

THE ASIDI BRIEF

Helping to restore dignity in education

MINISTER AT SWARTBERG



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basic education

Department:
Basic Education
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA



ASIDI
Accelerated Schools Infrastructure Delivery Initiative

ASIDI ARCHITECT FIRM WINS DESIGN AWARD FOR ASIDI SCHOOL

This school and architect will be featured in a television programme to be advised soon



Heideveld Primary School designed by Meyer & Associates Architects, Urban Designers awarded 2015 Cifa Award for Architecture



Heideveld Primary School is a replacement school, built as part of the Department of Basic Education's Accelerated School Infrastructure Development Initiative (ASIDI) Programme. The original temporary school buildings were built over 40 years ago to accommodate learners affected by apartheid's forced removals. The new school building attempts to give back some dignity to the community it is situated in. The building is arranged around a hierarchy of sheltered courtyards. The large shared courtyard allows for outdoor play and assembly of all children, while the smaller covered courtyards between the classrooms provide protection from the external elements and act as a social gathering space for children of various age groups. These spaces are animated with brightly coloured staircases, circular benches and well considered signage. The playful use of colour brightens up the interior spaces and forms a great part of the identity of the school.



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WHEN LEGENDS GIVE YOU NO EXCUSE BUT TO LISTEN AND TAKE RESPONSIBILITY

It was not by accident that former Springbok and current Supersport analyst Ashwin Willemse was the guest speaker at the official opening of Swartberg secondary school in Vlei View, Caledon in the Western Cape. What an intervention!

The man has clearly added motivational speaking to his



repertoire of skills and delivered a rousing talk that had, learner, parent, guest and Minister applauding and also with goose bumps. He gave a striking account of growing up in the area, attending the old school at the same site whether the brand new state of the art school was being constructed, his life with drugs and gangsterism and how rugby was his way out. Having established his bonafides, he threw down the gauntlet to the learners about the choices they were making for their lives and futures. He did not mince any words, for this was not some stranger, alien to their lifestyle with some fancy words about positive thinking. Instead, right there in front of them, the learners had a home grown legend who spoke their language, looked like them and shared their experiences when he was their age. There was no escaping the truth as the oratory soared to hit home in the heart and mind of every single person present. The past was future and the future was present in the same place and the audience responded in kind to the high energy revival they had been offered.

STEAMING TOWARDS THE 150 MARK

The ASIDI train has been steaming through the hills and valleys of the Eastern Cape, the flat plains of the Free State, the mountains in Mpumalanga, sparse lands of Limpopo and the wine lands and concrete jungle of the Western Cape. Everywhere, the train has left its mark at 94 stations in the Eastern Cape, 20 in the Western Cape, 6 in the Free State, 5 in Mpumalanga, 3 in Limpopo and 1 in the Northern Cape to leave behind 129 schools completed since this journey began in 2011.

The ASIDI programme is a tangible dividend of democracy but its benefits go way beyond the physical state of the art infrastructure that is fast becoming the norm, rather than the exception in rural and under-privileged urban areas. ASIDI is about:

Delivery: infrastructure is being delivered to those that need it most.

Dependency: more schools are definitely on their way to communities across the country.

Democracy: educational facilities to South African children regardless of which province they find themselves in.

DBE: the Department of Basic Education has demonstrated transformational and results-based leadership by taking the bull by the horns and tackling the infrastructure backlog, especially for schools built from inappropriate material.

SCENES FROM COMPLETED SCHOOLS



Fire protection drill at Toevlug Primary school in the North West.



Observing a science experiment at Swartberg Secondary School in the Western Cape



Cooking to impress

TEACHERS REVEL IN THEIR NEW FACILITIES

Educators in the Western Cape are purring over their new state of the art teaching facilities as they continue to take possession of completed ASIDI schools. We spoke to a few teachers in the province.



Jamie Lee Titus, Grade 1 teacher “loves the school,” adding that the “classrooms are fabulous with the outside noise cut out. “Strangers cannot come in and there is a feeling of safety for us here”. She also enjoys the amount of space available which she describes as ‘wonderful’. She celebrates her bigger board and reading corner before concluding that she can get more done in the day. She is doing a BEd at the University of Stellenbosch specialising in the foundation phase area.

Chantel Wentzel is a Grade R teacher and she “likes the new atmosphere. The feeling is wonderful to walk in to a bright classroom and to see the excitement in my children.” She is studying through UNISA.

ASIDI IS WORK IN PROGRESS

There are just under 100 schools under construction currently as we head to the 150 schools by December milestone.

