

MEDIA STATEMENT

TO: ALL MEDIA HOUSES

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

MEC SCOTT DONATED NEW DOUBLE-BUNK BEDS FOR ORPHANS AND VULNERABLE CHILDREN

For more than 11 years, some orphans and vulnerable children at Tholuthando Children's Home at Embo in Hillcrest (Durban) were sleeping on cement floors as beds were not enough to accommodate all their 42 children.

The home founder Ms Sindi Duma told the MEC for Finance, Ms Belinda Scott, who visited the home today and donated 20 new beds, that these new beds will go a long way in giving all children healthy sleeping quarters especially because during winter the floors can be very cold, exposing learners to diseases like flue.

"The long-term impact is one of saving lives of orphans and giving them a home and future. Most of my children here are orphans who had no place to go and were not even attending school. But now they are attending at our neighbouring schools, provided with proper shelter and a loving home which was donated by Group 5" said Duma.

"We are registered as a Non-profit Organisation (NPO), and we are now in a process registering with the Department of Social Development so that we can get funding from government, because for all these years we only relied on donations from private sector and caring individuals" said Duma.

Speaking on behalf of the children, Snenhlanhla Msane, could not stop her tears and said that it always saddened her to see some of her counterparts having to sleep on the floor.

"This donation reminds us that we are also important people, the world has not forsaken us. We thank you MEC Scott and your government for this token and hope that you will not derelict us after this as we want this home to grow and accommodate all the street and abandoned kids of the province. Having a place like this one does not only benefit us, but it also benefits the local community as the children often resort to crime in order to survive".

"It is not easy to be rejected by your family and to grow up without one. But a home like this one gives children like myself who are homeless a chance to live in a healthy environment, receive trauma and grief counseling, health evaluations and treatment sometimes, and the love that we receive from Mama-Duma, which we miss from the loss of family help us grow into productive adults" said Msane.

"This is a kind of commitment and excellence that we look for in our communities, where people do things on their own. To us as government, Sindi is really a shining star and we will do all in our power to support her" said Scott.

Issued by the Office of the KZN MEC for Finance

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