

THE ASIDI BRIEF

Helping to restore dignity in education

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basic education

Department:
Basic Education
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA



MAKING STRIDES IN THE NORMS AND STANDARDS PROMISE

There is no shortage of political will and good will in the implementation of norms and standards in all South African schools. Provincial departments through the Education Infrastructure Grant (EIG) have been hard at work implementing the provincial infrastructure programme. The sector has made significant progress in improving the state of infrastructure in the country, particularly in the provision of basic services, new schools and rehabilitation of existing assets. The sector has built a total of 641 schools from the period 2009/10 to 2015/16 and an additional 343 schools are planned for the period 2016/17 to 2018/19. The improved expenditure on infrastructure budgets and the number of completed projects in the last financial year is a clear indication of this progress. Routine maintenance of school facilities in our country is generally not at an acceptable level, resulting in further deterioration over time. The neglect exposes learners to danger and cost the state more over time as the conditions of buildings deteriorate and have to be replaced. To this effect, the sector is strengthening the maintenance of schools by ring fencing funds for the sole use of maintaining education facilities across the country and address the culture of neglecting the maintenance of our schools. The recruitment and appointment of built environment specialists in the provincial education infrastructure units to provide the technical expertise necessary to manage a programme of this magnitude is also yielding positive results as there is significant improvement in the management and monitoring of the infrastructure portfolio.

In addition, the national Department of Basic Education initiated the Accelerated Schools Infrastructure Backlog (ASIDI) to replace schools built from inappropriate material, in their entirety, and to provide basic services of water, sanitation and electricity to those that previously had none. At programme inception:

Sub-programme 1: Inappropriate Structures: 510 Schools that were built from inappropriate material, in their entirety, are replaced with new schools that meet the department's standards of basic functionality.

Sub-programme 2: Providing Sanitation: Facilities 939 Schools that previously did not have access to sanitation are supplied with at least a basic level of sanitation.

Sub-programme 3: Providing Electricity: 932 Identified schools that are not serviced have access to electrical energy supply.

Sub-programme 4: Providing Water: 1145 Schools that do not have access to water are provided with basic water supply.

The ASIDI programme has delivered the following results to date:

Province	Inappropriate Structures	Water	Sanitation	Electrification
Eastern Cape	121	237	166	172
Free State	10	30	13	23
Gauteng	0	0	14	2
KwaZulu-Natal		186	88	43
Limpopo	3	94	77	5
Mpumalanga	5	20	19	40
North West	2	3	10	0
Northern Cape	1		6	2
Western Cape	20	3	19	7
Total	162	573	412	294

The balance of the schools are at different phases design, procurement or construction.

ADDRESSING DELAYS IN THE WESTERN CAPE

The DBE has completed 21 out of 25 schools in the Western Cape. Of the remainder, three have structural design defects which has resulted in a delay in completion. Acting Director of Works Education Infrastructure Delivery at the Western Cape department of Transport and Public Works Andre Nieuwoudt clarifies the status quo at Hawston Primary School in Hermanus:

What steps were taken to investigate why the faults in the construction work were not discovered sooner?

The faults in the construction work were discovered at the time that it was constructed in a part of the buildings that was not yet occupied. As a safeguard regarding possible defects in the other sections of the buildings, the Department decided to vacate the buildings and to obtain an opinion from a specialist engineering company followed up by a forensic investigation of possible remedies.

It has been nearly one year since the building was deemed unsafe. Why haven't any repairs been done yet?

After the preliminary report the two Departments agreed on a methodology how to deal with the matter. The Department of Basic Education who is funding the project was informed and due legal process followed from thereon. This is a lengthy process that includes termination of original design engineer's contract, development of comprehensive remedies and cost estimates for completion. The final step is DBE's final approval of funding which is expected shortly.

What is the estimated cost of the repairs?

The projected cost for the remedial works is approximately R28 million. The exact costs of all the remedial action (as well as other costs and damages) will only be finally determined at a later stage and once all the works, including remedial works, have been completed and the final accounts for the works have been prepared by the consultant team and agreed between the relevant contractors and the Department.

Who will be responsible for this cost?

As an ASIDI school, the Department of Basic Education [DBE] is responsible for the funding of the construction of the school. Submission has been made to DBE indicating the additional cost for the remedial work for which approval is pending. The DTPW will consequently institute appropriate steps against the relevant Engineer whose service contract was subsequently terminated.

Will the previous constructor face any fines and/or other steps as a result of the shoddy construction work?

