

# THE ASIDI BRIEF

Helping to restore dignity in education



April 2015 | Volume 9

<b>THROUGH THE 100 SCHOOLS MILESTONE</b>	2
<b>PORTFOLIO COMMITTEE VISITS ASIDI PROJECTS</b>	3
<b>A SHORT HISTORY OF ASIDI</b>	4



basic education

Department:  
Basic Education  
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA



ASIDI  
Accelerated Schools Infrastructure Delivery Initiative

## ASIDI BURSTS THROUGH THE 100 SCHOOLS MILESTONE

From an initial 17 schools, completed in the first year of the programme, ASIDI completions now stand at 106 schools. The question is longer why there are schools built from inappropriate material in the country. Instead, it is the milestones that the DBE continues to mark as community after community takes delivery of state of the art schools that are giving a renewed sense of pride and dignity to under privileged areas and rural communities. The last few weeks have seen a school being officially handed over every week, after their completion, to grateful communities in the Western Cape.





## PORTFOLIO COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS VISITS ASIDI PROJECTS IN THE EASTERN CAPE

The parliamentary Standing Committee on Appropriations conducted an oversight visit to ASIDI sites in the Eastern Cape in the first week of February. They visited sites, interacted with implementing agents, contractors, and the ASIDI team. They heard first hand some of the challenges which face the programme from time to time such as work stoppages due to industrial action or community disputes. They also received feedback from the School Governing Body at a completed school, Gcinizizwe SPS. The SGB expressed their gratitude to the DBE for the facilities that their children are benefitting from.



## A SHORT HISTORY OF ASIDI

As usually happens when one reaches a milestone, we take a look back at the short history of ASIDI.

Minister Angie Motshekga's term started with her requesting to see any glaring outstanding work. She immediately decided that something ought to be done about the prevalence of schools built from inappropriate material in the country.



Black South Africans had built mud schools with their own hands in the Eastern Cape due to a denial of facilities or had inferior schools (plankie) built for them during apartheid in places such as the Western Cape and elsewhere.

The DBE requested funding from National Treasury which was eventually granted and ASIDI was born. The programme got off to a slow start but the department quickly recognised the need for a dedicated Programme Manager and one was soon recruited. 17 schools were built in the first year along with hard lessons learnt through a combination of poor performance from what looked like solid contractors in many instances, the unyielding terrain in the Eastern Cape and uncompromising weather during the rainy season.

Since then, the ASIDI train has picked up steam and it is delivering the dividend of democracy to stations all over the country. There are 84 ASIDI schools completed in the Eastern Cape, 4 in Mpumalanga, 4 in the Free State, 2 in Limpopo 1 in the Northern Cape and 11 in the Western Cape.

ASIDI is mostly known for replacing schools built from inappropriate material but another legacy of apartheid events is that for decades close to a thousand other schools never ever had water, toilets or electricity. The department had planned that these, too, needed to benefit from the advent of democracy. It is thus that since inception, ASIDI has delivered water to 381 schools, sanitation to 371 schools and electricity to 289 schools, all for the first time ever.

