**PRESS RELEASE**

World Plumbing Day initiative aids the ‘War on Leaks’

***13 March, 2014:*** *DPI Plastics - a leading manufacturer of water reticulation, drainage and pipe-fitting systems in South Africa - has donated a total of 3 000 plastic mugs to primary school children in Gauteng, as part of its sponsorship of the 2014 World Plumbing Day initiative.*

World Plumbing Day was established in 2010 by the World Plumbing Council to raise awareness surrounding the importance of water conservation. The annual international event was celebrated on Tuesday, 11 March 2014, to highlight the essential role that plumbing plays in the health and safety of modern society.

DPI Plastics marketing manager **Martine Goodchild** observes that the safety and abundance of drinking water is a concern for most people all over the world. "What is often not emphasised is the work that the plumbing industry contributes on a daily basis to alleviate these concerns."

She explains that DPI Plastics joined forces with a well known plumbing trade publication in order to contribute to this worthy cause. "DPI Plastics sponsored 250 ml plastic mugs for 3 000 children at participating primary schools, to teach them the importance of using a cup, mug or glass when drinking and brushing teeth, in order to ensure that no water goes to waste."

World Plumbing Day 2014 also coincided with the ‘War on Leaks’ campaign developed by the Department of Water Affairs (DWA). Two Gauteng primary schools were visited on the day as part of the initiative, including; Reiger Park Primary and Inxiweni Primary.

A representative from the DWA spoke to the children about the department’s War on Leaks programme, encouraging them to identify and report leaks. Other sponsors were also present to discuss various water conservation ideas. One of the sponsors hosted a talk for the schools’ maintenance staff on how to change washers and cistern parts, which contribute to leaks and water wastage when broken. Parents and teachers were also educated about rainwater harvesting on the day.

According to Goodchild, water leakages cost South Africa approximately R7-billion per year, with as much as 37 percent of the precious resource being lost through leaking taps. "This is a major concern for a water stressed country such as South Africa, and initiatives such as these are essentially important in ensuring the long term sustainability of this irreplaceable commodity."

The World Plumbing Council is currently running a World Plumbing Day poster competition that is open to all children in Grade 1 to Grade 5 worldwide. The drawings must depict water leaks and the plumbers who repair them, in addition to the words ‘World Plumbing Day’ and '11 March 2014'.

The posters will be used to promote the important role that plumbers and plumbing have in everyday life. What's more, the winning poster will receive US$ 1 000 for the competing school, and US$ 100 for the participating student. For more information visit <http://aspe.org/wpdposter>

***Ends***

**Notes to the Editor**
There are numerous photographs specific to this press release. Please visit <http://media.ngage.co.za> and click the DPI Plastics link.

**About DPI Plastics**DPI Plastics (Pty) Ltd is a leading manufacturer of PVC and HDPE water reticulation and drainage pipe and fitting systems with two ISO 9001 certified South African factories based in Johannesburg and Cape Town.

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