



KOBWA
WATER FOR EVER



KOMATI BASIN WATER AUTHORITY COMES OF AGE

CELEBRATING 25 YEARS OF EXCELLENT TRANS-BOUNDARY WATER MANAGEMENT



The Driekoppies Dam, Schoemansdal in South Africa



The Maguga Dam, Piggs Peak in Swaziland



Gomora water purification project



Buffelspruit water purification project

The Komati Basin Water Authority (KOBWA), a bi-national organisation formed through the treaty on the development and utilisation of water resources of the Komati River Basin signed by the Kingdom of Swaziland and the Republic of South Africa, celebrates 25 years of excellent integrated cross-border water resources development and management. As an implementing agent of the joint project of both countries, the organisation was tasked with designing, constructing, operating and maintaining two dams and associated infrastructure. This resulted in the construction of the Driekoppies Dam in Schoemansdal South Africa (1993 to 1998) and the Maguga Dam in Swaziland (1998 to 2001).

Over the past 25 years, KOBWA has fostered sound trans-boundary relations between the Republic of South Africa and Swaziland and achieved many successes which include:

- Completing the construction of the Driekoppies Dam and Maguga Dam, which included community empowerment in terms of skills and employment opportunities;
- Efficient water infrastructure management;
- Efficient water resource management;
- Sharing technical information with Stakeholders such as the Komati Joint Operations Forum (KJOF) on a monthly basis;
- Engaging communities in water and environment management awareness campaigns through social engagement such as football;
- Successful management of drought cycles, including the recent severe El-nino spell experienced in 2014-2016;
- The access road to the Driekoppies Dam;
- Houses such as the Fish Eagle Bend in Malalane were constructed to accommodate professionals and technicians working at the dam site during the construction of the Driekoppies Dam;
- Successful relocation and resettlement of households affected by the construction of the dams;
- With the expertise of KOBWA personnel, three portable water purification plants were installed at Buffelspruit, Block-C and Gomora. These water-plants augment water supply to these areas, thus reducing the high frequency of water outages.

As part of its Corporate Social Responsibility Program, KOBWA has seen schools, non-governmental organizations and community-based organizations benefitting water and sanitation-related amenities to improve the lives and social status of the communities.

KOBWA, as an organisation rooted in communities, involved communities in both countries as part of the 25th anniversary celebrations through, Corporate Social Initiative project, sports tournaments where they were also educated about KOBWA's role in trans-boundary water management. Communities that border the Driekoppies Dam (Schulzendal, Buffelspruit, Jeepes Reef, Middelpas, Schoemansdal and Driekoppies) were engaged in a soccer tournament at the Driekoppies Stadium. A one day stakeholder soccer and netball tournament was held in Pigg's Peak in Swaziland with the involvement of stakeholders of both countries to enhance and strengthen stakeholder relationship between the two countries.

In future, KOBWA is looking forward to sustainable trans-boundary water resources development and management for water security for the two countries and the entire region, as water is life.