

SENTECH gives back to its communities

By Phindi Nkomo

Johnson Nqonqoza SSS laptops donation

On 4 March 2022 the SENTECH Strategy team and Operations Eastern Region acting head, Thozama Hoyi, handed over 40 laptops to the high-performing Johnson Nqonqoza Senior Secondary School, and the community of Somerset.

This intervention is part of SENTECH's strategy to support communities located within the precinct of the company transmission sites.

The school was represented at the handover by the school principal, Henry Syce, who said the laptops will mostly help learners with projects and assignments. The deputy principal, Darryl Fabian Barlow, added that the laptops will equip learners with skills so they can compete with learners from other schools, especially private schools.

The educators assured the attendees that the devices will be taken care of, and used in a proper manner to benefit both the learners and the community at large.

The laptops were highly appreciated and well-received by all. Most speakers concurred that SENTECH had brought the future to the community of Somerset East, and that the "new normal" caused by the Covid-19 pandemic had forced every one of us to use technology.

Gladman Mkhaya Mqota, a community elder who is a school governing body member, concluded the proceedings by saying that learning is continuous. He encouraged the learners to use the laptops with pride and appreciation, and to take their studies seriously.



Phindi Nkomo assists a learner to set-up his new laptop.

Umthommo NPC laptops donation

Umthommo NPC is a non-profit organisation situated in the rural area of Umzumbe, on the South Coast of Kwa-Zulu-Natal.

Its programmes focus on community development through supporting children and youth in the following groups: early childhood development (ECD), child and youth development (CYD), and career development programmes (CDP).

Umthommo started operating in September 2021, conducting developmental workshops for ECD teachers. In December 2021 it recruited and placed young people with matric qualifications in various organisations where they will gain work experience, and on 1 March 2022 it, opened its doors for ECD.

On 24 March 2022, SENTECH donated 10 top-of-the-range laptops to this organisation. Dr Sibongile Sangweni, the chairperson of Umthommo NPC, and her team promised to put the laptops to good use developing young people in their area, with the main aim to of grooming, mentoring and guiding them in preparation for modern careers.

Umthommo believes that by nurturing young minds and widening their experiences, they will grow to be economically and socially productive, and thus contribute to the creation of a prosperous and self-sustaining nation. Dr Sangweni concluded by saying, "We believe this can be achieved through dedication and hard work."



Given Wageng (left) and Phindi Nkomo (right) present Dr Sangweni (middle) with one of the laptops donated to the NPO.