

# Businesses partner school heads

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BUSINESSES have a critical role to play in fixing the education sector in the country and one non-profit organisation claims it is already taking the lead.

Partners for Possibility (PfP), founded in 2010, one of the top leadership mentoring organisations in the country, is heading the drive by partnering hard-nose business people with school principals to help them better manage schools.

The PfP initiative is about enhancing the quality of education, improving the school environment and encouraging engagement between parents

and teachers to inspire real change.

The organisation held a stakeholder engagements meeting at the Durban Chamber of Commerce and industry yesterday. Brand Pretorius, former McCarthy chief executive and patron of the PfP, said business should not stand on the sidelines and complain.

Pretorius summed up the depressing state of education. He said of the 148 countries ranked by the World Economic Forum in Education, South Africa was number 146 and, in maths and science studies "came stone last".

He said research showed that of the 20 000 schools in the

country, only about 5 000 were considered effective and functional. "The quality of education is not what it should be. It is clear we are facing a very big challenge," he said.

"Instead of business standing on the side and complaining about the negative quality of education, business should take co-responsibility by getting involved."

For a fee, the programme organises a year-long partnership between a business person and a school principal.

It has a formal training schedule complete with reading material and five days of training on key leadership competencies.