



Staff at Zitike Primary School in KwaMsane gratefully accepts a drum of hand sanitiser as part of USM's Covid-19 community relief programme



This supply of hand sanitiser was delivered to the Mtubatuba police station

# Community relief programme

Tamlyn Jolly

ANSWERING the call to help struggling communities throughout northern KZN, Umfolozi Sugar Mill (USM) stepped up its Corporate Social Investment (CSI) initiatives by launching a Covid-19 community relief programme.

The programme aims to assist communities in which the mill operates and includes various components.

These include donations of 6 000 litres of hand sanitiser, 10 tons of sugar and 40 000 seedlings, as well as a substantial financial contribution to food parcels and the implementation of a public sugar sales project.

The 10 tons of sugar have been assigned to USM's small-scale growers, the Mtubatuba Municipality and the iSimangaliso Wetland Park authority for distribution.

USM's direct sugar sales project will also give entrepreneurs an opportunity to earn an income through buying sugar for resale directly from the mill.

Mabibi residents, who have slipped through the cracks in other Covid-19 food parcel distribution efforts, will receive much-needed food parcels, while the 40 000 seedlings will go to residents of six wards in Mtubatuba.

CPS Seedlings in Pongola has donated transport logistics for the seedlings, while RB Logistics in Durban agreed to transport and distribute the 6 000 litres of hand sanitiser across USM's large area

of operation within the province.

USM's Covid-19 community relief programme kicked off on Monday with the hand sanitiser donation to 20 beneficiaries, which included schools, police stations, USM's small-scale growers, Mtubatuba Municipality and the iSimangaliso Wetland Park.

Today (Thursday), cabbage, tomato, onion and spinach seedlings will be handed over to residents of Wards 1 to 5 and 20 within the Mtubatuba municipal area as part of USM's Covid-19 food relief efforts.

The 10 tons of sugar will be handed over throughout the remainder of July and during August, while the food parcels will be distributed throughout August.

USM's sugar shop will be

launched in August as part of the mill's economic recovery component of the relief programme.



Mtubatuba High School Principal Arnold Meyer with a drum of hand sanitiser