

New shoes uplift learners

Muzi Zincume

CHIEF Mbhekiseni Gumbi of the Gumbi tribe in Pongola visited two



schools in his area and donated school shoes to needy learners last Thursday.

Chief Gumbi was accompanied by his Traditional Council and the Director-General of the Gumbi Foundation, which was formed six months ago with the aim of helping the poorer residents of his area.

In addition, his aim was also to monitor the writing of final year exams and motivate learners.

He visited Vulamehlo Primary and Myekeni Secondary schools and explained how challenging it is to attend school without a proper uniform.

'I was a learner at Dwaleni High School where all learners were wearing a full uniform, and one day the school principal sent me back home as I was not wearing a proper uniform. The principal said I must ask my father to buy me a uniform.

'When I got home, I went straight to my father and told him the whole story, but he just said he was too old to go out and look for a job.

'I then came up with a plan and wrote a letter to the principal, pretending it was written by my father, asking him to allow me back in school because the uniform would be bought.

'My father was unaware that I had

done so, and the principal allowed me back to school without knowing that my father had nothing to do with that letter,' said Chief Gumbi.

Foundation bears fruits

'I am very happy to see the good atmosphere at school while learners are writing their exams.

'It is also a great pleasure for me to visit these schools under my area,' said Chief Gumbi.

'The Foundation I formed few a months ago is now bearing good fruits and I am determined to help other needy pupils.'

Vulamehlo Primary principal, Makhosazane Skhakhane thanked the Chief and his traditional Council for the donations.

One of the beneficiaries, a Grade 10 girl from Myekeni Secondary, said it is very painful to go to school without shoes as in most cases other learners laughed at her.

'We are very grateful to our Chief for the gift he gave to us, this will encourage us to do much better in our exams,' she said.

Chief Mbhekiseni Gumbi hands over school shoes to one of the primary school learners

Schools recognised

Muzi Zincume

LAFARGE Education and Community Trusts has recognised various educators from Inqabayamazimela High, Eniwe Primary, Ekudonseni Primary and Ndabayakhe schools for their efforts and contributions in the Empangeni community.

Lafarge also handed over the newly-built administration block at Inqabayamazimela High School on Friday last week.

The prime aim of the award was to honour individuals in various categories such as the outstanding school management team, most innovative educator and top performing learners in the community.

Lafarge Education and Community Trusts programmes manager Mpogeng Nkgadima said they want to improve the quality of education in South

Africa wherever they operate.

'The Trust supports a wide spectrum of education interventions ranging from the provision of infrastructure, social and academic skills, bursaries and exposure to post-study opportunities.

Nkgadima explained they are aiming at mobilising the communities to have resources so that they can improve their quality of life.

'We applaud the individuals who were recognised at the Mzimela and Ndabayakhe School ceremonies, as education and sustainability are core values at Lafarge.

'We are also very excited about the newly built administration block at Inqabayamazimela High School and hope that it will be a great asset to both present and future learners and teachers at the school,' he said.



A teacher from Ekudonseni Primary School with Top Achiever Award learner Msizo Makhathini and school official Felix Mtsiri

RBCT commits to education

Dave Savides

PROOF that the quality of teaching and learning is always close to the heart of Richards Bay Coal Terminal took a tangible form when R70 000 was recently donated to Khula Senior Secondary School.

The funds will go towards the Inkanyezi Academy Saturday Classes, a project aimed at assisting learners in Grade 11 and 12 in eSikheleni in Mathematics, Science and Accounting.

These extra lessons are provided to improve learner's results in these key subjects and are conducted at Khula School

with educators appointed by the King Cetshwayo District Circuit.

Speaking at the handover, school principal ES Nxumalo thanked RBCT for the continuous commitment and support towards a better education for pupils in the local schools even during tough economic times.

'The current marks show that we will achieve better results for 2017 and it is owing to the support we are receiving from RBCT,' said Nxumalo.

The donation also validates RBCT's slogan: 'Coal to the World, Growth to the Nation'.



Sharing the joy of the donation are ES Nxumalo (Khula School Principal), Class Gumbi (RBCT CSI member), Melinda Forbay (RBCT Corporate Affairs Manager), Princess Sibiyi (RBCT CSI officer) and Alvin Nathaniel (RBCT CSI member)



At the handover of recreational facilities were Khululiwe Zakwe (teacher), Ndunankulu Hlabayiphi Cebekhulu, Zodwa Mkhize (principal), iNkosi Phiwayinkosi Biyela (Umbele Chairperson) and Tom Buthelezi (Umbele Office Manager)

Crèche gets a helping hand

Wiseman Mthiyane

TEARS of joy rolled down the face of Zodwa Mkhize, principal of Mquzankunzi Crèche, in Obizo Traditional Authority, when she received recreational facilities to be used by learners at her institution.

The donation was made possible by Umbele Development Savings Trust, during the Mquzankunzi graduation ceremony held last week in Obizo.

In welcoming the donation, Mkhize thanked the leadership of Umbele and its chairperson iNkosi Phiwayinkosi Biyela for extending a helping hand.

'We are grateful for the donation we have received. This will undoubtedly make a difference in our institution.

'We also wish to appeal to other

companies for more sponsorship in helping our crèche to match the standard of any pre-school in Empangeni and surrounding areas.

'We may be in a deep rural area but we are still committed to providing the best foundation for our future leaders. Today's generation is our tomorrow's leaders,' she said.

iNkosi Biyela said their donation was motivated by the desire to invest in education, knowing that education was the only powerful weapon that can be used to change the world.

'We spent about R18 000 for the purchase of these recreational facilities. In these youngsters we see our future teachers, doctors, even leaders of our country.

'We also value the good work done by the crèche,' said iNkosi Biyela.