



LIMPOPO

PROVINCIAL GOVERNMENT
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

DEPARTMENT OF
EDUCATION

Media Statement

To All Media Houses

For immediate Release

17 January 2025

Improved school infrastructure for NelsonSkop Primary School

Limpopo Education MEC Mavhungu Lerule-Ramakhanya, the Deputy Minister of Department of Minerals resources and energy Phumzile Mgcina in collaboration with Exxaro Grootegeluk Coal alongside visited Nelson Skop primary school in Lephalale, where they officially handed over the school's newly constructed hall and a block of four classrooms.

The Grootegeluk Coal Mine, operated by EXXARO Coal is involved in 44 education projects and Invested more than 7 billion in initiatives which have impacted positively in communities. The continued commitment was evident on Friday when the promise made last year to Provide Nelsonskop with a 4 classroom blocks which accommodate about 150 learners and school hall was finally realised.

The MEC also assessed the newly built classrooms and bathrooms and commended security measures in place and appreciated ablution facilities that are more advanced and sustainable. The contribution will go a long way in the provision of a conducive environment for teaching and learning at a foundation phase, securing the future of learners.

The Deputy Minister of the Department of Mineral Resources and Energy, Phumzile Mgcina, reflected on how far the country has come. She emphasized how it is their responsibility as the mining sector to ensure that there is development and encourage partnerships that will contribute in building schools.

The mine is also of a view that the gesture will go a long way in developing the future leaders. "I would like to extend my gratitude to all stakeholders, Department of education, Department of mineral resources and the local government in planning this initiative. Let's continue to hold hands in making sure learners benefit from these facilities. To the learners, Education is the most powerful weapon you can use to change the world, with it you cannot fail". Said Exxaro acting CEO, MR Riaan Koppeschaar.

Education MEC says the focus on the grassroot level is very essential for the development at the reception phase. "ECD's should be prioritized to monitor a child academically so that by the time they get to school, you will be able to know how far they have come. Let us prioritize education to change the narrative of the economy. To our inverstors, We no longer call you sponsors but investors in education." Said MEC, Mavhungu Lerule-Ramakhanya.

For Media Enquiries

Mr. Matome Taueatsoala: MEC's Media Liason on 060 930 6340

Or

Mike Maringa: Director Communication Services on 083 980 6340 or 066 283 9117