

# Masimdumise High School learners shine as “Operation Sukuma Sakhe” paves opportunities. *vusi Shabalala reports and pictures by Sane Khumalo*

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It was a Tuesday the 21<sup>st</sup> of August 2012 when the “Communications Team” headed an official one and a half hour drive all the way from Pietermaritzburg to Masimdumise High School in Impendle.

The school is located at the Impendle Local Municipality in Ward 3 KwaNovuka area. It has enrolled approximately 181 learners.



**Learners of Masimdumise High School during the assembly session**



**Arrival of the Mayoral delegation and entourage at Masimdumise High School**

The visit was a continuation of “Operation Sukuma Sakhe” which also meant that the day was equivalent to a service delivery programme where the KZN Department of Public Works in collaboration with the Department of Education had a core

government mandate to deliver on crucial education resources. This project was therefore a result of the deployment of the KZN Public Works to mentor the local municipality under the Umgungundlovu District.

It should be mentioned that the first part of the day’s programme commenced at a briefing session held at Impendle Local Municipality. After the briefing session, the whole entourage took to the Masimdumise High School.

Programme Director for the day as managed by Mr Thobuyise Mchunu, Regional Manager for Southern Region was in full swing to kick-start the programme for the morning. As programme director, Mr Mchunu also had the opportune time to brief all guests on the purpose of the visit.



**Serving as Programme Director and delivering a purpose of the visit speech above is Public Works’ Regional Manager for Southern Region Office, Mr Thobuyise Mchunu.**

To highlight but a few reasons or purposes, the Masimdumise High School was identified by the Public Works’ Southern Region management and personnel under the “Operation Sukuma Sakhe” as an institution in “need”. Some school resources and teaching aids were in total dilapidation

and this prompted Mr Mchunu and his management to come to the party.

One should also be reminded that “Operation Sukuma Sakhe” is directly and indirectly a “service delivery” aimed at benefitting the citizens of KwaZulu-Natal.

“As part of the cost-cutting measures by the Government, the Department of Public Works utilises its internal resources in terms of manpower and funding” remarked Mr Mchunu during his opening remarks.

In essence, the purpose of the visit as outlined by the programme director as the major requirement was the official handover of refurbished school furniture by the KwaZulu-Natal Department of Public Works. The refurbished commodities comprised of desks and tables. The project cost amounted to approximately R9616.22.

Further to refurbishment, the Public Works’ maintenance and workshop personnel are at this stage installing ceiling to the administration office of the school.

In following the programme protocols, Mr Mkhize, the school principal welcomed all guests thereafter, Mr Mqadi, Project Officer in the Office of the MEC for Human Settlements and Public Works made an acknowledgement address on all guests and visitors.



**Mr Mqadi, Project Officer from the Office of the MEC Human Settlements and Public Works introducing all relevant delegates from Public Works**

It should be mentioned that the occasion was graced by amongst others His Worship the Mayor of Impendle Local Municipality, Councillor S.G. Ndlela, Mr S.P. Dlungwane, the Chief Circuit Manager from the Department of Education, representatives of the Masimdumise School Governing Body, members from the Department of Public Works, educators and other guests.

Mr Mkhize also expressed more delights in all positives that the Department of Public Works has done and proffered thus far, especially during these times of need and with the need by Government.



**Above is the Masimdumise High School principal, Mr MW Mkhize on the welcoming word.**

As part of the programme, Mr Dlungwane, the Chief Circuit Manager from the Department of Education was also given his turn to share the inspirations and support, especially during times as these. He emphasised his thanks on the part and role played by Public Work notwithstanding the fact that both departments has made it a reality to ensure that the youth at Impendle are at a crucial state. Mr Dlungwane further made several requests for support from the Department of Public Works.



**Mr SP Dlungwane, the Chief Circuit Manager from the Department of Education delivering his message of support to learners**

The Honourable Mayor, Councillor Ndlela, ended the morning's programme with a clear keynote delivery of support to the learners.

"Firstly, I would like to apologise on behalf of the MEC for Human Settlements and Public Works, the Honourable Mr Ravi Pillay who asked me to convey his profuse apology for not being part of this august occasion this morning" alluded the mayor as he expressed humbly on behalf of MEC Ravi Pillay who could not attend the event due to other urgent parliamentary commitments that occurred at the spur of the moment.



**Learners at the assembly during the message of support**

However, he equally expressed his excitement in the manner in which the visit was made a reality. It is quite indicative that the process was indeed a prudential exercise by the Department of Public Works. In his closing remarks the mayor said "I would ask the gathered officials to

join me to hand over the refurbished desks, small tables and the one big table to the school principal Mr Mkhize."



**Seated on a newly refurbished desk next to the Honourable Mayor Ndlela is Grade 11 student from Masimdumise High School Sne Zuma. On the far right is Regional Manager Mchunu in the orange EPWP gear.**

In closure, the Head of Department for the Masimdumise High School, Mr Ngubane thanked the entire delegation and entourage for the prestigious gesture and commitment to ensure that delivery of services does not fail the education fraternity.



**Vote of thanks was delivered by Mr Ngubane as seen here above second from the right**

The last phase of the day was a project site visit to Gomane Primary School headed by Mr NSM Mzinyane. The school had a major renovations and repairs being undertaken. Major work projects was on doors, windows, roofing being replaced; additional blocks of classrooms and ablution facilities being developed; painting and paving also being done.

From the look of the project it was indicative that the last assignment to be done is the provisioning of electricity which of Eskom is on board to undertake the project to completion. At this stage, Gomane Primary School has capacity of 356 learners which comprises of Grade R to 7 respectively with a total educators' capacity of 11. Of the eleven staff members there is only one male educator with only one female educator dedicated to the Grade R class. The complete cost to this project could not be quantified as there are some other developments to be undertaken.



**Seen here on the left is Mr NSM Mzinyane, principal at the Gomane Primary School with other delegates who formed part of the visit**