

DELIGHT AS LEARNERS RECEIVE NEW SCHOOL SHOES

PAULOUS: Walking barefoot to school every day to seek education to build a better tomorrow, is what prompted the office of the Mogalakwena Local Municipality Mayor Her Worship Cllr Andrina Matsemela and Monene Primary School's Principal Mr Ernest Rambau to solicit donors to assist the struggling learners.

The former Premier Soccer League Manager Mr Andrew 'Druza' Dipela of Dipela Foundation responded positively to the request. This is the story of 17 learners who are hungry for education.

The learners of Monene Primary School in Paulous village were all smiles after they received brand new school shoes from Mayor Matsemela and Mr Dipela. The donation was to those learners who are from poverty-stricken families and were identified by the Ward Councillor, Educators and Members of the School Governing Body.

This project has been running since 2018, throughout the year and Mayor Matsemela promised to run it until her term of Council lapse in 2021. In some schools Mayor Matsemela donates full set of school uniforms, sanitary towels and learner materials.

Sports still holds a special place in Mr Dipela's heart who indicated there is a basketball, tennis and netball courts which are not utilised by the school learners because they do not have sports coaches.

He then requested the Mayor and her office to engage the Department of Sport, Arts and Culture (DSAC) to help with the coaches or train some community members so learners can utilise the facilities.

"It is important for young people to be more involved in sports. We should not undermine the talent of our children, who knows we might produce the likes of Serena William from this village. Our children from this rural school can compete with the best in the province if not the country if they get our support," Dipela signed off.

Mayor Matsemela said, "Education is a societal issue therefore it is everybody's business. These children are happy today because each have a new pair of school shoes, they will be able to walk to school proudly."

"We are aware that some learners don't have confidence to participate in some school activities due to the low self-esteem created by not having proper uniforms and as a result, this leads to absenteeism and poor academic performance," said Matsemela.

"On what Mr Dipela has raised, we will do our best to seek help from DSAC to help this school with sports coaches. After school lessons these learners need to refresh their minds, to keep their bodies healthy and fit through sports. Participating in Sports will also keep them away from criminal and drug activities," said Mayor Matsemela.

Mr Rambau said sent words of appreciation to Mayor Matsemela and Mr Dipela and expressed his excitement to see the Mayor and Mr Dipela making this project a reality.