

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

91 schools have been completed

- Water: 342 schools have received water for the first time.
- Sanitation: 351 schools have received decent sanitation for the first time.
- Electrification: 288 schools have been connected to electricity for the first time

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We are doing it for them

A FIRST FOR FREE STATE

PT Sanders Combined School is located 122 km south west of Bloemfontein in an economically depressed area. Unemployment is high and the Quintile 2 Afrikaans medium school in Noordmansville added to the general depression in the area with its dreary school look and feel.



Enter ASIDI and the community looked forward with excitement to receiving a new school. The school was handed over to a contractor on 7 August, 2013 and the work started in earnest.



The project created job opportunities for the local community passing on valuable skills to 15 females, 76 males and 57 youths. This included an in-service graduate trainee from Central University of Free State. 11 local sub-contractors, one of which is female owned, were engaged on the project in keeping with ASIDI's brief to implementing agents to ensure local participation.

The new school has facilities we have become accustomed to with ASIDI; a nutrition centre with industrial stove, computer lab, science lab, library and decent sanitation. There are 15 female toilets, 5 WC with 10 urinals for males, 5 for the disabled and 4 unisex ablutions. Water tanks are dotted around the school and the water supply is augmented with municipal supplies.

A FIRST FOR FREE STATE



The 481 learners will certainly enjoy their new school. The Principal Mrs Thandiwe Ramahalane is aiming at a 100% pass rate, up from the 93% from prior year. She expects the enrolment to go up and attributes part of the success to the “win-win parenting programme” which was started by the District Psychologist. It is an initiative that is teaching and helping parents get involved in their children’s education. Up to 50 parents are attending the sessions even though illiteracy among them is high. With an active SGB, the results are encouraging and can only bode well for the future.

CLERK OF WORKS INTERN

Pitso Moleko at P. T Sanders Combined School

I was born 19th of July 1988 in Modderpoort and raised in Ladybrand 140km east of Bloemfontein. Growing up was a little bit difficult in some sense because I grew up in a very small town. I wanted to go to school in places like Bloemfontein but because my family could not afford all of that I had to school there. When I got to secondary school I found out that I was not that disadvantaged to go to school or grow up in such small towns like Ladybrand when I saw people from my neighbourhood finishing matric with high marks and going to universities and others getting better jobs. I started my grade 1 at Modderpoort Intermediate School until grade 4, from there grade 5 in Manyatseng Primary School then high school in Le-reng secondary school, both schools in Ladybrand. I started grade 1 in 1994 and finished grade 12 in 2006.

My aspiration was always to study hard pass with good results in maths and science so that I could qualify for a civil engineering course and become one

of few engineers in my town. When I got to varsity my aspiration grew to be one of the young blacks guys in a construction business. I would like to have my own construction company one day.



I am studying civil engineering at Central University of Technology (Bloemfontein) and I am left with four semester subjects to finish.

CLERK OF WORKS

I was appointed by IDT to come for an interview at CRANE Construction Consultants in Bloemfontein who placed me to work at Sehlabeng Secondary School in Ladybrand but then soon I was called back to come work at P. T Sanders since there was no one with my position there. I was working as a Junior Clerk of works doing site reports, project weighting, doing inspections on site with engineers, site safety officers, architects, project managers and quantity surveyors and as well as attending site meetings with the whole board. The first thing I really enjoyed was to feel very important at being part of the first completed beautiful school in the Free State. Secondly, I have learned so many things on the project, the most important one being knowing every one's duties and work from professional, skilled and unskilled staff. This will help me to know and be able to choose exactly how hierarchy is laid out in construction work or business. As a result, I will be able to choose and plan my career very wisely.

I am seeing myself as structural engineer in future and especially being involved with lot of designing of buildings, bridges and stadiums.

FREE STATE AND MPUMALANGA GATHER STEAM

A second school has been completed in the Free State. Vredefort Primary School was built at a cost of R40 million and the creation of 210 jobs. The electricity connection is both municipal and two solar panels for the geysers. In addition to an administration block, the school has the standard ASIDI facilities that include nutrition centre, multi-purpose classroom and 17 ordinary classrooms. The science lab is resourced with gas equipment and the entire school has 54 toilets.



Three schools have been completed in Mpumalanga province to date as the ASIDI programme begins to make its presence felt in regions beyond the Eastern Cape where the bulk of the challenge of schools built from inappropriate material lies.

WATER AND SANITATION

Named after a Chief, Mnyamana Primary school is located 54km South West of Howick. For a long time, learners and educators at the school were forced to draw water for cooking from a nearby river because water from the community tap was available only once a week because of the need to preserve scarce resources. Temperatures plunge to minus zero in winter and soar to stifling levels in summer. Imagine having to fetch water from a river, walking up a ravine and back to school in those circumstances. Worse, the school shared this water with cows and donkeys. Children carried their own drinking water from home.

Mr Thulani Raymond Mtheku, an educator of the last three years at the school was a man with a very low sense of pride. He used to feel neglected and felt this keenly when he saw other schools during the school holidays. For the 164 learners at the school, simply making it to school was an achievement, such was the sense of despair.

Enter ASIDI and today, the school boasts its own water supplied from a borehole in to one 5000 litre elevated water tank using an automated pump carrying a five year guarantee. The school is also the proud owner of 13 rainwater harvesting tanks. There is a vegetable garden on the go with spinach, carrots, cabbage and potatoes being grown to supplement the child feeding programme.



The community is very happy with the development and now asks the school for water for their needs too! Educator and learner alike are better motivated.

WATER: SITE HANDOVERS IN MPUMALANGA

Management of equipment is important for the sustainability of projects. The Principals in the beneficiary schools were trained on how everything functions from the boreholes to DB boxes to water supplies. They were all also given a manual on how the equipment works and its set up as well as a set of tools and a set of keys for all the locks and doors.



Headmaster of Vulindhlela



Headmaster of Etshondo receiving his keys



Teacher of Holdesheim receiving keys on behalf of Headmaster



Headmaster of Amanzamahle

SCHOOL HANDOVERS RIGHT TILL THE END OF THE YEAR

Official openings of completed ASIDI schools continued right till the end of the year with the official handovers of Sophumelela Primary School and Mtingwevu Primary school in December. Both schools are located in the Eastern Cape and were built at a combined value of R35 million.



The official school hand over programme has resumed after the festive season break. On Friday 23 January Dalhuhlanga Secondary school in Mt Ayliff, Eastern Cape, was officially opened by the MEC for Education Mandla Makupula. The school has a current enrolment of 655 and was completed in April 2014 at a cost of just over R23 million. Being an ASIDI project, the school has a science lab, computer lab, administration block, 21 toilets, nutrition centre and library in addition to the 14 ordinary classrooms.

