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Department of Public Works
Departament van Openbare Werke
Lefapha La Ditiro Tsa Setshaba

OFFICE OF THE MEC

PRESS RELEASE

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WINTERVELDT DANCES THE YAWA JIVE

The handover of Father Smangaliso Mkhathswa Comprehensive High School by MEC for Public Works, Honourable Howard Yawa on Thursday brought much joy, ululation and dancing to Winterveldt learners who had endured three years of learning under trees and in tents.

The delivery of the R8, 1 million school building Project to the community of Slovoville in Winterveldt also brought the realisation of community's wish to honour Father Smangaliso Mkhathswa for his contribution to the liberation struggle, transformation of the education system, his commitment to community upliftment and development.

The former Executive Mayor of the City of Tshwane was an ardent human rights activist and campaigner against apartheid and Bantu Education during the struggle for liberation. He was one of the founding Members of the National Education Coordinating Committee.

Addressing the audience, MEC Yawa said that since the expansion of the definition of the term "under the trees" to include learners who study in mud schools, or under dangerous conditions that expose learners and educators to ailments, his department has stepped up its delivery programme to ensure that the expectations of its client, the Department of Education, are met.

Yawa commended the community for its patience and for believing in government's commitment to address the inherited infrastructure backlog created by the twin evils of colonialism and apartheid in communities. He further applauded the community for supporting the contractor and consequently ensuring the completion of the Project three months ahead of schedule.

The eighteen class roomed school includes an administration block, four heads of department's offices, a science laboratory, a computer room, two special function rooms, four stationery stores, two special rooms and thirty six toilets.



Encouraging the community to look after the facility, MEC Yawa said, " As decades of deprivation and neglect give way to a new age of hope and development, let us jealously protect what Freedom and Democracy has brought for us."

He reiterated government's congratulations to the Winterveldt Community as made during the sod turning event for the Project on the 8 July 2005 as follows: " We wish to reiterate our congratulations to the community of Winterveldt for recognising and honouring the contribution of a selfless, dedicated and humble servant of our people and the continent, the Honourable Father Smangaliso Mkhathshwa."

In acknowledging the recognition bestowed upon him, the Former Deputy Minister of Education, Father Smangaliso Mkhathshwa now President of the United Cities and Local Governments of Africa said that he was humbled and challenged by the naming of the school after him.

He encouraged educators at the school to strive for excellence as the facility provides a conducive learning and teaching environment. "Your perseverance has laid the foundation for success. Its now up to you to produce future leaders, scientists and engineers."

The colourful handover function also marked the formal launch of the Provincial Programme in support of National Construction Week. It was graced by among others the Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of the Council for the Build Environment, Dr Malindi Neluheni, Members of Parliament and the North West Provincial legislature, Councillors of the City of Tshwane, construction sector professionals and senior government officials.

Member of the Mayoral Committee for Public Works and Infrastructure, Councillor Subesh Pillay representing the Executive Mayor of the City of Tshwane opened the school on behalf of MEC for Education, Honourable Rev O.J.Tselapedi.

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