

KOBWA NEWSLETTER



KOBWA
WATER FOR EVER



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KOBWA WELCOMES NEW CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

KOBWA CEO Mr. Trevor Shongwe



The KOBWA Board Chairperson, Mr. Archinton Thobejane introduced and welcomed the new Chief Executive Officer (CEO), Mr. Trevor Shongwe to staff introductory meetings held at Maguga and Driekoppies Dam conference rooms respectively. He expressed his appreciation with joy saying the *“Captain has arrived to take the ship forward”*, meaning that KOBWA now has a leader to take the organisation to greater heights.

Mr. Shongwe assumed office from the 3rd October 2022, taking over from Mr. Collin Zwane who led KOBWA until 30 June 2022. Mr. Shongwe is a knowledgeable water management specialist and a seasoned executive with over 23 years of work experience. He has extensive leadership and executive experience having held top positions in the Ministry of Natural Resources and Energy in the Kingdom of Eswatini. With his expertise as a water resources practitioner, he has served in various governing boards and board committees as a member both at national and regional levels inclusive of KOBWA Board and Joint Water Commission (JWC) as a commissioner.

The organisation has high hopes that KOBWA will soon realise its vision to be recognised as a leading entity in sustainable integrated trans-boundary water resource development and management, especially with the expertise available under Mr. Shongwe’s leadership.

KOBWA MINISTERIAL VISITS



Seated from left: Acting Minister of Natural Resources and Energy in the Kingdom of Eswatini; Honourable Jabulani Mabuza, Minister of Public Works, Housing and Water Resources from the Republic of Mozambique, Honourable Carlos Alberto Fortes Mesquita, Republic of Mozambique High Commissioner to the Kingdom of Eswatini Mr. Jorge Khalau. Standing from the left, KOBWA Board Chairperson Mr. Archinton Thobejane, Finance Director Mr. Juan deWet, Corporate Service Director Ms. Temangcamane Maseko, Operations Director Mr. Sakiwe Nkomo and Chief Executive Officer Mr. Trevor Shongwe.

Ministers Responsible for Water Resource from the Kingdom of Eswatini and the Republic of Mozambique Visit the Maguga Dam in Eswatini

On the 4th November 2022 the Komati Basin Water Authority hosted the Eswatini Acting Minister for Natural Resources and Energy, Honourable Jabulani Mabuza and Minister for Public Works, Housing and Water Resources of the Republic of

Mozambique, Honourable Carlos Alberto Fortes Mesquita, who came to tour the Maguga Dam project.

KOBWA Board Chairperson, Mr. Archinton Thobejane welcomed the Honourable Ministers with delegates. The Chairperson expressed delight for KOBWA to be given the opportunity to host delegates of such high creed.



KOBWA Board Chairperson leading the Ministers and their delegations at the Maguga Dam tunnel during the tour

He indicated that the event was historic in the sense that it was the first time that KOBWA in her 30 years of existence to hosts two water Ministers, more especially a water minister from the Republic of

Mozambique. The KOBWA CEO, Mr. Trevor Shongwe, made a brief presentation about the formation of KOBWA, her mandate and projects the institution has undertaken over the years.



KOBWA Board Chairperson Mr. Archinton Thobejane presenting gifts to the Ministers of Eswatini and Mozambique, respectively

KOBWA MINISTERIAL VISITS - continued



Delegates from the Member States and KOBWA officials posing for a group photo

Water Ministers from the Republic of South Africa and Mozambique Visit the Driekoppies Dam in South Africa

On the 24th November 2022 the Honourable Minister for Water and Sanitation in the Republic of South Africa, Honourable Minister Senzo Mchunu, hosted his Mozambican counter-part Minister of Public Works, Housing and Water Resources, Honorable Carlos Alberto Fortes Mesquita.

The event was held at the Driekoppies Dam in Mpumalanga, South Africa. During the tour the Minister was represented by Dr. Sean Phillips, the Director General of the Department of Water and Sanitation. The tour was part of a program to strengthen

bilateral relations and cooperation on the management of shared water resources between South Africa and Mozambique.



Honorable Minister of Public Works, Housing and Water Resources in Mozambique, Carlos Alberto Fortes Mesquita and the Department of Water and Sanitation Director General, Dr Sean Phillips representing Minister for Water and Sanitation, Honourable Minister Senzo Mchunu at Driekoppies Dam during the dam tour and associated projects



Leader of SA Delegation Ms. Duduzile Mthembu, Honorable Minister of Public Works, Housing and Water Resources in Mozambique, Carlos Alberto Fortes Mesquita, Department of Water and Sanitation Director General, Dr. Sean Phillips representing Minister for Water and Sanitation, Honorable Minister Senzo Mchunu, KOBWA Board Chairperson Mr. Archinton Thobejane, KOBWA CEO Mr. Trevor Shongwe, delegates and KOBWA officials posing for a group photo at Driekoppies Dam.

STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENTS



Stakeholders posing for a group photo during the workshop at the Pestana Lodge, Malelane, South Africa

Treaty Review on the Development and Utilisation of the Water Resources of the Komati River Basin

On the 2nd and 9th March 2023 the governments of the Republic of South Africa and the Kingdom of Eswatini held stakeholder consultations on the review of Treaty on the Development and Utilisation of Water Resources of the Komati River Basin signed by the two countries in 1992. The Treaty review is to broaden the mandate

of the Komati Basin Water Authority to enable the Authority to complement and enhance efforts towards the provision of water management related services by the two countries. The consultation was through stakeholder workshops where the first workshop was held at the Pestana Kruger Lodge at Malelane in South Africa on the 2nd March 2023 followed by another one at the Pigg's Peak Hotel and Casino in Eswatini on the 9th March 2023.



KOBWA Board Chairperson Mr. Archinton Thobejane delivering welcome remarks during the South African consultation workshop.



KOBWA CEO Mr. Trevor Shongwe delivering a presentation during the proceedings of the Treaty Review Workshop



Delegates and stakeholders listening attentively during the proceedings in the Malelane workshop

STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENTS - continued



MNRE Legal Advisor Mr. Lloyd Mzizi leading the process of reviewing the KOBWA Treaty of 1992 at Pigg's Peak Hotel and Casino



KOBWA CEO Mr. Trevor Shongwe making a presentation during the review of the KOBWA Treaty of 1992, held at Pigg's Peak Hotel and Casino.



Dr Leonard Ndlovu making a submission during the review of the KOBWA Treaty at Pigg's Peak Hotel and Casino



Dr Nicolette Mhlanga Ndlovu facilitating proceedings during the review of the KOBWA Treaty held at Pigg's Peak Hotel and Casino.

KOBWA HOSTS CLIMATE CHANGE WORKSHOPS



Participants at the climate change workshop listening to a presentation.

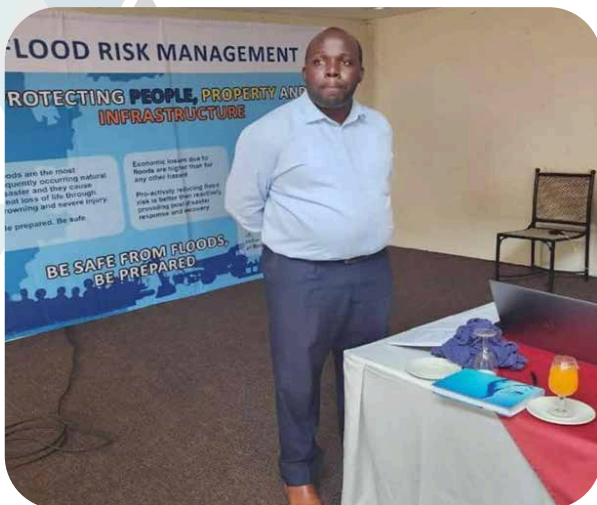
The Council for Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR) Pretoria and Department of Rural Development, Land and Environmental Affairs (DARDLEA) Mpumalanga office conducted a climate change and early warning systems workshop for Farmers (Agriculture and Livestock). The workshop was hosted at the Driekoppies Dam on the 10th June 2022 and focused on the impacts of climate change on farmers and Early Warning System including weather forecasting on how farmers can be assisted in accessing all the information

available to help them plan their activities better.

The same workshop was also held at Maguga Lodge on the 11th October 2022 with Emandla Ekuphila Water Users District (EEWUD). During this workshop Mr. Sakhiwe Nkomo, KOBWA's Operations Director, alluded to the fact that it was critical for KOBWA to host the workshop for water users since more than 90% of the water in KOBWA dams is for agricultural use.

KOBWA HOSTS CLIMATE CHANGE WORKSHOPS

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KOBWA's Operations Director Mr. Sakhile Nkomo and Anne Kruger from EEWUD



Mr. Bongumenzi Themba from Eswatini Meteorological Service presenting during the event.

Mr. Bongumenzi Themba from Eswatini Meteorological Service stated in his presentation that weather predictions indicated a normal to above normal rainfall season within the months of October 2022 to March 2023 period.

