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"WE MUST START THINKING SMART SCHOOLS"

By Siphamandla Nyembe

As the District Development Model (DDM) champion of the Dr Kenneth Kaunda District Municipality in the North West, Public Works and Infrastructure Deputy Minister (DM) Bernice Swarts visited Tiragalo Secondary School in Kgakala, Leeudoringstad today. Her visit is a result of a community engagement that took place in the area two weeks ago where community members expressed concern about an issue of overcrowding at the schools in the area.

Kgakala is comprised of three primary schools that feed into one high school - Tiragalo Secondary School. Kokeitso Primary School has over 1000 learners but only 27 classrooms. Thakadu Primary School has 849 learners who are accommodated in only 24 classrooms and Thusang Primary School has 27 classrooms with approximately 900 learners enrolled in the school.

In response to this issue of overcrowding at schools, DM Swarts called for the construction of smart schools. This came after she announced that companies from the private sector had agreed to work with government in funding the construction of schools in Kgakala through a public-private partnership so as to deal with the issue of overcrowding efficiently. "If we have smart schools here in Kgakala, we don't have to bring in mobile classrooms or breakdown structures in schools and extend them to accommodate more learners in schools," said DM Swarts.

While in the North West, the DM also conducted a walkabout through the Matlosana Fresh Produce Market and expressed concerns over issues of transformation and women empowerment.

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