



PRESS RELEASE

PPC mobile science lab set to boost science as a subject at Diepsloot West Secondary School

21 September 2016. Diepsloot, Johannesburg. PPC unveiled its first mobile science laboratory at Diepsloot West Secondary in Gauteng today. The ideal alternative for schools such as this one in Diepsloot that don't have a laboratory of their own, the mobile lab incorporates both technology and the science equipment needed to conduct experiments covered in the high school science syllabus – bringing physics, chemistry and Life Science to life as never before. With this the first of several such donations planned for schools across South Africa, PPC is ultimately aiming to impact over 8 500 learners through the initiative, potentially opening up the career paths of South Africa's next generation of engineers, scientists and technicians.

Excited grade 9, 10 and 11 pupils at Diepsloot West Secondary School got to see science in action as never before today – thanks to their new mobile science laboratory from PPC. The laboratory (a self-sufficient portable structure on wheels) will be used to teach science to learners at the school going forward, enabling practical interactive demonstrations, as well as appropriate revision in preparations for exams.

PPC CEO Darryll Castle presented the lab to school principal Mr Ngwenya, thanking the various parties that had partnered to make the donation possible. These include the Department of Education, Brainwave, Smartlabs, and the Hip Hope Foundation. "Providing access to quality, meaningful education remains one of our continent and country's greatest challenges," he noted. "For education to create a life and future of possibility for our children, corporates need to work with government and communities to develop the skills they will need to realise their dreams. It is our hope that today's donation will unlock new career options for many of these learners, and impact their lives well into the future."

With sustainability a key focus of the initiative, PPC has put various measures in place to ensure the most effective use of the lab possible. Brainwave will offer workshops and psychometric analysis to assist learners at the school with their subject selection and provide them with career guidance going forward. "Through this assessment, they will be better equipped to select subjects that are suited to their personality, helping them to embark on the career path that's right for them," explained Kabira Akoob, PPC's CSI Manager.

An MOU with the Department of Basic Education enables PPC to monitor outputs and the impact of this and other labs they roll-out. "This speaks directly to our short to medium-term plan of then offering bursaries to deserving matriculants from these schools who want to pursue PPC-related careers – feeding in to our employment and recruitment strategy."



PPC

“PPC takes its role as a community enabler and partner very seriously,” said Castle. “As a legacy brand that is over 120 years old, it’s important that we leave a legacy in communities across the country. A legacy that demonstrates that there’s far more to us as brand. We’re looking forward to working with our partners to implement this initiative across the country – thereby shaping futures in a positive and meaningful way.”

Ends.

About PPC Ltd

A leading supplier of cement and related products in southern Africa, PPC Ltd has nine cement factories and four milling depots in South Africa, Botswana, Zimbabwe and most recently Rwanda with a current capacity to produce around eight and half million tons of cement products each year. As part of its strategy and long-term plan to more than double its business every 10 years, PPC is expanding its operations in existing markets including South Africa and Zimbabwe, and extending its footprint into the DRC and Ethiopia. The recent acquisitions of Safika Cement, Pronto Readymix (including Ulula Ash) and 3Q Mahuma Concrete form part of the company’s channel management strategy for South Africa. As a result of these acquisitions PPC’s footprint has grown to include 26 readymix batching plants across South Africa and Mozambique. PPC also produces aggregates, metallurgical-grade lime, burnt dolomite and limestone, with PPC’s Mooiplaas aggregates quarry in Gauteng having the largest aggregate production capacity in South Africa.

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