Ms. Gcebile Dlamini from the National Disaster Management Agency (NDMA) also made a virtual presentation on issues of climate change and disaster preparedness.

INTERNATIONAL COMMEMORATION

World Water Day – Eswatini 2023, Accelerating Change

KOBWA joined hands with the rest of the world in celebrating this year's World Water Day under the Theme ***“Accelerating Change”*** by facilitating the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) through the Water, Energy and Food nexus. Through the campaign called “Be the change” by the United Nations, encourages

people to take action in their own lives to change the way they use, consume and manage water.

The theme of this year's World Water Day was Accelerating Change. KOBWA partnered with other stakeholders together with the Ministry of Natural Resources and Energy, in the art of creating a big banner in commemorating the event.



Acting Minister of Natural Resources and Energy Honourable Jabulani Mabuza, Principal Secretary in the Ministry Ms. Dorcas Dlamini, Motshane Member of parliament Honourable Robert Magongo, KOBWA CEO Mr. Trevor Shongwe and Sabelo Dlamini from Eswatini Water Services Corporation marching at Maguga Dam in commemoration of World Water Day.

INTERNATIONAL COMMEMORATION - continued



Honourable Minister posing with students from Ekuvinjelweni High School



Honourable Minister, Ministry PS, Ekuvinjelweni and Nginamadvolu Chiefs, Motshane MP and KOBWA CEO in a boat cruise during the commemoration of world water day at Maguga Dam



KOBWA CEO Mr. Trevor Shongwe talks to the theme of the event during the Commemoration of World Water Day



Eswatini Electricity Company Doctor Hlongwane talks to the theme with regards to their Hydropower Station constructed at Maguga Dam

The CEO of KOBWA mentioned that, the company has improved the security of water supply to industries and has also ensured availability of the water resource for potable supply to demand areas around the dams in both Schoemansdal (RSA), Pigg's Peak (Kingdon of Eswatini). This has ensured the accelerated implementation of SDG 6.0 which calls for countries by the year 2030 to have achieved universal and equitable access to safe and affordable drinking water.

Doctor Hlongwane who represented Eswatini Electricity Company (ECC) indi-



KOBWA Staff posing with Acting Minister of Natural Resources and Energy

During the commemoration of World Water Day, KOBWA partnered with EWSC, ESWADE, EEC, Thirst Projects,

cated that the Maguga dam has supported the production of 20 Mega Watts of electricity to bridge the National/Regional energy deficit. The water from Maguga Dam is channeled through the river system to be used by irrigated agriculture for food production and improves food security within the Member States thus accelerating the implementation of SDG 6.5.

This calls for Member States by 2030 to have implemented integrated water resources management at all levels, including through transboundary cooperation.



Ekuvinjelweni Chief Mabaleka Mncina making his remarks during the day

Manzi Drilling, DWA, JRBA-PB, WaterAid, UNICEF, World Vision and other companies in ensuring that the event is a success.

INTERNATIONAL COMMEMORATION - continued

World Water Day, South Africa 2023 "Accelerating Change"

The Finals of the Science Schools Competition were held at the Lowveld Botanical Gardens in Mbombela on the 23rd March 2023 KOBWA participated in the school's science competition hosted by the Inkomati-Usuthu Catchment Management Agency (IUCMA), commemorating the World Water Day, under the Theme; *"Accelerating Change"*. The event was

held at the Lowveld Botanical Gardens on the 23rd June 2023. The IUCMA with its partners in the water sector have been coordinating this initiative, the Science Schools Competition for over nine (9) years. The objective is to raise awareness on the Integrated Water Resource Management (IWRM) and to showcase its role in the socio-economic development of the country. This is also intended to spark the interest of learners in the field of Science and Engineering with specific focus on Water.



Zenzele Secondary School who won 3rd prize, presenting their model

The schools were tasked to develop a groundwater flow and accessibility model to supply water to communities for domestic purposes, in alignment with the theme; ***“Accelerating Change”***. The purpose was to trigger learners’ creativity on how they can effectively provide solutions to water issues surrounding the communities and to also educate learners on cost and efforts invested in providing groundwater for domestic purposes.

KOBWA is one of the key stakeholders who participated and sponsored gift vouchers worth R/E 27 500.

The first phase of the competition was held at regional level from the six different subcatchments where the winning schools (Top Three) from each district or region

(subcatchment) participate in the final competition. Event sponsors included Manganese Metal CO, SAPPI, Silulumanzi, Umsimbithi Mines, and Working on Fire.



KOBWA Ms. Colisile Nhlabatsi, Mr. Sakiwe Nkomo, Ms. Khethiwe Ngcobo and Mr. Trevor Shongwe, posing for the camera during the proceedings of the Science Schools Competition.



