

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

A VISION BEARING FRUIT

The DBE, upon a request from Minister Angie Motshekga for a priority list for her first term of office, started working on the Accelerated Schools Infrastructure Delivery Initiative concept in 2009 and sent its first concept note for the initiative to National Treasury as early as 2010. The Minister, who happens to be a former teacher herself, was concerned about the state of hundreds of schools in under-privileged areas and wanted to do something about it. The proposed solution was ASIDI and once treasury had approved the project, Minister Motshekga got her officials to start planning the programme. Within a few months, she had identified the shortfall in capacity within the department and set about hiring a dedicated Programme Manager.



The objective of ASIDI is to eradicate the Basic Safety Norms backlog in schools without water, sanitation and electricity and to replace those schools constructed from inappropriate material including mud schools to contribute towards levels of optimum learning and teaching. The Schools Infrastructure Backlog Grant (SIBG) funds the ASIDI portfolio. The Programme is being delivered according to the Integrated Infrastructure Management System (IDMS) from the CIDB and National Treasury.

◆ 2011/12: 49 schools roll out

- 49 schools completed as at March 2014

◆ 2012/13: 140 schools roll out

- 23 schools completed in the Eastern Cape to date
- 6 schools completed in the Western Cape to date
- 1 school completed in Mpumalanga to date
- The balance is at different stages of implementation.

◆ 2014/15: 150 schools roll out

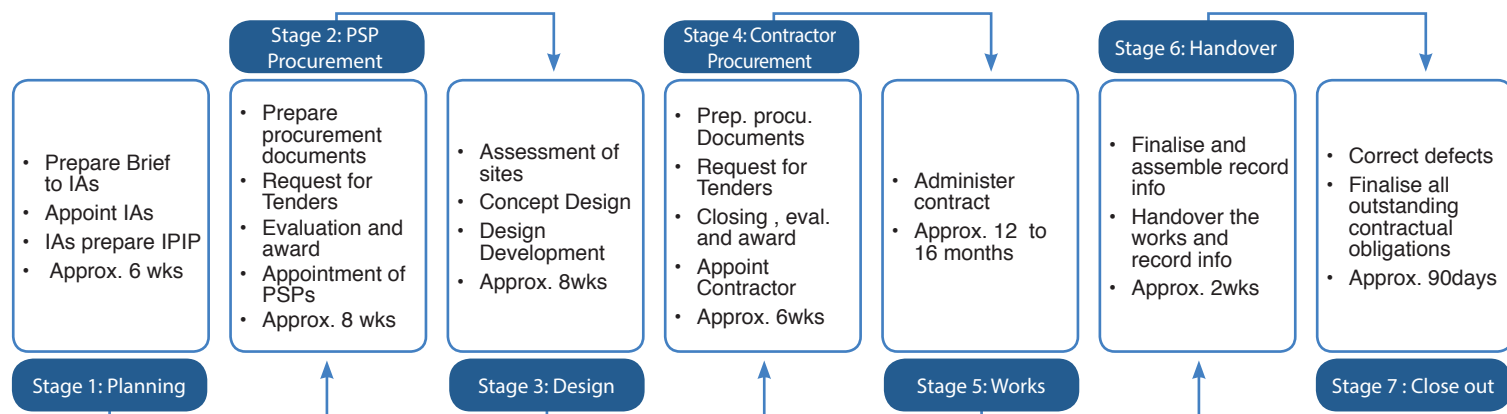
- 99 schools in implementation, Framework agreements are in process for the balance.
- 78 of 99 schools at design stage in the Eastern Cape.
- 9 of 99 schools are at a stage of planning and 1 of 99 schools is at a stage of design in the Free State
- 11 of 99 schools are at different phases of construction in the Western Cape

A few years in to the programme and with the hands on management approach of Minister Motshekga, ably supported by her Deputy Enver Surty, ASIDI is bearing fruit with a total of 79 schools completed and counting. The overall count reads:

- Schools: 79 schools completed
- Water: 224 schools have received water for the first time.
- Sanitation: 266 schools have received decent sanitation for the first time.
- Electrification: 265 schools have been connected to electricity for the first time.

Probably the biggest satisfaction for the ASIDI team is seeing thousands of people calling their new state of the art school a “university” on hand over day. This sentiment has been echoed from community to community in the Eastern Cape as the programme roll out continues. Minister Angie Motshekga has been at pains to emphasise the centrality of learners in the whole programme. For instance, when officials talk about merging schools, she frets over whether young children should be in boarding school at all away from their parents. Every region has different challenges and opportunities for eradicating the infrastructure backlog and the ASIDI team is responding accordingly.

ASIDI PROCESS FLOW



The ASIDI team is not in the brick and mortar business. It is in the people business and as alluded to earlier, celebration day comes when a school is handed over to local communities. School handovers are the occasion to celebrate success because a school has been completed which is a milestone worth marking. The significance of the completion, however, is what the ASIDI team works for. A state of the art school means closure for a community that has long thought itself ignored by society. It signals a new start for learners and vast possibilities that go with that beginning. The possibility of better learning leading to greater access to what a democratic society offers. The completion of an ASIDI school means that the starting line in the race to success is somewhat made more equal between children from under privileged societies and those from the more affluent sections. Democracy is bearing fruit.



SCHOOL HANDOVERS IN THE WESTERN CAPE

The handing over of two schools in the Western Cape marked the first time ASIDI handed its schools over to communities outside the Western Cape. It was a joyful affair on both occasions with Die Diune Primary School and Kensington High School being handed over on 2 and 11 September respectively. The Deputy Minister of Basic Education officiated at the Die Diune handover while the President officially handed over Kensington. Delta Primary School was handed over on the 2nd of October by the MEC for Education. ASIDI is building 25 schools in the province and 6 of the 14 phase one schools are already completed!

BASIC SERVICES FOR THE FIRST TIME EVER!

The ASIDI programme is also about restoring dignity to education for the underprivileged. South Africans living in cities and small towns take, in their majority, basic services such as electricity, water and sanitation for granted. Under the programme,

- 939 schools that previously did not have any access to sanitation will be supplied with a basic level of sanitation
- 932 schools will get electricity for the first time
- 1145 will be provided with basic water supplies for the first time.

This is going to represent a massive change in fortunes for the schools concerned. To date, the following results have already been achieved.

- Water: 224 schools have received water for the first time.
- Sanitation: 266 schools have received decent sanitation for the first time. Every new toilet building caters for disabled access. The ventilated improved pit latrine (VIP), is a pit toilet with a black pipe (vent pipe) fitted to the pit, and a screen (flyscreen) at the top outlet of the pipe. VIP latrines are an improvement to overcome the disadvantages of simple pit latrines, i.e. fly and mosquito nuisance and unpleasant odors. The smell is carried upwards by the chimney effect and flies are prevented from leaving the pit and spreading disease.
- Electrification: 265 schools have been connected to electricity for the first time.

The ASIDI team is steadily chipping away at the backlog and bringing change to communities across the country in ways that improve health and hygiene, teaching and learning and motivation for schooling.

Limpopo Sanitation: Before and after



Before



After



Before



After

DELTA PRIMARY SCHOOL WESTERN CAPE



A FIRST FOR MPUMALANGA

