



## NEWS RELEASE

*For immediate release*

### **Making swimming accessible to learners in KwaThema**

**Springs, 2 February 2018:** Impala Platinum Refineries has partnered with Eastern Gauteng Aquatics, the City of Ekurhuleni and the Gauteng Department of Education to sponsor a fully-functional, Learn to Swim container swimming pool – the first of its kind in South Africa - at the Nkabinde Primary School in KwaThema, Springs. Eastern Gauteng Aquatics, an affiliate of Swim South Africa, has initiated the project as part of a broader programme that strives to make swimming accessible to learners in disadvantaged communities and teaches children to be water safe.

“This is not your typical corporate social investment project. However, it is an important initiative and something that is close to our hearts as we have worked closely with Eastern Gauteng Aquatics for the past 10 years on Learn to Swim programmes, targeting over 10 000 learners from disadvantaged communities in the Ekurhuleni District,” says Scott Stevenson, General Manager at Impala Platinum Refineries.

“Historically, swimming is a life skill and sport taught predominately in schools situated in suburban areas with swimming pools. With our investment in the new Learn to Swim container swimming pool, we are providing a safe and properly managed facility for learners at Nkabinde Primary School and other children in the local community to learn to swim, to engage with the sport of swimming and to have some fun. Most importantly, through this project, we aim to instil water confidence and water safety techniques amongst children in disadvantaged communities who have not had the opportunity to learn to swim and have not been exposed to large pools of water,” adds Stevenson.

Drowning is a leading cause of death amongst children and young people, with children under five years disproportionately at risk. According to the Medical Research Council of South Africa, over the past five years 3 000 deaths by drowning were recorded in the country. The ability to swim is not just a skill that’s fun but a skill that is essential to have in a country with over 3 000km of coastline and countless inland bodies of water that range from lakes and dams to swimming pools and ponds.

The City of Ekurhuleni is excited to be part of this initiative. Not only will this project curb drowning, but it will also encourage our youth to consider careers in professional swimming and as life guards,” says Member of the Mayoral Committee for Community Services, Cllr Dora Mlambo.

Commenting on the significance of this project Cheryl Knight, President of the Eastern Gauteng Aquatics said: “We believe every child deserves the opportunity to learn to swim. With the Learn to Swim container swimming pool, our instructors will continue to work with the children to instil water confidence and water safety techniques, and to teach them to swim proficiently.”

Impala Platinum Refineries hopes that their investment in swimming development will encourage other corporates to sponsor more Learn to Swim container swimming pools so that this programme can be extended to even more communities and significantly more children.

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#### **Note to the editors**

##### **About Implats**

Implats is one of the world's foremost producers of platinum and associated platinum group metals (PGMs). Implats is structured around five main operations including Impala, Zimplats, Marula, Mimosa and Two Rivers, with headquarters in Johannesburg. The Group's operations are located on the Bushveld Complex in South Africa and the Great Dyke in Zimbabwe, the two most significant PGM bearing ore bodies in the world. The Refineries operations is based in Springs, Ekurhuleni.

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