The students posing with sponsors after they had been awarded their prizes.

INTERNATIONAL COMMEMORATION - continued

World Environmental Day at Tonga Primary School

KOBWA attended the Water and Environmental Management Campaign and World Environment Day Commemoration, 05 June 2022 at Tonga Primary School. The theme was *“Only one Earth – Living Sustainably in Harmony with Nature”*. KOBWA is a member of the Nkomazi Greening and Beautification Forum which

aims to fight environmental degradation and ensure that the Nkomazi municipality is free from litter and illegal dumping, is environmentally friendly and possess attractive parks. Through the Greening and Beautification Forum, environmental programmes are achieved through collaborations with stakeholders operating within the environmental sector, NGOs, private sectors and government institutions within Nkomazi.



Executive Mayor Mr. Mkhathshwa making his remarks at the World Environmental Day Commemoration

The purpose of the event was to create awareness about the importance of the environment, understanding individual's role as are part of nature on how they intimately depend on it for survival and to implement actions on the protection of the environment. The Mayor and the Chief honored the day by planting some trees at the school to provide shelter and to generate oxygen for humans' consumption. In support KOBWA donated 500x 500ml of branded water.

For the 1st Quarter of the 2022/2023 year, the forum ran programmes that aligned with the World Environmental Month centered around waste management which was identified as one of the biggest challenges faced within urban and rural areas. The forum noted that informal waste management had not been able to reach many villages and that resulted in illegal dumping within communities and water bodies. To meet the objectives of the Forum, the following events were carried out:

- 15 June 2022 - A recycling workshop was held at KaMhlushwa Hall under the theme "Growing the Green Economy"
- 22 June 2022 - Celebration of the World Environmental Day Celebration at Tonga View Primary School in Tonga.

- 29 June 2022 - Holding of the KaHhoyi Community Environmental Awareness Programme



Ms. Khethiwe Ngcobo briefing the students and teachers on KOBWA's operations



Tonga View Primary School students posing for a picture after planting a tree during World Environmental Day Commemoration at Tonga

INTERNATIONAL COMMEMORATION - continued

KOBWA Partakes in the Phaphama Youth Centre Annual Environmental Awareness Event at Masibekela Recreational Park in the Nkomazi Municipality, 8th October 2022

The event started off with a clean-up campaign around the Masibekela Park. Newly appointed KOBWA Chief Executive Officer Mr. Trevor Shongwe led the KOBWA team with the Operations Director Mr. Sakhiwe Nkomo.



Operations Director Mr. Sakhiwe Nkomo participating during the campaign



KOBWA soccer team posing with the CEO before the soccer games of the day



KOBWA staff Colisile, Andile and Khangezile participating during the clean-up campaign



CEO Mr. Trevor Shongwe appreciating a flower at the Masibekela Recreational Park nursery

In his remarks, Mr. Shongwe gave a brief about KOBWA and encouraged the collection of solid waste for recycling as a means of revenue generation and treating water as a valuable resource.

Closing the day were sports activities where the KOBWA soccer team took part.

Ngungwane Bridge Cleaning - #67Minutes #Mandela Day

KOBWA commemorated Mandela Day by cleaning the Ngungwana stream/bridge on Thursday, 28 July 2022 in collaboration with the Greening and Beautification Forum.

Ngungwane stream/bridge has been an illegal dumping site where litter was visible along the R570 highway connecting Mpumalanga to Eswatini through the Jeeps Reef border, posing as a threat to tourism within the Ehlanzeni District Municipality. This was also a threat to the locals, and surrounding communities drinking water from the dam since it was being polluted. As much as Nkomazi Local Municipality (NLM) purifies the water, the communities were exposed to *Ecoli*. The aim of the clean-up campaign was to begin the creation of a lasting solution by transforming the area into a recreational park through the collaboration with the Greening and Beautification Forum. The

Matsamo Traditional Authority supported the campaign by donating a piece of land to be use as a landfill.



Grader and trucks clearing debris



Landfill site presented by Matsamo Traditional Authority at Schoemansdal

INTERNATIONAL COMMEMORATION - continued

Mr. Ntabeni from the Department of Water and Sanitation (DWS) appreciated the initiative by the forum which is in-line with the Department's plan. The creation of the park was indicated to be long-term project that will be integrated into the Resource

Management Plan, which is a programme designed by the Department of Water & Sanitation to manage the developments surrounding the Driekoppies Dam. This will provide short term and long-term employment opportunities to local residents.



