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Author: Staff Reporter

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CHIEF ALBERT LUTHULI MUNICIPALITY: The Department of Mpumalanga Department of Public Works, Roads and Transport, in partnership with the Mpumalanga Department of Education, hosted the Shova Kalula programme 30 October in Mooiplaas, one of the rural areas within the Chief Albert Luthuli Municipality. The Shova Kalula initiative aims to assist learners from poor rural communities who struggle to afford transport to school. By providing bicycles as an alternative mode of transport, the programme helps to address challenges such as unreliable, costly, and poorly coordinated transport services. This ensures that learners do not miss school due to lack of transport. The project complements the National Scholar Transport Policy, which primarily benefits learners who live more than five kilometres from

school. Learners who reside more than three kilometres away but do not qualify for scholar transport are provided with Shova Kalula bicycles to ensure they reach school safely and on time. A total of 122 bicycles were donated to four local schools under this programme: Chief Jerry Nkosi Secondary School – 50 bicycles. Ebuhleni Primary School – 34 bicycles. Inkaba Primary School – 11 bicycles. Father Charles Primary School – 27 bicycles. The Executive Mayor of Chief Albert Luthuli Municipality, Cllr. M.P. Magubane, expressed his appreciation for the initiative, commending the partnership between the two departments. He highlighted that Chief Jerry Nkosi Secondary School achieved an 86.2% pass rate in the 2024 matric results, attributing this success to the school's dedication and passion. The mayor

added that he hopes the Shova Kalula project will further motivate learners and contribute to continued academic excellence. The MEC for Public Works, Roads, and Transport, Mr. Thulasizwe Thomo, announced that beneficiaries will receive training from the department on how to ride the bicycles safely and observe road rules. Meanwhile, the MEC for Education, Ms. Lindiwe Masina, urged the recipients to take good care of the bicycles, emphasizing that they should use them responsibly and productively to support their education. The Shova Kalula programme continues to be a vital intervention in promoting education access and supporting learners in rural communities across Mpumalanga.



Photo: Chief Albert Luthuli Municipality