

# COMMUNITY NEWSFLASH

IMPROVING LIVES THROUGH WATER



## ABOUT BWUA



## OMM PROGRAMME UPDATE



The Olifants Management Model (OMM) Programme is the Association's flagship capital expenditure initiative fast-tracking water infrastructure development in Limpopo.

## BADIRAMMOGO WATER USER ASSOCIATION

Badirammogo Water User Association (BWUA), formerly known as the Lebalelo Water User Association, was established in 2002 to provide bulk raw water to mines – primarily Platinum Group Metals and chrome mining companies – and to doorstep communities, through the Department of Water and Sanitation (DWS), in the Eastern Limb of the Bushveld Igneous Complex in Limpopo, South Africa. Our infrastructure has not only supported communities, but it has also enabled one of South Africa's critical mineral production regions to function and grow. Since inception, BWUA has financed, built, operated and maintained 125 km of infrastructure, achieving over two decades of uninterrupted supply with minimal water losses. BWUA's NOSA 5-star platinum status, which was achieved in 2024 and retained in 2025, coupled with certification and compliance with six (6) ISO standards (9001, 14001, 37101, 45001, 50001 & 55001), reinforces its commitment to operational excellence and safety.

## STAGE 1 COMMENCES

The Olifants Management Model (OMM) Programme has moved from planning to implementation, with detail design, limited procurement and construction of Stage 1 officially commencing on 2 February 2026, following Commercial Close in December 2025. This marks an important milestone in expanding reliable water supply for communities and supporting economic growth across Limpopo.

Stage 1 includes the construction of a bulk raw water supply scheme, abstracting water from the Flag Boshielo Dam on the Olifants River to supply mining and industrial users as well as two water treatment works constructed to enable the provision of potable water to communities in Mogalakwena Local Municipality. Key components include:

- **Bulk raw water infrastructure:** A steel pipeline from Flag Boshielo Dam to Pruisen (Phase 2B) and from Pruisen to Sekuruwe (Phase 2B+), three new pump stations with associated renewable energy supply, balancing dams and storage reservoirs; and
- **Bulk potable water infrastructure:** Two water treatment works located in Mokopane and Sekuruwe.

Implemented by Badirammogo Water User Association (BWUA), the overall OMM Programme is a R25 billion, multistage, source-to-tap capital expenditure programme expanding bulk raw and potable water infrastructure in Limpopo over a ten-year period. [www.bwua.org.za/omp](http://www.bwua.org.za/omp)



## 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@bwua.org.za

## KEY ACHIEVEMENTS TO DATE

- **October 2024:** Full Business Case for the OMM Programme completed;
- **November 2024:** Final Investment Decision for Stage 1 achieved;
- **June 2025:** Engineering, Procurement and Construction (EPC) contract for Phase 2B and 2B+ awarded to WBHO;
- **August 2025:** Early Works Contract 1 and Early Works Contract 2 completed within the approved budget with support from DWS funding;
- **December 2025:** Commercial Close for Stage 1 achieved;
- **January 2026:** Approval to grant funding from DWS and Infrastructure Fund;
- **February 2026:** Notice to Proceed (limited scope) PMI 001 issued to WBHO through Project Manager's Instruction.

## MEETING COMMUNITY NEEDS



## SOCIO-ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT IS EMBEDDED IN OUR BUSINESS MODEL

Socio-Economic Development (SED) is hardwired into BWUA's operations and infrastructure delivery model. We ringfence 1% of all operational and capital expenditure to ensure that, alongside building and maintaining pipelines and pump stations, we are investing in schools, early childhood development and community well-being.

### SUP SITE HANDOVER

As a key Socio-Economic Development (SED) initiative of BWUA's OMM Programme, the School Upgrade Programme (SUP) focuses on improving targeted schools' infrastructure and facilities according to each school's needs, such as converting pit latrines and enviro-loos to flushable toilets with an on-site wastewater treatment plant, installing solar power and Internet connectivity, as well as providing interactive learning whiteboards and teacher training.

