



Tru the Pipeline

July 2010

UMGENI WATER ADOPT A SCHOOL



INTRODUCTION

Umgeni Water Adopt a School project was started in February 2009. The programme was implemented as a result of ongoing interaction between Umgeni Water's education unit and rural and underdeveloped schools. The education unit promoted the water education programme at these schools. It was discovered that these schools had other needs that made it difficult to sustain water education programmes. Among an array of issues that hindered progress were:

- nutrition and well - being - hungry children with torn uniforms and no shoes
- access to water and sanitation - inadequate water and degraded sanitation facilities
- school infrastructure - the degradation of school buildings, for example, windows, gutters and walls
- access to information - lack of access to books, computers and other resources made it impossible to ascertain what was going on around the world
- maintenance of school grounds - no food gardens, no trees and no good maintenance of school yards

Purpose of the Adopt a School programme

Umgeni Water's Adopt a School programme is inspired by a vision of schools that are both environmentally literate while also actively involved in transforming their environment to promote sustainability. The broader outcomes identified include:

- sustainable living
- a healthy environment

- conservation of natural resources
- environmental protection and stewardship

Ndodembi Primary Background

Ndodembi Primary is situated some 60km from Durban, near Ogunjini. The school houses about 122 children, most of whom hail from child-headed homes and are seen as vulnerable. The condition of the school, water and sanitation facilities are very poor. Most of the children do not have school uniforms. As a result of the socio-economic position of the surrounding communities, the school is a "no-fee" paying school. Road access to the school has just been improved. The school does not have a garden and relies on rain water harvesting for its water supply. Umgeni Water plans to work with the school for the next three years in partnership with other stakeholders. At the end of the three years, Umgeni Water hopes the school will be able to sustain itself by having a vegetable garden, supply of books and other relevant materials to sustain itself.

An integrated approach to help adopted schools - Umgeni Water's Gender Forum Fundraising Initiative

The fundraising initiative was started to help adopted schools in terms of providing for children who cannot afford proper school uniforms because of a lack of or limited financial resources. The Gender Forum identified a gap and initiated a fundraising initiative to address issues of hunger and poverty.



Ndodembi Primary School “Mandela Day” commemoration, 19th July 2010

In commemorating “Mandela Day”, Umgeni Water staff, together with the Department of Education, Department of Agriculture & Environmental Affairs (seeds & garden implements), Department of Arts & Culture and ELITS (a Department of Education initiative) visited the school for a day on **Monday 19th July** in support of the adopted schools programme.

Umgeni Water sponsored full uniforms (shoes/shirts/pants/ jerseys) for ten scholars, garden tools and backpacks for all the pupils, numbering 122. Other stakeholders, i.e. ELITS in Pietermaritzburg, donated 241 library books worth **R8, 579.11**, while the Department of Agriculture &

Environmental Affairs donated garden implements, seeds and compost.

On the day, Umgeni Water Board Members Minah Lesoma, Visvin Reddy & Taki Dube, together with EXCO members Mboniseni Dlamini and Prudence Gwala, read to and handed out uniforms to the scholars, their parents/ guardians. They also motivated them to do well in their studies.

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