

Media Release for King Shaka International Airport
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In reflecting on the ideals of Nelson Mandela, to provide quality education for all, yesterday marked a significant milestone for the learners of Uminathi Junior College and the surrounding community. Through the tireless efforts of Airports Company South Africa, King Shaka International Airport in identifying and partnering with Department of Education, Mangosuthu University of Technology and Ethekwini Libraries the launch of an Educational Resource Centre was brought to life.

The school located in a remote area south of Durban called Umbumbulu, has faced with numerous challenges over the years, the school was once under the Department of Basic Education (DBE) before it was closed due to new demarcations set out by the DBE. The strong-willed community saw the need to reopen the school converting it into boarding facility due to societal issues faced with children travelling long distance to attend school and for many coming from poverty-stricken homes.

Through addressing gaps within our society, the Educational Resource Centre has been implemented by utilising stakeholders' expertise and seamlessly integrating these efforts to deliver on fundamental needs of our youth. Uminathi proposal was brought to ACSA's Social Economic Development (SED) committee through one of their committee members and long-time ACSA employee. In reviewing the long wish list presented the committee envisioned an Educational Resource Centre that would serve to address the multiple requirements of the school.

The Educational Resource Centre goes beyond the stakeholders providing the learners of Uminathi Junior College with the tools to excel in their studies but actively allows these young minds to participate in the fourth industrial revolution, equipping them at an early stage through technology and coding training.

The Educational Resource Centre looks at a holistic approach, this being achieved through ACSA building the Centre and purchasing the computers, identifying and approaching stakeholders, Mangosuthu University of Technology to provide training to the both learners and teachers on computer coding. The Municipal Library contributing with teaching school on how to use the library and packing books. And the Department of Education uploading curricular content on the computers.

ACSA Socio Economic Development Specialist Paul Makhanya says, "It is amazing how much can be achieved through a collective approach then whereas in isolation, each partner had an instrumental role to play and we at Airports Company South Africa King Shaka International Airport look forward to many interventions that will help us make a notable difference."

ACSA Senior Corporate Affairs Manager Colin Naidoo, "Mandela Day allowed our staff not only to participate in painting the school but to add value to the lives of Uminathi Junior College learners and teachers but drive the importance of private- public partnership."



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