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MEDIA RELEASE FOR IMMEDIATE USE BY EDITORS

KZN Dept of Sport & Lifesaving SA Water Safety Open Day - 17 to 19 May

An exciting interactive Water Safety Open Day Workshop is being held by Lifesaving SA in partnership with the Department of Sports & Recreation, a major Stakeholder, at the Inanda Dam Picnic Area from Wednesday, 17 May to Friday, 19 May 2006. The Workshop will be attended by various dignitaries from the KZN Department of Sports and Recreation, Umgeni Water and the Management of Lifesaving South Africa.

Schools in the immediate Inanda Dam region have been invited to participate in this Workshop over the three day period and they are: Laboure Primary School; Ndlokolo Primary School, Umgeni Primary School; Khanyisalni Primary School and Isihlangusabasha Primary School. Schools will be supplied with support material such as Lifesaving Nipper Handbooks, Water Safety Handbooks, posters and worksheets.

The overall objective of this project is firstly, to promote the development of Lifesaving as a sport to a sector of the community that may have had little or no exposure to this diverse and exciting recreational activity and secondly, to educate them on much needed water safety life skills such as basic water safety techniques, rescue and resuscitation skills.

The educational value of this programme is substantial as learners are empowered to proactively take responsibility for their safety at an aquatic site. Over 300 learners between the ages of 12 to 14 years will be benefiting from this Open Day. Planned Activities for each day include a Water Safety and Lifesaving Presentation, a Basic First Aid Lecture, Land Based Rescue Methods, Flags and Relays and finally Rescue Board Paddling.

To further enhance the safety measures all participants will be required to wear lifejackets at all times while participating in water events. Dedicated professional lifeguard coverage will be provided through the services of Lifeguards Africa. In the event of any water or medical emergency a professional paramedic, equipped with rescue and first aid equipment, such as a trauma kit and inflatable rescue boat (IRB), will be present throughout the three days.

ENDS.

Issued by: Miss Nelanjini Govender - Operations & Marketing Manager
Lifesaving South Africa

Ph.: 031-3129215

Fax: 031-3125612