The Minister of Basic Education, Ms Angie Motshekga and her Provincial counterpart, MEC Senzo Mchunu, were in a jovial mood as they received the State of the Art Early Childhood Development (ECD) facilities from Shanduka Group and Adopt a School Foundation at Mbonisweni Primary School in Tongaat.

This gift was as a result of a plea by Lakela Kaunda who is a Chief Operations Officer in the Presidency who asked Cyril Ramaphosa (Chairperson of Shanduka), to build ECD facility for the Community of Hambanathi Township. Shanduka responded to Lakela’s impassioned plea by building the State of the Art ECD facility which includes two classrooms, two toilets for boys and girls, toilet for teachers, a kitchen and a sick bay.

MEC Mchunu thanked both Lakela Kaunda and Cyril Ramaphosa for their patriotism and good cooperate citizenship. “As a Department we are going to build one more classroom to add to this facility before the end of the year. We are also going to do renovations in the entire school so that this facility is housed in an equally good and well maintained structure,” said the MEC.
Minister Motshekga thanked Shanduka and the principal of the school for her good leadership. “We are pleased that this school’s ANA results are good, but we expect this school to achieve even greater results now,” said the Minister.

Cyril Ramaphosa who was the main speaker, spoke highly of the MEC Senzo Mchunu and the manner in which he is leading the Department. “KwaZulu-Natal leads all other provinces when it comes to excess to ECD,” said Ramaphosa. He also spoke about the importance of the Foundation Phase and his expectation regarding the performance of the school. “This school is now ours and don’t be surprised if you find us coming to this school on regular basis just to monitor its progress,” Ramaphosa said.

The Principal, Mrs Zippiwo Mahlobo, promised that the facility is going to be well maintained and also promised to raise the standard of teaching and learning in the school. “Through our hard work, we have seen parents who had taken their children to former Model C schools bringing back their kids to Mbonisweni Primary and for us that is the sign that we are doing something right,” concluded Mrs Mahlobo.
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