

MINISTER NHLEKO ROLLS UP HIS SLEEVES AND CLEANS HIS FORMER SCHOOL

18 July 2017

Public Works Minister Nkosinathi Nhleko MP has celebrated his international Nelson Mandela Day by leading a team of artisans from his Departmental workshop in renovating the Ndabayakhe Primary school in Empangeni in KwaZulu Natal.

Under the theme Action Against Poverty, a good education is at the core of poverty eradication which is why DPW elected to assist the often disadvantaged rural community. The renovated school will not only assist the learners concentrate better and the teachers to have the necessary tools needed, but it will also encourage the community at large to value education.

The Minister put together a special task team to source donations from various stakeholders. The stakeholders made various pledges ranging from materials, discounts, clothing, labour and cash which was deposited into a special account at a hardware to buy materials. The value of the donations amounted to R250 000.

The work which has been undertaken and which will be done on the whole school include painting, electrical rewiring and fittings, carpentry and joinery, barge boards and fascia boards, glazing and window servicing.

The Minister also donated building materials in his own personal capacity to an indigent family in the area of Ndabayakhe. The family approached the Minister for materials to fix their home which had deteriorated over time.

In his address to the community, Minister Nhleko pleaded with the community to look after the renovated school, which he attended during his youth.

Before the renovation work, the school was badly dilapidated with broken windows, doors, falling chalk boards, and damaged electrical wiring. Because of the extensive work needed to be done to fix the school, work will continue and will be completed over the next two weeks.

The Minister also announced that the school will now have a 24 hour security service, offered for free by a local security company. This after the school was

broken into and vandalised a number of times, which led to the electricity wiring being damaged. The ablution facilities will also be re-built, also courtesy of a construction company.