No, the original contractor is still currently employed and is to complete the works including the remedies as he is not responsible for any of the major defects discovered. Until the works are complete, the Department is continuing with the process of quantifying the costs and the Department is, however, aware of prescription and will institute the necessary proceeding timeously.

When will learners and staff of Hawston Primary be able to move back into the school building?

It is envisaged that the learners could return to the school in April 2017 pending approval of funds and completion of the works. The remedial work will be closely monitored by DTPW and progress will be conveyed by WCED to all stake holders.

What kind of steps will be taken to prevent a similar situation from occurring in the future?

The DTPW has currently implemented and continuing the reviewing of all engineering design submissions for compliance.

A GEM IN CLARENS

The small town of Clarens is a hiker's and tourist's delight and one of many gems in South Africa's crown of tourism jewels. The Golden Gate Highland National Park, a mere five minutes from the centre of Clarens, derives its name from the sunrises of the setting sun that casts a soft shade on the west facing sandstone cliffs and turns them into a glowing gold colour as lovingly described by South African National Parks. It is in this setting that the ASIDI team delivered yet another democracy dividend to rural education in South Africa.

Costing just under R30 million, Clarens Primary school caters for 470 learners from the local township with a few coming from as far as Bethlehem. The new school has retained and refurbished the historical administration block which has three offices, a store room and staff room to comfortably cater for the 18 teachers.



There are 15 classrooms with specialist classrooms being the science lab, computer lab and a beautiful media centre. The Grade R centre classrooms are a marvel to behold and easily accommodate the 79 learners that they cater for. This state of the art school's design is in keeping with the town's character and natural surroundings reflecting the ASIDI team's philosophy of going beyond brick and mortar to provide real meaning in their work and to the benefit of all. School Principal Annetjie Coetzee sums up the feeling nicely, simply saying "I am extremely happy. To me, it's a miracle."



DELIVERING DIVIDENDS OF DEMOCRACY

There has been remarkable progress with regards to the provision of library and reading resources to schools over the last financial year. Joint efforts by the Department of Basic Education (DBE), the Provincial Education Departments (PEDs) and Partners will yield the following for the past financial year when the DBE concludes its delivery processes:

- DBE – 1000 schools, in the form of either central libraries, trolley libraries or reading resources;
- PEDs – 1627 schools, and also like DBE, in a few cases it's physical libraries, and in most, it is resources;
- Partners – 464 schools and 61 Teacher Centres which have received digital libraries



Provincial LIS report March 2016

Province	School library provisioning and development	Mobile libraries
Eastern Cape	780 primary schools and 332 secondary schools received library resources	1 operational mobile library
Free State	6 joint-use libraries established at schools 10 schools received 300 books each	10 operational mobile libraries
Gauteng	School library catalogues developed bi-annually. Exhibitions held. Schools encouraged to use portion of LTSM budget for library resources. R17 m Young Writers' books for no-fee schools. Donations received and distributed to 200 schools. 50 000 books received from Britain will be sorted and made available to schools. 1 mobile library donated to school as stationary library Annual School Library Showcase	4 operational mobile libraries
KwaZulu-Natal	40 schools received library material of R300 000 per school 55 schools received library material of R50 000 to R100 000 per school 250 schools received curriculum support packs for matric intervention 300+ schools received monitoring and support visits	10 mobile libraries service 202 primary schools 3 mobile libraries not operational due to vacant drivers' posts

Limpopo	5 schools were provided with books received as donations	2 mobile libraries not operational yet but steps are being taken to staff and equip them
Mpumalanga	October : Mpumalanga School Library of the Year 40 schools provided with library books at R10 million 14 schools provided with computerised library management system	6 mobile libraries service 60 primary schools
North West	107 schools received 900 reading books	2 operational mobile libraries 4 newly received mobile libraries
Northern Cape	35 newly built libraries	1 mobile library
Western Cape	1 library being developed by partners 1 library being revived by pensioners	7 mobile libraries

This is a school that converted a corridor into a "school library"



The School Library/Evaluator busy with a book talk



At our exhibition at Eros Special School we had magician Chris Welch to promote reading. And the kids (and adults) loved him.



OFFICIAL OPENING PROGRAMME CONTINUES

We are delivering schools to local communities every single week to mark the milestone when ownership formally passes from government to the people. From Upper Tobotshana, through Port Elizabeth and down to the Western Cape, the DBE is paying democracy dividends to grateful communities and transforming the landscape of rural and under privileged urban education.

