



MEDIA RELEASE

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Nkulo Trust donates hospital supplies and honeysucker truck for enhanced healthcare and sanitation services in Mpumalanga

Nkulo Community Partnership Trust ("Nkulo Trust" or the "Trust") has made its maiden donation to communities hosting its founding company, Thungela. The donation of essential healthcare supplies seeks to strengthen healthcare services to the Witbank hospital, while the honeysucker truck will go a long way in improving sanitation services for the Steve Tshwete Local Municipality (STLM).

The Nkulo Trust is a community development vehicle established to create genuine impact, by investing in legacy-changing socio-economic development projects. The Trust has identified education and skills development, health, welfare and social orientation and growth in alternative economies as areas of focus.

The Witbank Tertiary Hospital is a critical facility serving the Gert Sibande and Nkangala districts. The hospital provides specialised services such as ear, nose and throat, ophthalmology, obstetrics and gynaecology, internal and family medicine, orthopaedics, neurosurgery, general surgery, anaesthesiology, critical care, maxilla facial and paediatrics. It admits twenty (20) high-care patients daily, many of whom require prolonged stays due to severe medical conditions. The Nkulo Trust's donation of essential supplies and medical resources valued at approximately R6 million includes essentials that are instrumental to the strengthening the Hospital's capacity to deliver high-quality care to critically ill patients.

Sasekani Manzini, MEC for the Mpumalanga Department of Health, said: "These supplies donated by the Nkulo Trust today, will go a long way in improving the level of care at the Witbank Tertiary Hospital, ensuring that our healthcare workers can focus on providing the best possible clinical care for members of the community."

The Steve Tshwete Local Municipality operates two honeysucker trucks for unblocking sewerage drainage pipes, draining septic tanks, servicing pit toilets, providing sanitation services and managing wastewater treatment. One of these trucks has been experiencing severe breakdowns and needed an entire septic tank replaced, leading to substantial service delivery disruptions. The donation of a 16,000-litre honeysucker truck valued at over R2 million will ensure that municipality provides uninterrupted sanitation services to rural and remote communities that rely on mobile sanitation services.

Mpumi Sithole, Nkulo Trust's interim chairperson, said: "From inception, the Trust has prioritised engaging and collaborating with communities to address real and pressing needs. When government made a clear call for private sector to collaborate on its programmes, as Nkulo Trust we responded with committing to working together to strengthen the healthcare system and working to guarantee quality healthcare and timeous sanitation services."

She added: "The donations will contribute significantly to the overall health and well-being of the region's residents."

Speaking during the handover ceremony held in Middleburg, councillor Mhlonishwa Masilela, Executive Mayor of Steve Tshwete Local Municipality, expressed gratitude for the Nkulo Trust's contribution, noting its importance in supporting the outlying areas. "This donation comes at a critical time for our municipality," he said. "The truck will help us maintain sanitation standards in areas that have long been

underserved. It is through partnerships like this that we can address our community's most pressing needs and create a healthier, safer environment for all our residents.”

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For further information, please contact:

Hulisani Rasivhaga
hulisani.rasivhaga@thungela.com
083 370 2327

Bokgabo Tlhaku
bokgabo.tlhaku@thungela.com
082 532 4406

Editor's note:

Established in 2021 by Thungela, Nkulo Community Partnership Trust (Nkulo trust) is a non-profit organisation (NPO) and public benefit organisation (PBO) dedicated to fostering socio-economic development in Thungela's mine host communities as well as the labour sending areas. These include, Khwezela Colliery, Greenside Colliery, Goedehoop Colliery, Isibonelo Colliery, Mafube Coal, Zibulo Colliery, and Elders project.

Nkulo trust's mission, reflected in the name 'Nkulo', which means 'growth of the people', focuses on building self-reliant communities through initiatives in education and skills development, health, welfare and social orientation, as well as growth in alternative economies.

The Trust is governed by a dedicated board of trustees, and collaborates with local communities to create impactful, long-term change and unlock the potential of every community member.