



MEDIA STATEMENT

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KZN TREASURY THRILLS INMATES AND CO-OP IN VRYHEID

VRYHEID – In keeping up with the spirit of the powerful message of Thuma Mina (Send Me), KwaZulu-Natal Provincial Treasury was jostled into action by assisting those in need in our society.

On Tuesday, the department represented by Simiso Magagula, head of department, brought smiles on the faces of Ncome prison in Vryheid and to a local Mondlo organisation by delivering and donating hi-tech sewing machines.

In August last year while at a legislature programme in Vryheid, MEC Scott was moved when she heard of the need to assist the inmates at Ncome Correctional facility and Lethukuthula Co-Operative. The organisation consists of 12 women. Most of them are breadwinners and they focus on sewing church uniform. They are, however, hamstrung by lack of tools of trade to expand their production to make a living for themselves.

MEC Scott also heard about a group of inmates' training programmes which include sewing, general craftwork and their constraints caused by lack of equipment.

So it did not take long for MEC Scott and HoD Magagula to respond to this call. The HoD donated four sewing machines to Lethukuthula Co-Operative which included two electric flat machines and two Overlocker machines.

Ncome inmates received five machines which included two Overlocker machines, two electric flat machines and one industrial sewing machines.

"When government visited this district last year during a Legislature Programme, a request was made to assist this correctional centre to buy sewing machines that would be used to rehabilitate inmates," said Magagula.

"Today we are responding to that request. In his State of the Nation Address, President Cyril Ramaphosa quoted late musician Hugh Masekela's famous song Thuma Mina. The message in the lyrics of the song is about self-sacrifice, taking responsibility, reaching out to the needy, creating change and improving the lives of the people. Masekela sang the song to jostle us into action and turn people's lives around," said Magagula.

Magagula told inmates that the government believes that they are more than inmates and that what had brought them to prison remained in the past. He encouraged Lethukuthula to expand and create opportunities for their community.

An equally elated Nonhlanhla Mwelase of Lethukuthula Co-Operative said the organisation was grateful for the donation.

"We are very happy for receiving machines to use. This also means that now we will be able to stand on our own and to produce quality products. The donated machines will increase our capacity," she said.

For more information please contact Director of Communications, Musa Cebisa, on 071 687 8777 or Media Liaison Officer, Nathi Olifant, on 072 292 2502.

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