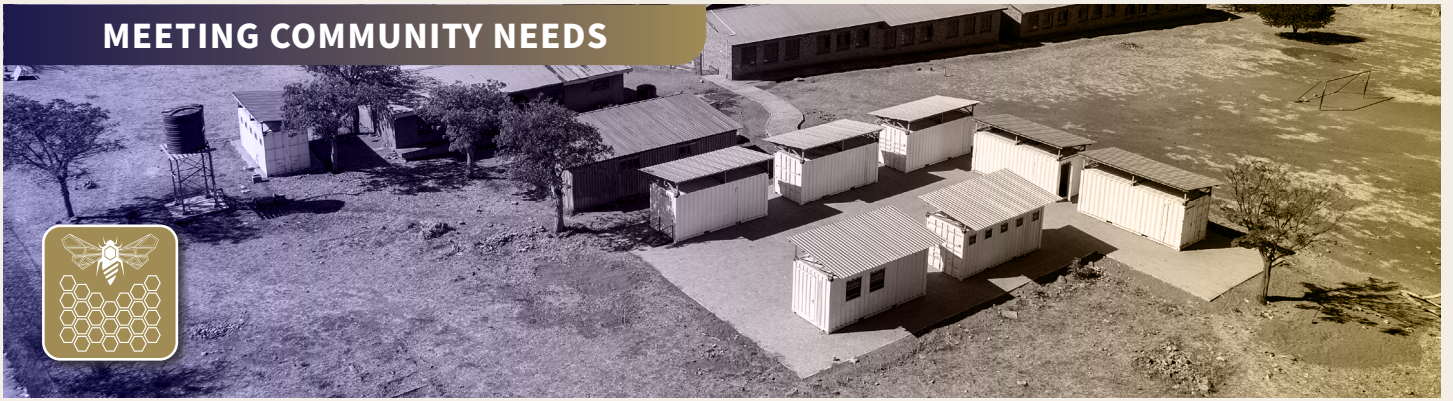
OMMP: A SOURCE-TO-TAP SOLUTION IN LIMPOPO

The OMMP is a R 25 billion (capital expenditure) source-to-tap solution fast-tracking bulk raw and potable water infrastructure development in Limpopo. It is being implemented by BWUA through an innovative 50:50 public-private collaboration and co-governance model. BWUA's membership comprises public sector institutions (Institutional Members) and commercial mining and industrial users (Commercial Members), jointly responsible for funding, governance and long-term sustainability. The programme has been designated as a national priority infrastructure project, enabling accelerated and coordinated delivery.

The OMMP will expand and secure water supply for industry and communities across the Sekhukhune District and Mogalakwena Local Municipalities, and strengthen water supply to the Polokwane Local Municipality. Across its decade-long, six-stage rollout, the programme will deliver more than 875 kilometres of bulk raw and potable water infrastructure. It will provide potable water to approximately 140 communities, benefiting around 390,000 people, while securing supply for key economic sectors and generating an estimated 42,000 direct, indirect and induced employment opportunities. For more info, visit: www.bwua.org.za/omp



MEETING COMMUNITY NEEDS



SOCIO-ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT IS EMBEDDED IN OUR BUSINESS MODEL

For BWUA, Socio-Economic Development (SED) is not peripheral – it is hardwired into our operations and infrastructure delivery model. We ringfence 1% of all operational and capital expenditure to ensure that, alongside building pipelines and pump stations, we are investing in schools, early childhood development and community well-being.

SCHOOL UPGRADE PROGRAMME (SUP): MAINTAINING OUR SCHOOLS POST UPGRADES

As a key socio-economic development initiative of the OMMP, the School Upgrade Programme focuses on improving school infrastructure and facilities based on each school's needs — including converting pit latrines and enviro-loos to flush toilets supported by on-site wastewater treatment systems, installing solar power and providing interactive learning whiteboards and teacher training.

Following the completion of the upgrades at four schools, BWUA has now appointed maintenance service providers to support each site for the next six months. During this period, the schools will identify individuals to be trained and equipped to take over maintenance responsibilities, ensuring infrastructure remains sustainable and functional over the long term.