Mr. Ntabeni from DWS addressing the audience



Ms. Tema Maseko, Acting CEO addressing the audience

MAGUGA AND DRIEKOPPIES DAM TOURS

Waterford Kamhlaba United World College Tours Maguga Dam, Thursday 09 February 2023

Waterford Kamhlaba United World College of Southern Africa, one of the 18 schools

and colleges in the UWC educational movement, located in Mbabane, Eswatini.

Waterford was the first school in Southern Africa open to children and youth of all colors.



Waterford Ka-Mhlaba students arriving at the Maguga Dam View Point Restaurant



Students arriving at the MD Powerhouse



KOBWA Technical staff posing with Waterford staff

MAGUGA AND DRIEKOPPIES DAM TOURS

- continued

KOBWA Hosted Students from Sitintile Secondary School, one of Winners of the 2022 World Water Day Competition at the Driekoppies Dam.

The Komati Basin Water Authority sponsored the 2022 World Water Day Science School's competition a total of R/E 27 500 worth of prizes in a form of gift vouchers presented to the winning schools and an educational excursion in one of the KOBWA dams. The finals of the competition were held at the

Lowveld Botanical Garden in Mbombela on the 22nd March 2022 where Highveld Secondary School were the winners, Sitintile Secondary School and James Khoza Secondary were second and third respectively. On the 17th May 2022 students from Sitintile Secondary School were taken through a tour of the Driekoppies dam. This was to familiarise the learners to dams operation, advising on career guidance, as well as exposing learners to the work environment.



Ms Colisile Nhlabatsi posing with Sitintile Secondary School students



Mr. Vusi Magagula taking the students through aspects of dam operations

KOBWA TEAM BUILDING ACTIVITIES

KOBWA Hosts a Staff End of Year Function for the Year 2022/2023, 12th December 2022.

KOBWA hosted its end of year function at Ingwenyama Resort, White River, Mpumalanga Province, South Africa. This function was coordinated through the KOBWA Relationship Building Continuity Team (RBCT) aimed to ensure that there

are good relations amongst the employees. Unfortunately, over the past three (3) years, due to the COVID-19 pandemic the team building events could not be undertaken. The year end function was targeted to facilitate and strengthen employee relationships and to contribute to improving organisational performance. The function was held under the theme *“Old School – Gugothandayo”*.



Eswatini famous comedians Gogo and S'Iwane entertaining KOBWA staff during function



Mr. Sanele receiving his long service award from the CEO

KOBWA TEAM BUILDING ACTIVITIES - continued



CEO posing with the RBCT



Operations Director posing with some members of the Water Management Team



Appreciation from Eddy Nkosi and the Finance Team



Corporation Services Director, Temangcamane Maseko smiles for the camera



A KODAC moment with the gents



A smile from the ladies



An excited KOBWA team dancing the night away



Gogo, S'lwane and M Nation entertaining staff during the night

KOBWA TEAM BUILDING ACTIVITIES - continued

KOBWA Administration Staff engage on a Team Building Exercise.

On the 2nd December 2022 KOBWA Administration Department hosted their team building exercise at Sibebe Resort in Pine Valley, Mbabane. The purpose of the exercise was to motivate team members to be able to work together, in encouraging collaboration rather than competition.

The department chose an exquisite area to host their team building exercise, since it provided various activities such as Sibebe Rock Hiking, short walk to beautiful historic caves, quad biking, zipline, swimming and many more.



Mr. Eddie Nkosi, Mr. Trevor Shongwe, Ms. Kenzie Mavimbela, Mr. Victor Mahwayi and Ms. Barbra Gama



Admin Team taking a walk at Sibebe Resort during the event



Victor, CEO, and Eddy geared up and ready for the zip line



Barbra and Kenzie also geared for the zip line



KOBWA TEAM BUILDING ACTIVITIES

Umushi Wenkosazana Resort and Spa, is a hotel perched on the mountain side at Mhlosheni-Forbes Reef community about 18 kilometres away from Mbabane city. The team building exercise, was to motivate the finance staff to work together, to develop their strengths and most importantly to

reinforce their working relations to improve departmental performance.

As part of the exercise, the team went on a quad biking ride which covers a distance of 1.5km.



L- R: Mr. Siyanda Zembe, Ms. Doris Mavuso, Mr. Vincent Gama, Mr. Juan De Wet, Ms. Futhi Kunene, Mr. Gerald Dube and Mr. Simiso Dlamini pose for a group photo



The Finance Department in full gear for quad biking during their team building exercise



The Finance team building exercise organiser Vincent Gama riding a bike during their function



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