

CCSA Partners with Government to Provide Clean Water to Schools through RAIN

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Coca-Cola South Africa and the country's Department of Basic Education signed a memorandum of understanding (MOU) to take the RAIN Water for Schools project to 91 additional schools by 2012.

Speaking at the Sept. 10 ceremony at CCSA headquarters in Parktown, Business Unit President Bill Egbe affirmed the Company's commitment to advance the project, which started as a FIFA World Cup™ legacy initiative with nine schools (one from each province) receiving clean water and improved sanitation facilities.

Egbe explained that the project was part of the RAIN (Replenish Africa Initiative), TCCC's response to the serious water issues facing the African continent. RAIN was made possible by a \$30 million, six-year commitment by TCCC to provide African countries with access to clean water and sanitation, hygiene education and sustainable water sources.



Minister of Basic Education Angie Motshekga.

Egbe said RAIN Water for Schools (RWS) seeks to reduce the prevalence of water-borne disease and increase school attendance in target communities, particularly among young girls. RWS also aims to improve the capacity among those responsible for ensuring the sustainability of school water and sanitation infrastructure, to increase awareness of water and sanitation issue among the general public, and to give students around the world the opportunity to study the global water crisis and take action to support RWS-selected schools (hence the partnership with the Department of Basic Education).

Angie Motshekga, Minister of Basic Education, praised CCSA's commitment to improve the standard of living of local communities where the Company does business. She acknowledged that the Department of Education would not be able to accomplish this mammoth task of providing water and sanitation to schools on its own, insisting that partnerships like these make it easier for government to fulfill its mandate.

The Minister also dispelled myths that water issues were only prevalent in rural communities, explaining that some urban communities are also affected. In fact, children in some urban schools are forced to leave early daily due to a lack of lack of water and sanitation facilities.

Minister Motshekga also commended CCSA for bringing on other partners like Mvula Trust and other project management consultancies, since the Department's competency and expertise focus only on the provision and management of education. "Providing sustainable water and sanitation services to schools goes a long way in tackling hurdles on our way to delivering quality education and a better life for all our people," she said. "This initiative is therefore significant to us. Accordingly, we are grateful to both Coca-Cola and H2O for life for helping us make this programme a success. We thank all of you for the commendable corporate social responsibility you have demonstrated."

William Asiko, President of Coca-Cola Africa Foundation, also acknowledged the presence of all involved partners and highlighted the critical roles they are playing in ensuring that the projects benefits both the students and the communities where the schools are located.



Bill Egbe, President of Coca-Cola South Africa, signs the MOU with Minister of Basic Education Angie Motshekga.



William Asiko, President, The Coca-Cola Africa Foundation.

PEOPLE

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