

THE ASIDI BRIEF

Helping to restore dignity in education



October 2013
Volume 4

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basic education

Department:
Basic Education
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA



ASIDI
Accelerated Schools Infrastructure Delivery Initiative

THE ASIDI BRIEF

Since July 22, the Department of Basic Education has been handing over a brand new school every single week to communities in the Eastern Cape!

The schools are a marvel to behold. In addition to 7 classrooms, or 14 depending on enrolment, the schools boast a multimedia centre which houses a computer lab with 27 laptops and a library. There is a science lab, multi-purpose centre, nutrition centre, and decent ablution facilities, including toilets for the disabled with appropriate access. The administration block not only has a principal's office and staffroom, it also includes a room for pastoral care and another for storage. In addition, a fully resourced Grade R centre complete with sand pit, jungle gym and separate sanitation facilities completes the show case schools. All ASIDI schools are fully furnished. 6 957 jobs have been created in the building process with expenditure of R1,28 billion to date.

WHAT DOES ONE SCHOOL A WEEK MEAN?

The handing over of a school to a community is a major psychological milestone in the hearts and minds of local communities in the Eastern Cape and the Department of Basic Education. In building parlance, when a school reaches practical completion, the intended beneficiaries can take immediate occupation because it is deemed fit for purpose. But to simply put together a facility and disappear without officially handing over a facility would be to ignore the history and context of the country.

It is something the department is not prepared to do and thus it is with pride and dignity that the department is happy to help communities complete one of their many journeys towards nationhood through these hand over ceremonies during which a Chief and community accept and receive the new facility. We happen to be doing one a week and will continue to do so until year end. The schedule will continue next year as more schools continue to reach practical completion month after month in this multi-year programme. To date, 40 schools have reached practical completion. 100 school are planned for the second batch and construction has begun on about 60 of them. The third batch will comprise 140 schools.

ONE SCHOOL A WEEK IN PICTURES



Celebrations at Dumile



Grade R at Gqweza



Celebration at Kwenxura



The peoples' pride in song and dance at Mqokolweni



Gumboot dance at Thabatha



Admin block at Ndlovayiphathwa



Scenes from Thabata



The future at Nobantu



Fun in the library

For more on this exceptional uplifting programme, please visit <https://www.facebook.com/DBE.ASIDI> or the DBE website and click on the ASIDI logo.



The ASIDI story is much more than brick and mortar. It is above all a human story. It is one that talks to the restoration of the dignity of a people. You see it in the explosion of song and dance, as well as from the words of highly charged praise singers during handover events. You see it in the pride of local communities as they converge on the school, some having trekked long kilometres to come and celebrate in solidarity with a particular village. You hear it in the choice of words from every speaker expressing their gratitude for the moment at hand and their tribute to those who built mud schools in the past.

The themes are familiar: history, hope and celebration. The styles varied.

Minister Motshegka lauds the courageous women who have rallied communities around them to educate their children. She frets about learners, educators and results. MEC Makupula always borrows from history to remind the people whence they have come and to create the setting for the occasion. Principals give the history of the establishment, taking care to pay tribute to every single Principal who was involved in a particular establishment

from the beginning. SGB representatives share their awe at the new facilities knowing how long they have waited for such a moment while other officials such as Mayors acknowledge the efforts that the DBE is making at transforming the country side.

