

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 ASIDI BRIEF

An Eastern Cape infrastructure banner reads, “infrastructure architecture is a state of the arts that reflects the social aspects of society. It defines the futuristic outlook of society, its soulfulness, serenity and spirituality. It epitomises the identity of society, promotes its public image, defines the social strata and has a moulding effect in defining one’s identity.”

The schools built under ASIDI are a world away from the inappropriate structures that preceded them. Yet for a time, the mud schools were a source of pride for communities across the country. Denied education opportunities by the apartheid regime, over 500 courageous women, exhibiting their leadership qualities and pride, approached their

communities and asked them to build schools for their children. The communities rallied building classroom year after year until they could proudly boast of a local school. It was a defiant gesture that said to apartheid, “we know what we are and that’s the way it’s going to be.” Some of the leading project members of the ASIDI programme were educated in mud structures and today, in a democratic South Africa, they are helping to replace them not because they are a disgrace but that they are out of place in a post apartheid nation. The ASIDI tag line of “restoring dignity to education” is both about the physical structures and self esteem for learners and teachers alike. The formal handover of Nobantu to the community tells the story in pictures.



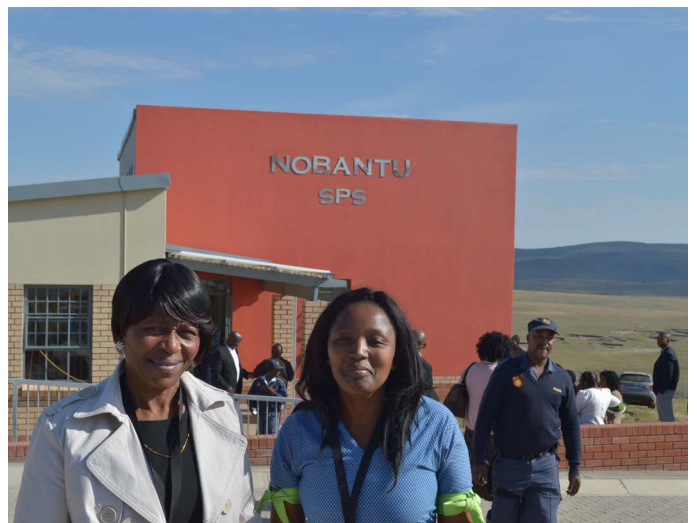
Project Support Unit team leader Thembi Matunda introduces local contractor of Sizisa Ukhanyo to Minister Motshekga.



Joyous celebration with the learners of Nobantu and their Principal.



The pride of a people



Founding Principal Nobathemba Gaba and second Principal, Liziwe Ndamashe



Dignity restored



DBE officials at the Nobantu launch



The future awaits at Dumile

Welcoming the Minister to the podium, MEC for Education Mandla Makapula, proudly recounted a brief history of his people chronicling their role in the resistance against colonialism and apartheid. It was a moment of unabashed pride and dignity for everyone gathered. In her speech, Minister Motshegka saluted the visionary founder Principals of all mud schools in the country, the overwhelming majority of them women, for their selfless acts at the most challenging times of their lives and promised those who had not yet received ASIDI schools that the programme was on its way to them. The next couple of months at least a dozen schools will have reached practical completion in the building programme. The DBE continues to restore dignity to education.

KZN & Free State Updates

The ASIDI Brief brought you updates on the Limpopo water and sanitation programme where 100% of the projects planned for the previous financial year were completed. The same applies for KwaZulu Natal where all sixty schools targeted for water and/or sanitation were completed on schedule. The Free State also presented the same results with all 33 water, 13 sanitation and 25 electricity projects planned for 2011-2012 completed by financial year end in March 2013 as planned.

SOCIO-ECONOMIC IMPACT OF ASIDI TO DATE

ASIDI is creating work opportunities for local communities and the target is to ensure that at least 35% of beneficiaries are women, 30% youth and 2% people with disabilities. As at 30 April, close to 4500 jobs have been created in four provinces, the bulk of them in the Eastern Cape, presenting an appreciable change in the fortunes of the beneficiaries while the project lasts on site.

INTERNS LEARN THE ROPES

In the Eastern Cape alone, nearly 450 young people are going through a new on-the-job learning experience to complement their tertiary building studies. The ASIDI Brief spoke to a couple of them: Xola Mangaliso is 22 and currently studying for 3 year Diploma in Building at Walter Sisulu University. During his internship, he has put theory in to practice by learning how to set up a building, measure as a Quantity Surveyor and price a bill of quantities. He has found the experience very useful.



Thembakazi Zinqume, below left, is doing her in-service training at Zibele Construction Company working as a Junior Quantity Surveyor. She studied at Cape Peninsula University of Technology and finished her third year National Diploma in Building in 2012. Of her opportunity, Thembakazi says, "I am here to learn more on the construction industry to know what it is all about and what good opportunities I can get. I am responsible, hardworking and eager to learn."

Not all the young people at ASIDI sites are interns. The initiative is helping to create much needed jobs wherever its work is being carried out. In all cases, the majority of the workers on site are drawn from the local community. This includes presenting opportunities for sub-contracting. Some individuals show great potential if given the exposure. One such person is Pumza Simke a Community Liaison officer working for Ishvuyo Construction at the Gungubele site. She has been on the job for five months and is gaining invaluable experience mediating between employees and employer. In addition, she assists the Safety Officer in his work and is a volunteer Clerk at the school.



SINGING OUR OWN SONG

There are almost always three sides to the story; his, hers and the truth. We are going direct to the people with the DBE website and in addition, we have launched an ASIDI face book page so that everyday people can interact with us on a programme that is directly benefitting them.



The Principal of Gungubele and ASIDI Programme Manager being interviewed by eNCA television.

Visit www.facebook.com/dbe.asidi to compare press stories and reality.

One school a week kicks off

The Department has commenced its one-school-a-week handover schedule. Deputy Minister Envy Surty officiated over the formal handing over ceremony of Ndlovayiphathwa Senior Primary School on Monday 22 July. The launch attended by District officials and the local community was marked by song and dance as the community celebrated a milestone in their journey towards a better future for their children.



Ndiyindoda! Facing the future with confidence



impromptu literacy exercise

In his speech, the Deputy Minister was at pains to point out that some of the most illustrious sons of South Africa, both as leaders and intellectuals, have come from that part of the country giving examples of OR Tambo, Nelson Mandela, Thabo Mbeki and Libode District Director Dr Soyisile Nuku. He added that government had made education an apex priority and encouraged the learners to make the best possible use of their brand new facilities.

One school a week kicks off



Rhythms of the Eastern Cape, A new chapter begins....

DUMILE HANDOVER

Nestled in a valley, Dumile is a striking school. It was the second school in the one-school-a-week handover schedule to be formally given over to its community. Its enrolment has moved up from 118 to 182 and the school looks forward to receiving its first Grade 7 intake. The acting Principal Nomaculo Mjali told the ASIDI Brief that there has been major learner improvement because of the resources available right from Grade R, making specific mention of the Maths and Science kits as particularly helpful. Eastern Cape MEC for Education Mandla Mukuphula officiated at the handover.





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