

MEC Pillay on back to school drive

Harry Gwala District schools ready for teaching and learning

Writes Sane Khumalo and photos by Sibongile Dlangalala

It's that time of the year again which every parent and child has been waiting for: Yes it is schools opening time. On the 21st January 2015 the schools at Harry Gwala District were packed with learners ready to learn. MEC for Human Settlements and Public Works; Ravi Pillay, Members of the Provincial Legislature, Mayor of Harry Gwala District Municipality; Mr ME Ndobe and government officials visited this district to ensure that teaching and learning run smoothly on the first day.

The day started with a briefing held at Ixopo Primary School where the Member of Provincial Legislature, Ms VV Tambo outlined the purpose of the purpose. She said "The main purpose is to check the readiness in schools; ensure that children are in schools – learning, checking infrastructure, nutrition and the relationships between the schools, parents and School Governing Body.



MEC for Human Settlement and Public Works; Ravi Pillay and Mr Simon Lingani; IEC Manager at Harry Gwala District

After the briefing delegates then proceeded to Jani Primary School in Donnybrook. Jani Primary School is situated in a farm owned by Mr Anderson at Masamini area. The school starts from Grade R to Grade 5 and the principal of the school Ms MB Memela expressed her gratitude when she saw the delegates visiting her school. She said "I am thankful to see you here, when I see you here I have hope that all the challenges we are facing as the school will be resolved."

What was evidently observed during the two day tour was the good relationship amongst the community, parents and the educators. The Chairperson of the School Governing Body at Jani Primary, Mr Raymond Ngcobo pleaded for support from the government. He said “This is a very important school in this area, so we would appreciate if the government can support us with more classrooms for our kids”.



MEC Pillay and MPL, VVO Tambo handing over some gifts to Ms MB Memela; Principal at Jani Primary

MEC Pillay emphasized the point of working together in building the future of children. “We are South Africans, we want to take our country forward and critical to that is a future of these young ones. When we hear of a farm owner Mr Anderson who took an initiative; it is inspiring to us”. MEC said. The first day ended with a visit to Kwasikhunyana Primary School in Highflats.

On the second day the 22nd of January 2015 every participant came as fresh and ready to work after the long day they had the previous day. The day’s work resumed at Carl Macommes High School, which is situated in Kokstad. Ms VV Tambo, MPL raised serious concerns regarding Carl Macommes which reflected on overcrowding of the learners. “We are here because of some concerns with regard to overcrowding and to see how we, as the Provincial Government can assist the school, especially today because we have the Champion of this District, MEC Ravi Pillay” Ms Tambo said.



MEC Pillay and Mayor of Harry Gwala District; Mr ME Ndobe

The entourage headed to the second school which is Mthwane Senior Secondary School, situated at uMzimkhulu and the overall visit was concluded at Zamokuhle Secondary School. The *'Back to School Monitoring Programme'* has shown to be a good Government initiative but require the commitment and involvement of everyone in raising a child. Indeed it takes a whole village to raise a child. This initiative takes place every year during the opening of schools.

One would ultimately acknowledge and attest that these programmes may have some shortfalls which are dealt with appropriately by the provincial administration but the essence is the realisation of upliftment of human fulfilment. The course of good governance contributes immensely to the betterment of people's lives.