



Telkom's Rally to Read project brings joy to many...

The Rally to Read project is a partnership between Telkom Foundation, Bidvest, and a number of vehicle dealerships such as Mercedes, Toyota, and Nissan. This project in Collaboration with the Department of Basic Education selects schools that are in need of reading materials and support. The Rally to Read with Read foundation then works with teachers to help them teach learners how to read with understanding. Once these



workshops are completed and progress is seen, then Telkom with its partners organise a Rally to Read event to deliver books, teaching aids, sports equipment, educational toys and other material to the learners and their teachers.

SchoolNet SA, was invited by Telkom Foundation to participate in the Rally to Read project in 12 schools in Giyani, Limpopo Province. All invited guests were split into six teams and each team had two schools to visit on Saturday 9 May 2015. The event began on Friday afternoon with each Team packing the toys, equipment and books for their

two schools. Ms Omashani Naidoo, SchoolNet's Operations Manager was placed in the Green Team which visited Hlaneki Primary and Mbhureni Primary in Giyani.

Hlaneki Primary was reportedly in a complacent comfort zone before the start of the project despite the perceived lack of resources. This school has 789 learners with a staff complement of 19. The team was met with many appreciative parents who sang and ululated as the team arrived and unpacked the various sponsored treats. Once all the speeches were complete, we visited the classrooms where teachers displayed their teaching practice and the Team interacted and played with the kids.



Mbhureni Primary has a fantastic story where the principal, Ms Maria Rikhotso wanted a school for her community and sat tirelessly at the District office demanding a built school. Her wish was eventually granted and the school which was a chicken coop is now a built school, with a paved driveway and looks like a place of education.

This opportunity to participate in the Rally to Read was a humbling experience Telkom Foundation and its partners have achieved much more than just the appreciation of the community, but has rather highlighted the fact that the quality of learning in rural areas should not be different to that experienced in other more resourced schools or areas.

Omashani Naidoo

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