



MEDIA RELEASE

16 NOVEMBER 2020

FOOT OPERATED HANDWASH EQUIPMENT DESTINED FOR LOCAL COMMUNITIES TO BATTLE COVID 19 PANDEMIC

The MEC for Cooperative Governance and Traditional Affairs, Xolile Nqatha will officially hand over two hundred (200) foot operated taps and eight washing basins to the Amahlathi and Enoch Mgijima municipalities on 20 November 2020. The handover is a partnership between the Development Bank of Southern Africa (DBSA), National Business Initiative (NBI) and the Grundfos Foundation.

MEC Nqatha said government supports strategic partnerships with key stakeholders including the business sector to realise a better life for all the people of the Province.

“Ours is to harness the coalition of the willing to build the South African we want, especially under the threat of Covid-19 pandemic. The equipment, we welcome it to save lives and protect livelihoods,” said MEC Nqatha

Ms Ruth Troskie (Programme Manager (Technical Assistance, Mentorship & Development) – TAMDEV) at the NBI, said the foot-operated water taps offer “a simple yet effective solution to enable safe access to water and improved hygiene.”

Ms Troskie confirmed the system has been developed by the NBI in conjunction with a South African retired water engineer.

“The equipment has been tested to ensure the durability of the technology. It also requires minimal maintenance and provides water at optimum flow level, which will provide a safe hygiene solution for decades to come,” explained Ms Troskie.

In addition, the handwash facility is fully foot-operated and has a limited surface area to prevent contamination, making it an ideal solution during and beyond the Covid-19

pandemic. The unit's longevity makes it suitable for hygiene access at schools, clinics, informal settlements and anywhere where safe public handwashing is needed.

Hundreds of additional foot-operated water taps and public handwashing facilities will be installed in identified densely populated communities of the Eastern Cape Province.

Part of the activities for the event will include the celebration of Global Hand Washing Day, incorporating demonstrations around sanitation awareness, which will include handing over of sanitisers and other material to deserving communities by the Department of Water and Sanitation (DWS).

MEC Nqatha will further handover park home offices donated by his department to the Amahlathi Local Municipality. The details of the event are as follows:

Date: 20 November 2020

Time: 08h30

Venue: Amahlathi Local Municipality, Stutterheim

Members are advised to confirm attendance to Ms Siphokazi Nonyukela on 078 334 9028 or Siphokazi.nonyukela@eccogta.gov.za

End.

Issued by the Department of Co-operative Governance and Traditional Affairs.

For enquiries please contact Mr Mamnkeli Ngam on 071 685 7981 or Mr Makhaya Komisa on 066 381 8259.

For technical details on the foot operated equipment, please contact Ms Ruth Troskie at 072 554 2705