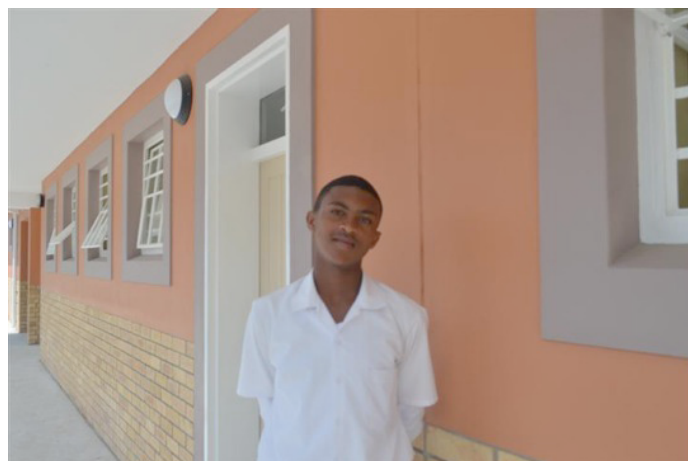
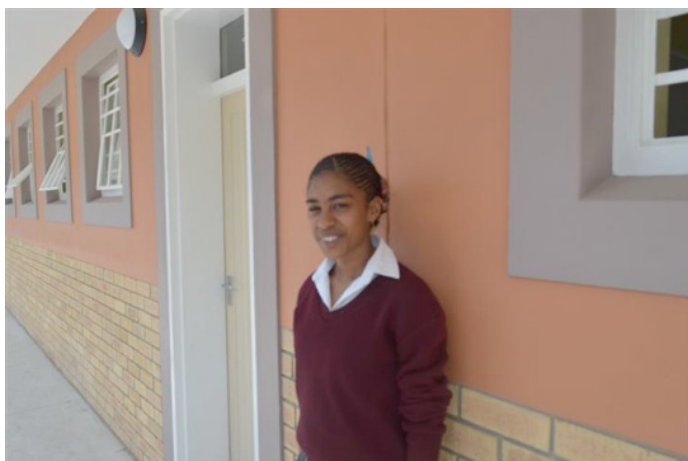
The historical perspective places the mud schools in their proper context, sharing the greater history of the country, the response of the locals and the vision of many a founder Principal. The hope perspective, on the other hand, places emphasis on what is to come. The possibility, now within reach, of more personal chances for wealth creation and the diminishing and weakening hold of poverty for want of education. Finally, the celebration perspective is an explosion of colour, song, dance and poetry. The spoken word finds expression through the different community dances, young men expressing their manhood, young ladies a display of poetry in motion and older women in dignified tribute to times past, present and future.

ASIDI is not just building schools. It is healing wounds, restoring dignity and building hope.

ASIDI IN THE WESTERN CAPE

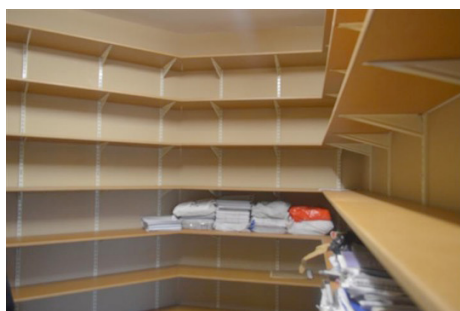
KNYSNA PHASE ONE

The ASIDI programme is building 14 schools in the Western Cape. One of them is in Knysna. “In the couple of months since it was completed, Knysna Secondary School’s phase one section has not had any graffiti on its walls”. It is a telling comment by the Acting Principal Vivian Bezeidenhout. The old school had lots of graffiti because, in the words of Grade 11 learner, Seume August, “kids were popular when they did that.” Now it is an unpopular thing when people try to deface the walls as two gangsters who are not learners at the school recently found out. The learners are protecting their school and the local community parents are proud of it. In fact, they are so delighted that another learner in Grade 11, Luvuyo Tshambo says they are more keen on educating their children. Apparently they thought of the previous school as a school for gangsters. “We are protecting our school from gangsters,” says Luvuyo.

