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Big Heritage Awards for KZN Health Infrastructure Development Team

KWAZULU-Natal Health MEC Dr Sibongiseni Dhlomo has congratulated the Department's Infrastructure Development team for working hard to restore the integrity of buildings considered to be of historical significance in the province.

This follows the handing over of two prestigious awards by the Heritage Society of South Africa awards to the Infrastructure Development team yesterday, in recognition of its efforts to renovate the Old Boys Models School (OBMS) and the Edendale Hospital Nursing College, both in the city of Pietermaritzburg.

Once completed, the OBMS building, situated on 310 Jabu Ndlovu Street, will be used as office accommodation for government officials.

The Boys Model School started as Pietermaritzburg High School in 1866 until 1887 when it moved to College Road.

The property was always owned by the state, but after the school moved out, its condition began to gradually deteriorate. Apart from major termite infestation which caused serious structural damage to the roof timbers, the building also suffered an invasion by homeless vagrants, who stripped metal flashing and valley linings to sell for cash and ripped out sash windows and doors which they burned for firewood.

Meanwhile, the people of KwaZulu-Natal are already reaping the rewards of the renovation of the Edendale Nursing College building, which is now a state- of-the-art institution.

The building was inherited in 2003, following the discontinuation of a 99 year by the Pietermaritzburg Rotary Club. At the time, the building was already more than 100 years old with a huge maintenance backlog.

Being a former Government School, it was found to be an ideal building to house a Nursing College because of the appropriateness and the size of the space necessary for classrooms and other support facilities.

The renovation project, which began in 2011 and ended in 2013, presented an opportunity to install latest technologies around IT, electrical and mechanical Installations including modernizing of computer room, library, model wards ablution facilities, security entrance and landscaping.

In congratulating the Infrastructure Development team for receiving the awards, KZN Health MEC Dr Sibongiseni Dhlomo said:

“We are very proud of the good work that has been done by the Infrastructure Development team, under the leadership of Mr Bongsi Gcaba, to renovate and restore these buildings for the

benefit of the Department and the people of KZN.”



General Manager: Infrastructure Development, Mr Bongsi Gcaba (left), with the Heritage Society of SA secretary, Simon Haw and Denzel Coetsee from Mthulisi Msimang Architects.

ENDS

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