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MEDIA STATEMENT

TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE TO LOCAL GOVERNMENT A KEY REQUIREMENT OF CORPORATE CITIZENS

“We are always ready to offer technical assistance to local municipalities when emergency situations arise,” says Evraz Highveld CEO Michael Garcia. This comes days after the eMalahleni municipality took up Evraz Highveld’s offer of assistance during the municipality’s maintenance work on its potable and raw water supplies.

Affected by the extended water outage, Evraz Highveld – South Africa’s second largest steel producer - contacted senior municipal officials to offer equipment, expertise and manpower to see a rapid resolution to problems encountered by the contractors responsible for the maintenance.

Evraz Highveld engineers assisted in repairing a faulty valve on one of the pipelines, installing a new valve at the reservoir complex, and rectifying welding work.

Says Garcia, “Evraz Highveld has its own emergency dam for situations like this, but by day two of the shutdown we realised that the municipality’s deadlines had not been met. We contacted the municipality to offer our help and on day three we sent a team from our engineering services workshop who worked day and night until the water supply was established the next morning. While we certainly had a business imperative to see the water supply resumed, we view it as our responsibility as a corporate citizen of eMalahleni to get actively involved in meeting the community’s needs”.

The eMalahleni region is rich in coal reserves and power stations. This has drawn many international mining houses to the area who also capitalise on the road and rail network to the Richards Bay and Maputo harbours. Garcia believes that a collective

industry effort is required. “Relationship building with senior municipal officials and true working partnerships will benefit all individual and corporate citizens within the eMalahleni region,” concludes Garcia.

Evrax Highveld was also instrumental in the commissioning of a repaired water pump at the eMalahleni pump station in November last year.

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For more information please contact: