

'Donations' positively shape-up communities

Story and images by Vusi Shabalala

Public Works continue to making tremendous strides of breaking the cycle of poverty within communities. On the 10th of November 2015 a formidable team from the Department's Supply Chain Management Directorate led by Mr Eddie Reid paid a visit to HS Ebrahim School to witness the signing of and handover certificate for goods donated to the school. HS Ebrahim School is an educational facility for learners with special education needs based in Northdale, Pietermaritzburg, registered as a non-profit organisation in terms of Section 18A of the Income Tax Act, 1962.

The '*Communications Team*' joined Mr Reid who was accompanied by Ms Chantelle de Jager and Ms Janell Pillay during the visit. Public Works representatives were welcomed by Mr Kumaren Moodley, the Head of Department accompanied by Mrs Naidoo, the school Principal, Mr Ebrahim, the senior clerk, Ms Lalloo an art subject educator, Mr Jose Stevens a Phase 3 educator, Ms Cynthia Ngcobo, an educator and school choir master. The equipment donated included amongst others, chairs, tables, pot plants, cabinets, etc. The equipment is quite suitable for use by a staff complement of 21 educators and approximately 200 learners.



The SCM team (left to right) are Mr E Reid Ms L Ngobese Ms J Pillay Ms C de Jager Mr H Masinga and Mr B Ntibane

It is quite fathomable that the Department of Public Works has made a great deal of success through 'donations' and will continue to positively shape up communities. The continuous sharing of unwanted office equipment and other resources with charitable and or non-profit organizations such as HS Ebrahim School affirms the efforts to

incorporate green living strategies into the lives of citizenry. Equally so, it is an environmentally justifiable alternative to donate such unused goods and empower communities than to throwing them away.

In conversation with Mrs RK Naidoo, the school Principal during the school site tour it was quite fathomable that donations serve a pivotal role in the development of a community. According to Mrs Naidoo, serving a community can also instil a sense of pride in you and people around you. Every contribution will help important causes that would create a stronger and healthier society. As the school tour was undertaken, it was noticeable that most equipment donated to the school was still in good shape and intact.

We need to complement a formidable team from Public Works' Supply Chain Management Directorate that continuously dedicate itself to minimizing the negative impact on the environment while maximizing the social impact by supporting the communities in which they operate. Their efforts in managing the redistribution of redundant assets on behalf of the department has not taken place in the dark or unnoticed.

Community development may rank low on one's priority list given everything else one would need to do to effect service delivery. However, moving this item higher on your 'to-do' list could help one tap into the key to building a better Province of KwaZulu-Natal and moving it forward.



A photo shoot of Public Works staff together with HS Ebrahim School educators and learners