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Literacy on the move as mobile libraries spread the word

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NATIONAL Library Week was celebrated with the launch of mobile libraries in communities where children do not have access to libraries.

The Asifunde Mobile Library Campaign in collaboration with KZN businesses, eThekweni Municipality and the

Department of Education hopes to ignite a spark and love for reading among children.

The first phase of the campaign will see 20 primary schools in KwaMashu equipped with mobile libraries at a cost of R560 000. The second phase will see a further 20 schools in uMlazi equipped with the libraries.

Ahmed Motala, chief

executive of New Africa Education Foundation is driving the project.

Motala said through initiatives such as these they hoped to create a "literate, educated, healthier and more prosperous society".

He said schools were selected by the department of education and had to be well managed despite having a lack of resources.

The project was born of a desire to see children reading, but the cost of installing libraries at schools was too high.

"The solution was mobile libraries, which is basically a library on wheels.

"The books on offer are high quality, with 10 percent isiZulu and 90 percent English for children in grades 1 to 5," Motala said.