

## **CBE leaves its mark in the Eastern Cape**

As its CSI initiative, the Council for the Built Environment (CBE) handed over the mobile science laboratory used to conduct its Maths and Science support programme to the Eastern Cape Department of Education. The handover ceremony took place on Wednesday, 15 March 2017 at the V.M. Kwinana Comprehensive School in Uitenhage, Eastern Cape. Acting chief executive officer of CBE, Priscilla Mdlalose explained the significance behind this noble gesture – it is our attempt at encouraging learners to improve their Maths and Science performance in preparation for tertiary study. With these being key entry subject requirements for many career fields, it is hoped that improved performance in Maths and Science will also open doors for them in built environment careers.

Deputy Chief Education Specialist for FET Sciences in the Uitenhage District Office, Thembekile Hempe proudly summed up the benefit of the programme for the Eastern Cape Province. 140 learners from historically disadvantaged schools benefitted from the Saturday class programme. Included in this number, were 14 learners from Tinara High whose chances of passing Physical Science were close to zero, as they had no teacher for the whole year. But their perseverance and continued attendance at these classes paid off, as they managed to attain 62% in Physical Science in their final examination. Likewise, all the other schools that took part in the programme showed an improvement in their final result.

The aim of CBE's Maths and Science Support Programme is to assist learners to improve their academic performance in these subjects to enable them to potentially consider careers in the built environment. The programme targets schools in the under-resourced and far-flung areas, Uitenhage being a case in point.

The gateway subjects to tertiary study and careers in the built environment (viz. Architecture, Engineering, Construction and Project Management, Landscape Architecture, Property Valuation and Quantity Surveying) are Maths and Science. It is widely recorded that learners grapple with these subjects at school.