The site at one of the four recently upgraded schools was formally handed back to the school on 23 March, marking an important milestone in the SUP. The handover visit included constructive engagement between the project team and the school to support a smooth transition to sustainable, long-term management of the upgraded facilities.

The visit also provided an opportunity to assess system performance and reinforce operational requirements, with the school demonstrating a strong willingness to adopt recommended practices. To support this transition, maintenance services will be extended for a further six months, after which the school will take responsibility for the maintenance of the new infrastructure.



Under roof gathering area



Inspecting the on-site wastewater plant



Warren Makgowe, Head of Stakeholder Management (on left), handing over to the school principal



A successful handover took place in March

## BWUA TEAM SUPPORTS PROJECT FLOOD RELIEF

In support of Jacaranda FM's Project Flood Relief in January, BWUA collected donations to support communities affected by flooding in Limpopo and Mpumalanga. Thanks to the generosity of team members, BWUA matched contributions Rand-for-Rand, enabling the purchase and delivery of 1,836 bottles (500 ml) of natural spring water to the designated collection point at Mall of the North in Polokwane for distribution to those in need.



BWUA donated 1 836 bottles of water to Project Flood Relief



Maite Kgotle, Communication Officer, delivering supplies



Tlithato Malape, Artisan Assistant, packing one of the bakkies

# EARLY CHILDHOOD DEVELOPMENT (ECD)

## PEN PROGRAMME PROGRESS

### Empowering Early Learning

Through BWUA's partnership with Participate, Envision, Navigate (PEN), we are supporting Early Childhood Development (ECD) centres in Steelpoort, Limpopo to meet the Department of Basic Education's standards. The programme delivers six core activities: school assessments, coaching, lesson planning, training, a toy library and an incentive-based rewards programme (PENdula).

The PENdula programme rewards educators for attending training and weekly lesson planning sessions, with points redeemable for essential resources at the PEN Centre, strengthening both teaching practices and learning environments.

Weekly lesson planning sessions are held at the PEN Training Centre in Steelpoort, where ECD educators come together to prepare for the week ahead and access resources from the toy library to enrich their lessons. PEN coaches also conduct regular site visits to ECD centres, providing ongoing guidance and ensuring that training is effectively implemented in the classroom.

### Key Metrics: Quarter 1, 2026



\* Exceeds the target of 30 ECD centres



Redeeming PENdula rewards



PENdula rewards include a variety of items

## MEETING COMMUNITY NEEDS

## PEN PROGRAMME HIGHLIGHTS

### New PEN Coach Appointed!

BWUA is proud to announce that Sylvia Bhembe has been appointed from the local community as the fourth PEN Programme coach.



PEN Coach, Sylvia Bhembe

### Adopt-a-South African Preschool (ASAP) Founder Visits PEN

The BWUA SED team was delighted to host Nancy Schongalla, the Founder of Adopt-a-South African Preschool (ASAP), who travelled from the United States of America to visit the PEN Steelpoort Centre. The visit presented a valuable opportunity to experience firsthand the support being provided to ECD centres. ASAP plays a vital role in raising funds for PEN Toy Libraries across South Africa, helping to expand access to quality early learning resources in communities.



Nancy Schongalla (far left) with the PEN team



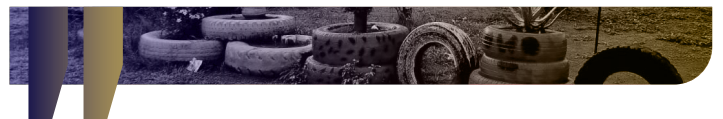
Nancy Schongalla (right) at the PEN Centre

## WATER SUPPORT FOR MODUBENG ECD CENTRE

As part of its socio-economic development initiatives, BWUA donated water pipes and fittings to the Mapalakenye ECD Centre in Modubeng village in April 2026 to support the connection of a water supply line from Shai Primary School, improving access to water and creating a safer environment for young children.



Edward Moloto (l), BWUA SED Officer, and Brighten Chauke (r), BWUA Artisan Assistant, hand over pipes and fittings to Brenda Thobajane (m), ECD Practitioner



### Real Impact - An Educator's Story

"I joined PEN in June 2025. I was inexperienced, my learners were just singing numbers, alphabet without seeing them or touching them. We did not know that toys were essential learning equipment.

