

MEDIA RELEASE FOR IMMEDIATE USE BY EDITORS

---

### **Tremendous Enthusiasm for Water Safety Open Day - 17 to 19 May 2006**

The exciting and interactive Water Safety Open Day Workshop which was held by Lifesaving SA in partnership with the Department of Sports & Recreation at the Inanda Dam Picnic Area from Wednesday, 17 May to Friday, 19 May 2006 was greeted with great enthusiasm from the Schools that were invited.

Selected schools from around the immediate Inanda Dam region with a quota of a hundred pupils per day were invited to participate in this Workshop over the three day period. These Schools were Laboure Primary School; Ndlokolo Primary School, Umgeni Primary School; Khanyisalni Primary School and Isihlangusabasha Primary School. Schools were supplied with support material such as Lifesaving Nipper Handbooks, Water Safety Handbooks, posters and worksheets.

The Workshop was attended by various dignitaries. They were Mr Maharaj - KZN Sport & Recreation; Mr Paul Veseley - KZN Sport & Recreation; Councillor Nkhosa - Ethekewini Municipality; Mr Desmond Myeza, Manager from the Office of the Speaker; Mr Stembiso Mkhwanazi and Miss Thanda Mazala - Department of Arts, Culture & Tourism; Mr Rayner Naguran and Mr Bongani Mkize of Msinisi Holdings; Mr Pravesh Boodhoo - Umgeni Water, Central Area Region; Ms Arvashini Sing, General Manager of Lifesaving SA and Mrs Cynthia Meintsma and Ms Nelanjini Govender, both of Lifesaving SA.

The overall objective of this project was 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 benefited from this Open Day. Planned Activities for each day included 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 safety measures all participants were required to wear lifejackets at all times while participating in water events. Dedicated professional lifeguard coverage was provided through the services of Lifeguards Africa.

---

ENDS

Issued by: Miss Nelanjini Govender - Operations & Marketing Manager  
Lifesaving South Africa; Ph.: 031-3129215; Fax: 031-3125612