



## **Lebalelo Water User Association**

### **CEO Newsletter**

**April 2020**

Dear Colleagues

I trust that you and your families are safe and healthy. I am writing to you as part of the monthly message that I will be sharing with you on our newly launched website.

As we are all aware, COVID 19 is wreaking havoc on a global scale affecting the livelihoods of people, industries and businesses. Severe strain has been placed on all, with Government having to ensure that communities are provided with adequate water to prevent the spread of the virus. Lebalelo Water User Association (LWUA) has been working closely with Government since the outbreak to assist in providing water carriers and tanks to water stressed communities as well as initiating an emergency borehole drilling programme.

Water is an essential commodity for both domestic needs and economic growth. This crisis has again highlighted the plight of our most vulnerable communities and the need for a collaborative solution, as proposed. There is mounting concern that social unrest is likely to heighten should potable water service delivery to communities not be accelerated, threatening the ability of commercial and government institutions to operate safely and effectively in the area.

The LWUA management committee approved a programme to participate in the fight against COVID 19. LWUA bought 70 water tanks and committed to install it in vulnerable communities in the Makhuduthamaga and Fetakgomo Tubatse Local Municipalities. These communities were identified by the Sekhukhune District Municipality and the Department of Water and Sanitation. These tanks will be installed by 30 May.

LWUA has also rented water tankers and purchased some more to provide the water potable water to these communities. Due to the uncertainty about the duration of the pandemic, we have committed to continue until 30 September 2020. This may be reconsidered at that time.

Current operations are continuing with minimum personnel. The water requirements from the members has decreased by about 50% and should start to increase as from this week as mines are starting to operate again.

I hope that we can work closer together to support the communities where we operate as we are part of these communities. I invite you to share your learnings with us.

Thank you

Bertus Bierman