

THE ASIDI BRIEF

Helping to restore dignity in education



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basic education

Department:
Basic Education
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA



ASIDI
Accelerated Schools Infrastructure Delivery Initiative



The Department of Basic Education is proud to announce the completion of the first batch of 49 schools under the ASIDI programme as at 31 March, 2014. The delivery is late for valid reasons that have been articulated before but the programme is now progressing very well with a further 16 schools of the new batch already built, **ASIDI currently stands at 65 schools completed.**

Every week, different communities in the Eastern Cape continue to rejoice as they take delivery of the schools that are transforming the future of their children <https://www.facebook.com/DBE.ASIDI> The impact has been significant:

- Close to ten thousand job opportunities have been created since inception.
- Those skills developed over a 12 to 15 month period will remain in the community and serve for other construction jobs or allow people to seek employment elsewhere.
- 97 interns have benefitted from valuable and irreplaceable on the job experience.
- Thousands of learners have a better shot at life hence forth with the extraordinarily improved facilities at their disposal.
- Parents can look with pride and dignity at what lies before them as they continue to heal from the psychological wounds of apartheid. Freedom is taking better shape and substance and “tasting better” with passing years.
- Educators and learners occupy a school once practical completion has been taken. Therefore, all 49 schools are occupied. However, 41 have been officially handed over to date. This is a process whereby a ceremony is held to formally give the school to the community.

ASIDI IN THE MOTHER CITY

ASIDI is a national programme even if the bulk of the challenge was in the Eastern Cape. In the Western Cape, ASIDI is building 25 schools with 11 in batch one and the balance in the second batch. Batch 1 schools are anticipated to be completed by December 2014 and we are delighted to report that the DBE has already completed two schools there! An additional of 4 are planned for completion by the end of June and the balance of 5 by December 2014.



WHEN OPPORTUNITY KNOCKS

Abel Baloyi finished studying at Tshwane University of Technology in November 2013 and headed home to Loding. It was difficult, financially, to stay in the big city and jobs were hard to come by at a time when companies are recruiting for a new year. Walking in the streets of Loding, he came across two gentlemen, as he puts it, sitting under a tree at the construction site.

The 23 year old young man approached the men under the tree, and after greeting them said, "I am educated and unemployed and I believe you could come to my assistance,"

"This is a construction site and the only positions we have available right now involve hard labour," they replied. The young man swallowed his pride and accepted the offer right on the spot to start work helping to build Loding Primary School.

Thus, the holder of a National Diploma in Public Finance and Accounting got his first job on 6 December, wielding a pick and shovel, at One Turn Construction Pty Ltd (OTC). You can imagine what his mother's neighbours said, not to mention his peers.

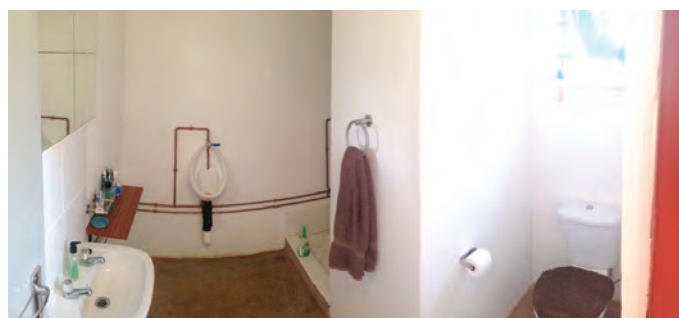
A couple of hours later when management at the site asked whether there was someone who could write, he seized the opportunity and was quickly promoted to Storeman.



OTC had accepted the project because the client needed someone to work right through December. However, the senior management of the company had been working all year long and badly needed a holiday. A true entrepreneur Andre Du Plessis, owner and Managing director, volunteered to do the December shift while his managers took a well deserved break. When he arrived on site, his Managers told him there was a clever young man on site who, in his role as store man, had impressed by doing a spreadsheet on all the assets on site. Soon enough, Andre needed to go and buy drinks at the nearest shops but did not know how to get there. You can see where this is going.

He asked Abel to accompany him and the conversation quickly turned to the young man. Before you could say, "I am really thirsty," Andre had offered the young man a job at his Head Office as Creditor's Clerk with free accommodation in comfortable and fully fitted lodgings at the spacious company premises in Wierda Park.

Abel is ambitious, well read and is going places. When we spoke to him, Abel told us about a couple of authors whose work he likes to devour. Tell me what you read, I will tell you who you are. Abel follows the stories of successful entrepreneurs such as Henry Ford, Steve Jobs and Ray Ackerman. Muzi Khuzwayo's (Black Man's Diamond) and Napoleon Hill's (Think and Grow Rich) are the books that have really intrigued him. The man set off to influence his destiny and did exactly that. When you set out to reach your goals, the universe somehow responds with synchronicity in the form of people like Andre Du Plessis.



He is a thoughtfully spoken man. "We really try to live the new South Africa," Andre tells me when I ask why they took Abel on. Andre reckons, with discipline, hard work and commitment Abel could one day make it to the Finance Manager.

But that is not all. From the very same community in Loding, One Turn Construction rented a home, an RDP house, from a Gogo to accommodate their site managers when they secured the project. After negotiating a price, they proceeded to renovate the house for free installing a geyser, kitchen unit and ablution facilities. The house is now one of three in Loding that flushes. To top it all, they painted the house.

"We tend to make relationships last very long," Andre says citing examples of how his company achieves participation goals of 30% even when the tender does not require it.



A couple of nights before our interview, Abel was sitting at the company bar at the premises but being unusually quiet. Andre asked him what the matter was. He responded that it was his graduation the following week and he did not have the attire for the occasion. Out came the company's card and the young man was sent off to Woolworths to get a brand new suit and couple of accessories. You cannot make this stuff up! There is hope in the new South Africa and ASIDI is proud to be part of it.



Eastern Cape



Eastern Cape



Western Cape



Eastern Cape



Western Cape

