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Department:  
Transport  
**REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA**

## **MEDIA STATEMENT**

**Date: Wednesday , 20 June 2018**

**Attention: News Editors / Transport Reporters / All media**

**For Immediate Use**

### **MINISTER OF TRANSPORT HANDED-OVER TRACKSUITS TO CRYSTAL SPRINGS PRIMARY SCHOOL LEARNERS IN LIDGETTON -KZN**

The Minister of Transport, Dr. Bonginkosi Blade Nzimande handed-over tracksuits to three hundred and fifty four (354) learners at the Crystal Springs Primary school in Lidgetton, 8km from Howick in KwaZulu Natal.

The school is amongst the no-fee paying school with an enrolment of about 354 learners, mostly children of farmworkers as well as the retrenched farmworkers.

Like many of the rural, particularly farm, schools, most of the learners come from disadvantaged families who rely on the government social security net for their livelihood.

"When passing around this area, I noticed the bad physical condition of the school and decided to assist in ensuring that learners are able to enjoy improved learning conditions and to push back the frontiers of poverty, inequalities and underdevelopment in this community," said Minister Nzimande.

Minister Nzimande said that in 1953, prior to the apartheid government's Bantu Education Act, 90% of black South African schools were state-aided mission schools. The Act demanded that all such schools register with the state, and removed control of African education from the churches and provincial authorities.

"This control was centralized in the Bantu Education Department, a body dedicated to keeping it separate and inferior. Crystal Springs Primary is amongst

these schools," said Minister Nzimande.

In working together to improve the school, Minister Nzimande commits to help the school in maintaining its day-to-day maintenance such as cleaning, painting and repairing the school building and grounds. This includes amongst others building a school library and a computer laboratory.

The Minister further calls on business to join in making sure this school, and many alike, are conducive for teaching and learning and assisted to have libraries and sporting facilities.

"I particularly call upon the parents of the children studying at HILTON College and Michaelhouse two of the most prestigious schools in South Africa, to come and assist". Crystal Springs primary is located in between these two schools.

Minister Nzimande recounted Nelson Mandela quote on education:

"Education is the great engine of personal development. It is through education that the daughter of a peasant can become a doctor, that the son of a mine worker can become the head of the mine, that a child of farm workers can become the president of a great nation. It is what we make out of what we have, not what we are given, that separates one person from another"

"Part of our preoccupation as all spheres of government is to ensure that we jointly build the necessary infrastructure, including roads, clinics and proper sanitation in these rural schools in order to reverse the apartheid spatial planning patterns," said Minister Nzimande.

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