

## SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT

## **MEDIA ADVISORY**

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## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

## **EUPHORIA OVER GROUNDBREAKING SCHOOL UNIFORM**

A total of 50 learners received school uniform at N'wamankena primary school outside Giyani as part of the Department of Social Development's back to school campaign. The Department of Social Development in partnership with South African Social Security Agency (SASSA), has embarked on a provincial campaign to provide school uniform to poor and vulnerable learners. Of the 50 learners who received school uniform 26 are boys while 24 are girls.

The identified learners come from families whose only income is social grants. The MEC responsible for Social Development, Ms Nandi Ndalane expressed her contentment in the campaign which has brought relief to poor families as well as removing the burden from learners who were subjected to inadequate school uniform. Ndalane praised the policies of the governing party, the African National Congress for providing conditions in which learners from poor families are able to receive education unhindered by their social material conditions. "Today as a result of this government, no child studies on an empty stomach because of the critically important school nutrition programme.

In the same vein we have recognized the negative impact brought about by lack of adequate school uniform. We have, therefore put together resources to ensure that school uniform doesn't become the impediment to learning," added Ndalane.

SASSA has set aside a budget of over R17 million to provide school uniform to poor learners in Limpopo. This programme of donating school uniform will cater all districts having started in the Sekhukhune district.

Tomorrow (15 February 2024) school uniform will be donated to two schools in the Capricorn District, Sebotse Combined School in Bergnek as well as Molemo Primary School in Bolahlakgomo in Zebediela.

Ndalane further described this programme as the confirmation of the centrality of education in the upliftment of the lives of poor leaners. "I firmly believe that every child, regardless of their background deserves the opportunity to learn, grow and thrive. By providing school uniform to these learners we are not just giving them clothing, we are giving them a sense of dignity, belonging and the chance to focus on their studies without the burden of feeling inadequate or left out," emphasized Ndalane.

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