



human settlements

Department:  
Human Settlements  
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## Media Release from the Office of the MEC for Human Settlements and Public Works in KwaZulu-Natal and Harry Gwala District Municipality

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IMMEDIATE tangible interventions and remedial action will be effected to arrest the dismal performance at some of the schools visited by a delegation of provincial legislators and Mayors in the Harry Gwala District Municipality during the last two days.

KwaZulu-Natal Human Settlements and Public Works MEC Ravigasen Pillay and a delegation of MPLs and Harry Gwala District Municipality Mayor Councillor Mluleki Ndobe and senior Education Department officials visited schools in the Harry Gwala District Municipality on 15-17 January 2019 to get a first hand assessment of readiness for the 2019 academic year.

The schools visit is part the Schools Functionality and Monitoring Programme of the KwaZulu-Natal Legislature.

The Legislature delegation was led by Mr Almon Zondi, MPL and Ms Vivian Tambo, MPL and other MPLs.

Among the schools visited in the Dr Nkosazana Dlamini Municipality include Leshman Secondary School in Centocow, Emnqundekweni Primary School near Kilmon and the famous Pholela Institute in the Bulwer area.

The delegation also visited Mbalenhle Primary School, Impunga Full Service School in the Jolivet Circuit area as well as Ukuthula High School in Sangcwaba area of Ubuhlebezwe Municipality. More so, the delegation also visited Malezulu Primary school and Daniel Mzamo Special School.

The monitoring programme was characterized by a no-holds bare frank and robust discussion with some school principals asked to account for the dismal performance of their institutes during last year's matric examinations.

The lack of a culture of discipline at Leshman Secondary School and the lackadaisical attitude of both learners and the teaching staff towards teaching and learning was cited as the contributory factors that saw the schools in the dolddrum in the Matric Pass Rate scale.

Leshman Secondary School Principal Mr Molemele was given till the beginning of March to demonstrate a turn around strategy to improve the situation at his school.

The Legislature delegation was impressed at the situation they found at Emnqundekweni Primary School bin Kilmon. MEC Pillay who is also the MEC OSS District Champion pledged R100 000 for the building of a kitchen for the Primary Nutrition School Programme.

At Pholela Institute, the delegation was told of some of the challenges the school was facing including that of a teacher who had not been paid for ten months.

However, an immediate call to Education Department Superintendent General Dr V. Nzama resulted in the matter of the unpaid educator being promised to be resolved in three weeks once all his documents have been sent to Head Office for processing.

District Mayor Ndobe also handed over vouchers of ten school uniforms at each of the schools visited.

"Education is is a societal matter. You educate a child, you educate a nation. My child is your child", said Ndobe.

Subsequently Ndobe pledged the supply and installation of water tanks at schools experiencing intermittent water supply as well as the services of a honey sucker to assist with the sucking water at an ablution block at Imbalenhle Primary School as it has posed a hazard to learners.

MEC Pillay also pledged to donate four chalkboards at Imbalenhle Primary School for the Foundation Phase learners.

MEC Pillay said he has been impress with the dedication and professional determination of some of the teaching staff as well as the Education Department officials in trying to improve the situation.

" We have been doing these Schools Functionality and Monitoring Programme for several years now but one thing that has come out very prominently is the call for accountability on the part of the School Management Teams," remarked Pillay.

The Legislature delegation also heard harrowing stories of learner ill-discipline at Ukuthula High School at Sangcwaba where the matric results have been on a downslope during the past several years.

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