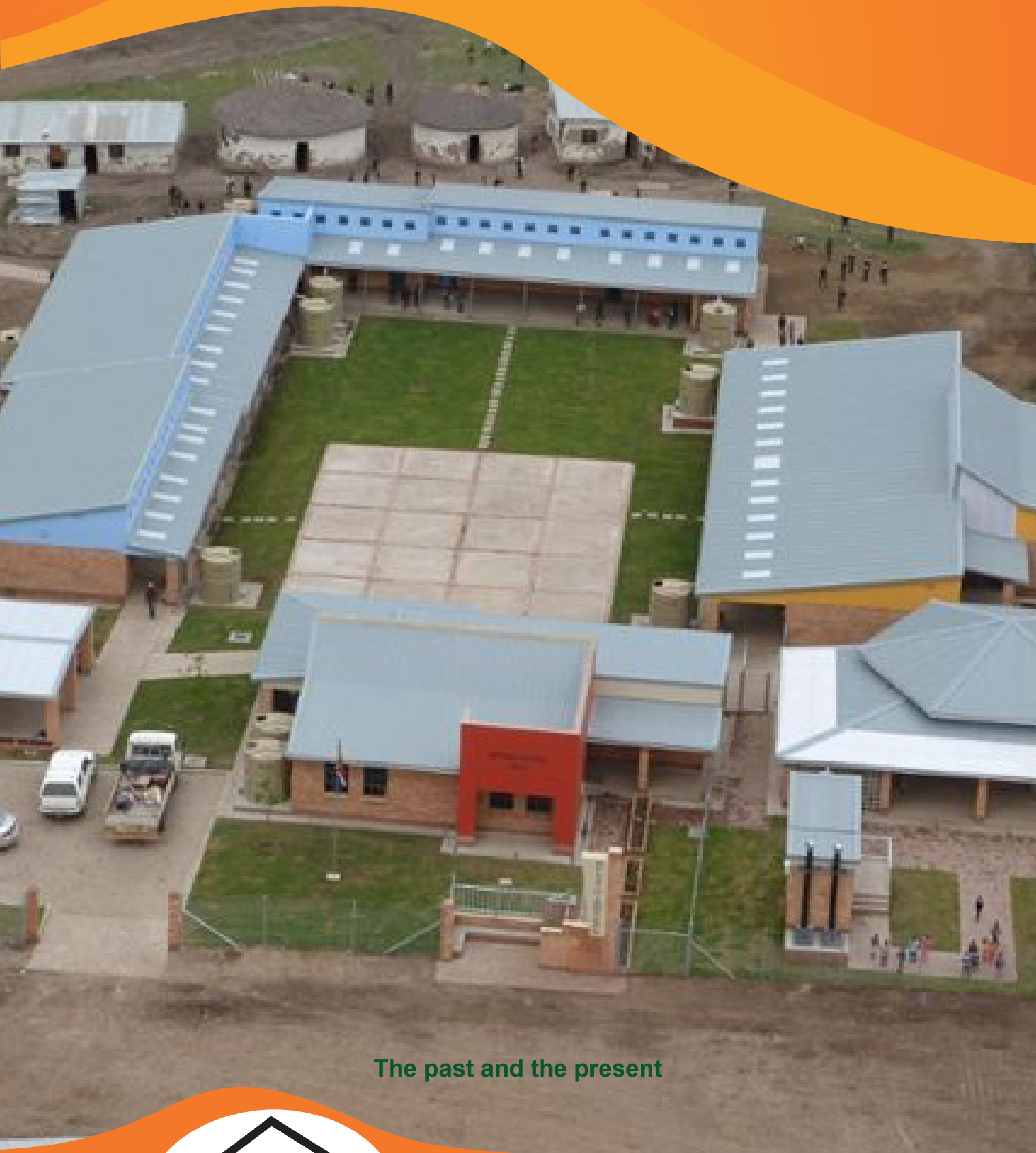


Finding their voice, Seume August and Luvuyo Tshambo both in Grade 11

The Principal Anton Titus is proud of his new establishment and keeps repeating that they are grateful for it. “It is like a college,” he adds as he takes The ASIDI Brief on a tour of the premises. The learners are more comfortable and it is less crowded with more space to walk outside between classes. Everyone was happy and excited when the school took occupation of the first phase to allow work to proceed for phase two. It is the teachers who chose the colour scheme and they are happy with their new environment. The 7 office administration block has a spacious, airy and well lit staffroom with views of Pezula Golf Estate in the distance. For added security, there are two strong rooms in the block.



Clockwise from top left: admin block, staff room, Principal and Acting Principal, Inside the strong room, new classroom block and inside a classroom.



The past and the present

