



## INTERNET ARTICLE

### **Summit puts spotlight on improved sanitation in schools for girl children**

25 October 2018

The Water Research Commission (WRC) in partnership with the Department of Water and Sanitation (DWS), Department of Education, and the African Development Bank held Women in Water and Social Entrepreneurship Summit at Unathi High School in Cambrigde village, East London on 25 October 2018. The Summit aimed to raise awareness on menstruation hygiene management in Eastern Cape schools.

Addressing teachers and learners at the Summit, DWS Deputy Minister Pamela Tshwete lauded the initiative of providing sanitary towels to disadvantaged girl children, adding that no learner should miss school due to poor sanitation and hygiene reasons.

Deputy Minister Tshwete said “the school’s project of water, sanitation and good hygiene will lead to improved school attendance and academic performance, as well as comprehensive hygiene education and promotion through collective efforts by key stakeholders and partners in the project.”

Unathi High School was selected as one of ten (10) pilot schools to benefit from the WRC’s sanitary towels social franchise model initiative set to be rolled out in the next two months, targeting a total number of 600 girls from Grade 8-12.

Sinesipho Fotoyi, a Grade 9 learner said when toilets are dirty and there is no running water when she has her monthly menstruation cycle, it becomes difficult for her to attend classes, she then opts to stay home.

“I am happy that our school was chosen to benefit from the project because this means I won’t have to miss school when it’s time of the month,” said Fotoyi.

School Governing Board (SGB) member, Mrs Nokuzola Dayile said “the project will help to promote the culture of clean toilets in schools and curb absenteeism from girl learners during their menstrual cycle.”

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