## MAYOR'S SANITARY TOWELS TO MAKE GIRLS LIFE EASIER

**MOKOPANE:** Learners from Mantutule High School in Mapela and Leubaneng Higher Primary school learners in Marulaneng village received donations of sanitary towels, thanks to the Mayor and sponsors.

The Mogalakwena Municipality Mayor, Her Worship Cllr Andrina Matsemela, Mphoza & Friends Foundation, other sponsors have donated sanitary towels to the above mentioned schools.

Matsemela indicated that the donation is part of an initiative by the municipality to keep learners at school and bring dignity to a girl child.

Speaking at the schools Matsemela added that this initiative is part of government's plan to make these products freely available to underprivileged girls because many girls miss classes during menstrual cycle since they cannot afford to buy sanitary pads.

Mayor encouraged boys at the school not to make fun or jokes about girls that are on periods in their schools.

"I am happy that we were offered time to interact with the learners more especially the boys. I want to send a message to boys to start respecting and supporting their sisters and peers now.

"Boys need to understand that menstruation is not a thing to be laughed at, they must instead support their peers when that happens, if they continue to do that, it actually degrades the girl child," said Matsemela.

"We also want to thank all the sponsors who made this programme a success. I believe it doesn't end here as it will go a long way in securing the future of a girl child," said Mayor Matsemela.

One learners who spoke on anonymity said, "I am very happy. My parents can afford to buy me the sanitary towels, other learners also struggle to get them. It is really embarrassing when you do not have them. Thanks to the donors."

"As young generation you should not look down to yourself just because you are not privileged to afford the sanitary pads and other products," said Charles Maja aka Big Boy and Mphoza Mashabela aka Mr Setati who are both Skeem Saam actors.

Maja and Mashabela advised and encouraged school learners to take education serious, respect their educators, stay away from drugs and also acquire other qualifications when they chose acting as their career.

"I regret that I did not go far with my school work but you the generation of today are fortunate you are all going to school for free. Acting is like soccer career. If some of you would like to choose acting as your career and advice you to have other qualification so you can have something to fall back," Maja.

Learners and principals from both schools Mantutule and Leubaneng were overwhelmed by the support and love of Mogalakwena Mayor Matsemela, Mphoza & friends, and also the support from all the sponsors (VW, B3 funerals, Wimpy, Oasis Lodge) who partook at the event.

The learners were extremely excited to rub shoulders with the Mayor, Mphoza and friends, Charles Maja aka Big Boy, Councillors, Sponsors, ANC REC members and the likes.