



Media Statement For Immediate Release

Date: 29 August 2022

On August 27, 2022, the Inkomati-Usuthu Catchment Management Agency (IUCMA) handed over two boreholes to the communities of Phola (ward 05) and Makgarule (ward 06) in the City of Mbombela.

The boreholes are part of the IUCMA's Corporate and Social Investment (CSI) programme which seeks to uplift the socio-economic conditions of communities within the Inkomati-Usuthu Water Management Area. It needs to be noted that the IUCMA is not responsible for the provision of portable drinking water to communities, but it is in its endeavour of being a good corporate citizen that it established a CSI policy as an instrument to participate in the betterment of the livelihoods of its stakeholders and communities within the Water Management Area (WMA). The initiative is also in line with the Sustainable Development Goal (SGD) no. 6 which mentions that everyone must have access to clean drinking water.

In his opening remarks, Mr Sam Mthembu, chairperson of the IUCMA Governing Board said that the IUCMA is committed to better the lives of its stakeholders and surrounding communities. He also indicated that every aspect of the water value chain is important. He further urged the communities to take care of the facilities as they are meant to assist them by making their lives a little easier.

The boreholes were officially handed over by the Deputy Minister of the Department of Water and Sanitation Hon David Mahlobo. He indicated that that the community has not been getting decent drinking water supply for a while and the IUCMA's initiative will bring a relief to the community. He further requested the communities to protect the infrastructure as they own it. One of the sources of water available to some community members is a nearby well with untreated water.

In attendance of the hand over event was also the MEC for COGTA, Hon Mandla Ndlovu who appreciated the effort by the IUCMA in working with the Municipality in trying to bridge the gap between water resources management and water services. He further indicated that the Department supports this initiative and hopefully the community will take care of the two water schemes.

Below is the technical statistics pertaining to each of the installed solar powered boreholes:

Phola village Solar powered borehole

The bore is expected to service households within 250m radius, which is about 94 households. This translates to 376 people if an average household has 4 family members. According to the Geohydrological study, the borehole is confirmed to have a sustainable yield of 14 400L/day. If the expected water allocation is 25L per capita per day, then water demand 9 400L/day. This simply means that the borehole

yield is more than enough to service communities around, especially those within the 250m radius. The borehole is equipped with a 10 000L tank, and it is powered by 4 solar panels.

Makgarule village solar powered borehole

Similarly, the number of households within 250 m radius from the borehole is about 95 households which translates to 380 people in a family of 4 members. The expected water allocation is 25L per capita per day, then water demand should be 9500 L/day. According to the Geohydrological study, the borehole is confirmed to have a sustainable yield of 86 400 L/day, which is far from enough to service all communities around (250m radius). This borehole is also equipped with a 10 000L tank and powered by 4 solar panels.

End.

Issued by the Inkomati-Usuthu CMA (IUCMA). For more information, please contact Ms Sylvia Machimana at sylviam@iucma.co.za