This model supports both ongoing facility upkeep and local skills development, helping to secure lasting benefits for learners and communities.



EMPOWERING EARLY LEARNING: PEN PROGRAMME PROGRESSES

Launched in April 2024 as a three-year initiative, the Participate Envision Navigate (PEN) Programme supports Early Childhood Development (ECD) centres in BWUA's area of operation across six Steelpoort communities to strengthen teaching practices and prepare children for formal schooling.

With 30 centres now enrolled, the programme continues to show measurable progress. From September to November 2025, there were 87 coaching visits to individual centres, 12 lesson-planning sessions and specialised workshops on emergency procedures, creative arts and gross-motor development. The Toy Library also remained active, enabling centres to access resources that support play-based learning.

ECD principals have also acknowledged the programme's value. One leader shared: "PEN has opened my mind to new ways of teaching... we now know how to plan lessons, use toys as learning tools and better support our children. The training and coaching have made a big difference."

The PEN Programme continues to build strong foundations for lifelong learning in our communities.



MEETING COMMUNITY NEEDS



BADIRAMMOGO-NAL'IBALI LITERACY PROGRAMME

BUILDING A CULTURE OF READING IN OUR COMMUNITIES

Through BWUA's sponsorship of the Nal'ibali Literacy Programme, we continue to champion literacy and learning across doorstep communities in our operational areas.

Story Sessions

During October and November 2025, 168 story sessions were held at schools, ECD centres and reading clubs.

Nal'ibali Team Capacity and Safeguarding

The Badirammo-Nal'ibali programme team completed a three-day Child Protection and Safeguarding Training in October, strengthening capacity to work ethically and safely with children. The training supported team development, including onboarding of new staff and reinforced a shared commitment to child safety, dignity and responsible community engagement across all programme activities.

School Awards: Celebrating Learner Achievement

The Badirammo-Nal'ibali programme team supported year-end award ceremonies at two partner primary schools, reaching more than 170 parents and learners. The events recognised academic achievement and reinforced the value of literacy, commitment and parental involvement. Learners received Nal'ibali reading bags, storybooks and over 100 reading supplements to support continued learning during the school holidays.



ECD Graduation Ceremonies

The team attended graduation ceremonies at three ECD centres, engaging with 313 parents and caregivers. A total of 248 reading supplements were distributed to encourage reading at home. The events also provided an opportunity to raise awareness about early literacy and gather pledges for World Read Aloud Day 2026.

Grade 7 Farewell Events

The team participated in Grade 7 farewell ceremonies at two primary schools, reaching 70 parents. Learners were encouraged as they prepared for the transition to high school, with selected learners receiving reading materials and stationery. The engagement reinforced the importance of continued parental support in education.

Community of Practice: Child Safety Focus

A Community of Practice meeting brought together education and community stakeholders to strengthen awareness around child safety. Discussions focused on safe spaces, community responsibility and access to child protection helplines, with agreement to broaden participation in future meetings to include additional government partners.

Reading Material Distribution

From September to November, the programme team distributed 4,070 reading supplements to schools and ECD centres to support ongoing literacy development. This included 1,565 supplements in September, 1,665 in October and 840 in November.



JOJO TANK DONATION: SUPPORTING SCHOOLS THROUGH SUSTAINABLE INFRASTRUCTURE

As part of BWUA's Socio-Economic Development (SED) initiatives, we installed a 10,000-litre JoJo tank at Molopo Primary School, with all the necessary fittings, to support the school's vegetable garden and National School Nutrition Programme.

The project improves water access and supports food security, while teaching learners about sustainability. It reflects our commitment to improving lives through water by creating practical solutions that enhance education and community wellbeing.

EMPOWERING LOCAL BUSINESSES: SMME TRAINING YIELDS RESULTS

Following the BWUA-hosted SMME training programme earlier this year, aimed at building local business capacity and promoting inclusive economic growth, we are pleased to announce that all nine participating SMMEs have now received their certificates. Notably, one of the trained businesses has already secured a refurbishment project at BWUA's residential area, highlighting the immediate impact and value of the skills acquired.