I am very grateful to PEN; they taught me how to do different types of registers that we must have in our ECD centre. I enjoyed the creative art training it was hard for me to do art with my kids, but now I am equipped.

Indeed, PEN is my saviour rescuer, not forgetting the PEN coaches for being friendly, approachable and inspirational. May PEN grow and spread to other villages."

**Manager of a participating ECD centre**

# NAL'IBALI-BADIRAMMOGO LITERACY PROGRAMME



## BUILDING A READING CULTURE

Nal'ibali is a national reading-for-enjoyment campaign that aims to unlock children's potential through storytelling and reading. In partnership with the Association, the Nal'ibali-Badirammo Literacy Programme is being implemented across our seven host communities in and around Modubeng, Limpopo, with a focus on improving access to reading materials and strengthening reading practices among children, educators and caregivers.

The programme supports literacy in all official languages through reading clubs, multilingual materials and ongoing training for educators and ECD practitioners. As the programme matures, there is an increased focus on measuring impact, particularly in improving children's reading ability and sustaining a culture of reading.

## PROGRESS UPDATE

Over the past year, the programme has made strong progress in expanding access to reading materials, building community awareness and creating meaningful reading opportunities for children.

### Expanding Access to Books

Thousands of reading materials have been distributed, with several targets exceeded – particularly for storybooks and anthologies – significantly improving access to reading resources.

### Growing a Love for Reading

Awareness initiatives have exceeded expectations, with over 20,500 World Read Aloud Day pledges secured and 32 community activations reaching more than 3 600 people, helping to inspire a culture of reading.

### Empowering Educators and Caregivers

Training efforts remain a key focus. All Reading Club leaders and educators have been trained, with strong participation from caregivers and ECD practitioners. Ongoing support through community forums and digital platforms continues to strengthen reading practices at grassroots level.

### Creating Opportunities for Children to Read

Reading clubs and events continue to thrive, exceeding participation targets and reaching hundreds of children. From World Read Aloud Day to Mandela Day and community festivals, children are engaging with books in fun and meaningful ways.

## WORLD READ ALOUD DAY 2026

The team's mobilisation around the World Read Aloud Day (WRAD) initiative, which takes place annually on 4 February, gained strong momentum across January and February. A total of 20 500 pledges to read to children on WRAD 2026 were secured, exceeding the target of 15 000. Two WRAD events, which took place at Kwata and Moroleng Primary Schools, brought together 13 schools, over 700 learners, 66 adults and a wide range of stakeholders. Learners participated actively, showing growing confidence and enthusiasm for reading, supported by the distribution of story cards, Nal'ibali bags and reading supplements.

## MEASURING IMPACT

### Why This Was Done

To measure the impact of the Nal'ibali-Badirammo Literacy Programme, an endline assessment was conducted at the end of the 2025, building on a baseline completed at the start of the year. The aim was to track improvements in developmental and literacy skills, assess the effectiveness of programme activities and identify areas needing further support.

### How It Was Done

The same learners participated in both assessments to ensure a consistent comparison:

- ▶ 27 ECD learners (ages 4–5) assessed using Early Learning Outcomes Measure (ELOM) tools; and
- ▶ 30 Grade 3 learners assessed using a Sepedi Language Assessment.

### Key Results

#### ECD Learners (ELOM Assessment)

- ✔ Most children are now “on track” developmentally;
- ✔ Strong gains in motor skills, early numeracy and cognitive development; and
- ⚠ Emergent literacy and language remain areas for continued focus.

#### Grade 3 Learners (Sepedi Assessment)

- ✔ All learners now read regularly (5+ times per week);
- ✔ Improved oral reading fluency, especially with more complex texts;
- ✔ Vocabulary development showing positive gains; and
- ⚠ Word recognition and reading comprehension still require support.

### What This Means

The results show meaningful progress across both groups, with clear improvements in foundational skills and reading behaviours. At the same time, they highlight the need for continued focus on literacy development, particularly comprehension and language, to ensure sustained impact.

