

'Ride easily' to schools

Walking long distances won't happen to 2 000 pupils as department gives them bicycles

FRANCE NYAKA

MISSING classes as a result of walking long distances is expected to be a thing of the past to 2 000 pupils from various schools in KwaMhlanga and surrounding places.

The pupils were presented with bicycles by the provincial department of public works, roads and transport at the regional offices in KwaMhlanga.

The handover of the bicycles was part of the department's drive known as Shova Kalula (ride easily), which is in support of the scholar transport system introduced by the national Department of Transport a few years ago.

The donation of the bicycles was led by public works, roads and transport MEC Sasekani Manzini.

Manzini said pupils who benefitted from the bicycles were those travelling to school distances of between 2km and 5km and not benefitting from the scholar transport programme.

She said the department also provides bicycle repair assistance.

"Shova Kalula bicycle programme is a non-motorised transport mode aimed at benefiting pupils who travel between 2-5km to school but do not qualify for scholar transport. The programme is a supplement to scholar transport.

"Since the programme started in



REDUCING TRAVEL TIME: Shova Kalula bicycles enable pupils to arrive on time and not miss lessons. PICTURE: FRANCE NYAKA

2005, the department has donated about 6 000 bicycles annually to deserving pupils in the province."

She said the department was working together with the education department led by MEC Reginah Mhaule in finding the deserving pupils.

"These pupils are identified in partnership with the department of education.

"This programme also assists to enhance effective teaching and learn-

ing at schools by reducing travel time.

"The bicycles remain the property of schools after completion of allocated pupils to ensure continuity," Manzini said.

Among the beneficiaries was Landiwe Salome, 18, who is in Grade 12.

She said they used to walk long distances which resulted in them missing some of the lessons but now they would be punctual.

"We have no doubt that travelling to

school for long distances and missing other lessons will be regarded as a thing of the past to us as the recipients of the bicycles," Salome said.

"The bicycles will not only serve as our means of transport to school but to encourage us to attend school regularly and outshine as well."

A donation of another 2 000 bicycles is set to be made to pupils in Ermelo and neighbouring areas tomorrow.

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