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GIFT OF THE GIVERS

# School overjoyed at borehole

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PUPILS at Soyisile Primary School in Khayelitsha were overjoyed as water gushed from their newly installed borehole yesterday.

They were asked to bring water from home as the school shuts its taps during the day due to the water restrictions.

Yesterday, however, humanitarian organisation Gift of the Givers for the first time opened the borehole which it helped install to assist the school, as well as neighbouring Sosebenza Primary School and Matthew Goniwe Memorial High School, through pipelines.

The no-fee school, with 1 240 pupils, had a R13 000 monthly water bill, according to Soyisile Primary principal Mongezi Tshikila.

“We ask our learners to bring water from home as we close our taps during the day, but many forget and the taps have to stay on because our children must have water.

“Gift of the Givers came to us with this blessing and we are happy and so thankful

Taps shut during the day due to the water restrictions

to them and their donors,” said Tshikila.

He said parents of the pupils had taken the responsibility of managing this resource and ensuring it does not get abused.

Gift of the Givers has committed itself through various planned interventions, including the collection of 5-litre bottles of water at more than 70 collection points throughout South Africa.

Earlier this week the organisation donated more than 17 000 5-litre bottles of water to the drought-stricken Drakenstein region.

The organisation received calls daily from care facilities, schools and drought-hit areas for their assistance, said Gift of



**JOYOUS:** Water gushes from the borehole drilled at Soyisile Primary School in Khayelitsha, donated by Gift of the Givers and the Foschini Group. The borehole will produce more than 70 000 litres of water a day. A pipeline will be installed to aid two nearby schools as well. *Picture: Bheki Radebe/African News Agency (ANA)*

the Givers assistant provincial manager Ali Sablay.

“This project will provide water not just for the three schools but we will also install taps to allow the surrounding community to benefit from the water when the schools are closed.

“Similar boreholes have

been installed at facilities and schools across the province and we will be going to drought-stricken areas like De Doorns, Touws River and Vredendal,” said Sablay.

He said another Khayelitsha school would also receive a borehole soon.

Borehole site manager Hein-

rich Erasmus said the drilling started on Monday and concluded quickly due to the soil.

He said early testing indicated that the borehole will produce about 24 000 litres per hour, making up to about 70 000 litres a day.

He said they would test the quality of the water as well as

provide purification.

Foschini Group corporate social investment manager Mymoena Mooradd said the retail giant had approached the provincial Department of Education, hoping to assist children from impoverished areas in the province.

They have provided funding

of R1.5 million for the borehole project in the region, with Gift of the Givers installing four boreholes at schools like Soyisile Primary and other projects.

For more information regarding how to donate, contact Gift of the Givers on 021 691 0057 or visit [www.gift-ofthegivers.org](http://www.gift-ofthegivers.org)