

Minister to officially open Mandela Park Primary School

SITHANDIWE VELAPHI

BASIC Education Minister Angie Motshekga will today officially open the state-of-the-art Mandela Park Primary School in Slova Park, Mthatha.

The school, which was built through the generous contribution of steel giant company Arcelor Mittal South Africa at a cost of R45m, boasts top of the range equipment and facilities.

The new school has been built using the company's lightweight steel building technology and comprises a laboratory, a media centre with a computer room, eight vegetable tunnels, a fully-equipped nutrition centre, two sports grounds, an administrative building, offices for the principal and vice-principal, a staff room and a reception area.

The school was designed to easily accommodate 1100 pupils at any given time. The site where the new school is built has 1059 pupils, most of whom were accommodated in an old hall, divided into classrooms with dilapidated partitions.

The rest of the pupils were crammed into three classrooms erected by the community and a couple of old prefabricated structures.

The school did not have waterborne sewage or a reliable water supply and an intermittent electrical supply was just sufficient to power a couple of lights and electrical outlets.

Provincial education spokesperson Loyiso Pulumani said the construction of the school reaffirmed their commitment, working with other stakeholders, to eliminate all inappropriate structures in the province.

The school also consists of a reception, kitchen, toilets and a sick room.

Provincial MEC for education Mandla Makupula, Arcelor Mittal South Africa CEO Nonkululeko Nyembezi-Heita and mayor for king Sabatha Dalindyabo local municipality, Nonkoliso Ngqongwa, are among dignitaries expected to attend the official opening.

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