



FARMER SUPPORT GROUP RALLIES SANITARY SUPPORT FOR MANDELA DAY



FSG staff (from left) Ms Temakholo Mathebula, Ms Nellie (Nelisiwe) Khumalo, Ms Bukelwa Groom (seated), Ms Nonhlanhla Mthembu, Ms Avrashka Sahadeva and Mrs Gail du Toit.

The [Farmer Support Group](#) (FSG) in the [School of Agricultural, Earth and Environmental Sciences](#) (SAEES) at UKZN is organising support for a drive to deliver feminine hygiene products to rural high schools in the areas the group works in to mark Mandela Day.

In response to a dire need in rural South African communities for sanitary towels and hygiene supplies, the FSG is collecting packs of the products as well as accepting donations and buying packs on behalf of staff, to try and meet the need. The more supplies of this nature available to teenage girls in rural areas, the lower the chances of them missing school during their menstrual cycles.

The FSG reported considerable support thus far from academic and support staff as well as from students and even cleaning staff.

'The lady who cleans our offices, Nellie, has been our greatest supporter,' said Mrs Gail du Toit of the FSG. 'She has assembled friends and colleagues to contribute to the collection, and has enthusiastically volunteered to shop for supplies.'

The FSG hopes to deliver the donated sanitary items to schools in Bergville and Msinga, where they work frequently.

Donations are welcome, and can be delivered by hand to the Farmer Support Group's offices in the former CEAD/Forestry building on the Pietermaritzburg campus. Cash donations of R10 per pack are also welcome and can be arranged through Gail du Toit on DutoitG@ukzn.ac.za, or phone 033-260 6277.

Christine Cuénod