



MEDIA RELEASE FROM GROWSMART, AN INITIATIVE BY GROWTHPOINT PROPERTIES AND THE EASTERN CAPE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

8 August 2018

### **Stars. S-T-A-R-S. Stars.**

#### **Eight winning Eastern Cape Schools will spell to excel in Growsmart semi-finals**

Spelling stars from eight Eastern Cape Schools have proven to be the best and brightest, winning the second level of the province's first ever Growsmart literacy competition.

These school's teams will be given the opportunity to shine again in the Growsmart semi-finals and finals, which will both be held on Saturday, 8 September 2018 at the East London International Convention Centre.

This is the first year that Growsmart, the leading education initiative by Growthpoint Properties in collaboration with the Eastern Cape Department of Education, is being offered in 60 schools in the province - 30 competing in East London, 30 competing in Port Elizabeth-.

Of the 60 schools taking part in the spelling competition designed to boost the literacy performance of primary school children, an excellent eight have made it through to the final rounds.

The East London second-round winners are Fanti Gaqa Primary, Khanyisa Primary, Nontuthuzelo Primary and RH Godlo Primary.

The second-round winners from Nelson Mandela Bay are Triomf Primary, Magqabi Primary, Machiu Primary and Caritas Primary.

Growsmart is a fun, competitive and exciting resource that is curriculum-based and helps educators and learners to master their required syllabus work. The programme provides all the materials and resources needed to excel in the competition, which is based on the schools' curriculum.

Growsmart schools are chosen by the Department of Education to improve their literacy performance. Growsmart targets learning in grades four, five and six, which is where the department has identified the potential to have the biggest possible impacts.

Jewel Harris, who heads Growsmart for Growthpoint, says: "We are impressed by the performance of the Eastern Cape schools as they embrace this collaborative approach to boost literacy in a meaningful and effective way. It is clear that this high-energy, high-impact programme is already having a positive impact in the Eastern Cape."

The Eastern Cape is the second South African province in which Growsmart is working to have meaningful, positive impacts on primary school performance. Growthpoint is invested in several landmark properties in the province, including Greenacres and Walmer Park Shopping Centre in Port Elizabeth and Beacon Bay Retail Park in East London.

The initiative began nine-years ago in the Western Cape where it has a strong, successful track record. Now in 210 schools across two provinces, Growsmart is a leading illustration of the impacts and



importance of ongoing effective public-private partnerships. It is designed to be transformative for educators and children, but also for their families, communities and South Africa as a whole.

With its track record of real success, Growsmart has attracted the support of like-minded sponsors. Its partners are passionate about seeing South Africa's children enjoy a brighter future.

Harris adds: "Our hopes are that, as Growsmart cements its reputation for changing the lives of primary school children in the Eastern Cape, it will attract even more support from the business and education community. We embrace corporate and organisational partnerships because, as our Western Cape sponsors have already proven, together we can do so much more." says Harris.

Shawn Theunissen, Head of Corporate Social Responsibility at Growthpoint, says: "Growsmart helps us to give primary school learners access to quality education. We're pleased to invest in Eastern Cape communities to create social capital for our business, our stakeholders and Growsmart sponsors."

**Growsmart:**

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