



School absenteeism for girl learners curbed

A leading producer of cement, PPC, in partnership with Famram solutions and Caster Semenya brought much needed relief among girl learners of Sinenjongo High School in Slovo Park (Cape Town) with a donation of 170 PrincessD Menstrual Cups. The initiative enables and ensures that young girls attending high school for the first time don't miss out on valuable class sessions because they may not have access to sanitary ware. The PrincessD Menstrual Cup comes with a sterilisation cup and can be used for 10 years.

School attendance for many young girls in poorer communities is often interrupted during their menstrual cycle because many cannot afford sanitary ware. This subsequently affects their performance and motivation to do well at school. PPC CSI Manager Kabira Akoob says "Against a backdrop of challenging socio-economic issues facing our society, we cannot afford to look away and let school absenteeism add to these problems. This is our way of lending a hand to ensure a girl-child's path to a successful career has less hurdles. We have seen how pervasive this problem is across our country, not to mention in the continent. We have to start somewhere, and we aim to reach more girl learners going forward."

PPC has already covered a few schools with the PrincessD Menstrual Cup initiative and at Sinenjongo High School, grade eight learners will be the recipients of the menstrual cups. Because of the school's proximity to the PPC Montague gardens operation, the company has an ongoing support initiative one of which is a collaborative partnership with Star School programme.

"PPC has provided valuable support for over 10 years through partnering with the Star Schools programme to provide students with extra classes after school and on Saturdays. It is therefore great to see the partnership between PPC and Sinenjongo High School continue to grow in other aspects which benefit our learners," says Pamela Robertson, Sinenjongo High School Maths and science teacher.



Education counts amongst the top priority areas on which the company's CSI initiative is focused. In building future leaders of tomorrow, PPC is ensuring that learners and students are equipped with the right tools and support.

"We are invested in communities in which we operate, and we want to make sure that we also contribute positively to their needs, and in some of the challenges we have identified," concludes Akoob.

End

About PPC Ltd

A leading supplier of cement and related products in southern Africa, PPC has 11 cement factories in South Africa, Botswana, DRC, Ethiopia, Rwanda and Zimbabwe. In 2016, PPC commissioned its fifth milling depot, located in Harare, Zimbabwe. The recent commissioning of PPC's new plants in DRC and Ethiopia bring PPC's capacity to around eleven and a half million tonnes of cement products each year. As part of its strategy and long-term vision, PPC is expanding its operations in South Africa with the construction of a new kiln line (SK9) at PPC Slurry outside Mafikeng in the North-West province.

PPC's Materials business, comprising Safika Cement, Pronto Readymix (including Ulula Ash) and 3Q Mahuma Concrete, forms part of the company's channel management strategy for southern Africa. PPC's footprint in the readymix sector has grown to include 26 batching plants across South Africa and Mozambique and the capacity to produce half a million tonnes of fly ash.

PPC also produces aggregates with its Mooiplaas aggregates quarry in Gauteng having the largest aggregate production capacity in South Africa. PPC Lime, one of the largest lime producers in the southern hemisphere, produces metallurgical-grade lime, burnt dolomite and limestone.

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