

DSFM IN THE PUBLIC REALM

BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT NEWS



April 2010

DSFM has achieved an enormous success. Within the short space of two weeks, we completed an extensive 'School Renovation Project' for the Office of the Premier of the Free State, Mr E.S. Magashule – who attended the opening in person, along with the excited learners, VIP's and SABC news!

*"Well done to **Moeketsi Lehoko** and the Project Team. This is **FIRST-CLASS** work." DSFM CEO **Gugu Molo***

How it all happened...

PARTNERS FOR PROGRESS

Government and Private Sector are now working together in the Free State, to achieve the objectives of Operations Hlasela.

'Operation Hlasela' is the Free State Provincial Government's ambitious provincial turnaround strategy. It focuses on expanding and improving infrastructure such as roads, public health, education and housing, while at the same time increasing local employment. And DSFM is playing its part!

DSFM initially presented the office of the Premier of the Free State with a **Strategic Partnership to create jobs, deliver services, create SMMEs and revitalise the economy of the Free State.** The DSFM model also ensured that new or refurbished facilities would be maintained into the future, allowing those who used them to focus on their core mandate from day to day. In the case of schools, that is for teachers to teach without interruption for 8 hours a day.



the premier
Department of the Premier
FREE STATE PROVINCE

Operation
HLEASELA
the



education
Department of Education
FREE STATE PROVINCE

BOPA-LESEDI
inspiring change



A NEW DAY FOR BATHO

The official hand-over ceremony

MONDAY MORNING - 12 APRIL

All stakeholders gathered at Batho Primary as the Premier officially re-opened the newly renovated school.

The Free State Premier himself, along with other Government officials, including **Free State MEC for Education Mr Tate Makgoe**, shared in the excitement as our **CEO Ms Gugu Molo**, together with the DSFM Project Team, welcomed learners and teachers of Batho Primary to the re-opening of their newly renovated school! The delight was evident in the learners' faces, as they took in the bright lighting, clean refurbished floors, landscaping and even a fully renovated mural on the school's historic façade.

DSFM also gave each learner a stationary set, motivating them further to grow their future. Small deal to some? Big to them.

DSFM had the solutions Operation Hlasela required...

After assessing our proposal, the Office of the Premier greenlighted a Pilot Project:

RENOVATIONS AT BATHO PRIMARY SCHOOL:

- Upgrade the old part of the school with limited funds and time, enabling teachers to teach, scholars to learn and Health and Safety measures to be improved.
- Create employment & engage SMME's from within the local community.

DSFM itself invested over **R270 000** toward the renovations, and the Department of Education contributed a further R200 000.

Batho Primary School was first established in 1950. Today, it guides the learning of over 700 children – mostly from previously disadvantaged backgrounds - who attend the school from Grade R up to Grade 7. The front classrooms were the first solid structures built at the school (initially on wooden floors) and over the years, the Department of Education modified the floors to concrete. Many of the floors have been so damaged over the years that dust is now a huge problem. **The renovation priority:** Re-screed damaged concrete floors in seven class-rooms, thereby improving the environment from a Health & Safety perspective.

To minimise disruption, DSFM's work was scheduled to happen over the school holidays, to finish on 11th April when the excited learners would return. This required careful planning...



Pictured Left: Teachers from Batho Primary School were overjoyed about the renovations done over the school holidays.

Pictured Right: Learners from **Eunice High School** in Bloemfontein freely gave of their time and creativity to restore faded artwork on the façade of the school building.

New employment in the Batho Community

During the two weeks of intense work, we exceeded the expectation of creating 16 jobs – **by creating 80 jobs!**



NEWS FLASH: An SABC news crew was on-site at the opening, to capture the excitement! We will let all associates know when the clip can be viewed on our website.

DSFM's scope of renovations included:

- Sanding and varnishing of desks;
- Cleaning and replacing broken chairs;
- Interior and exterior painting;
- Plumbing and drainage;
- Waste removal and gardening;
- Replacing broken light switches and fittings;
- Replacing broken window panes with safety glass and where required, installing frosted safety glass;
- Removing all corroded gutters and downpipes and re-decorating fascia boards;
- Replacing or servicing all extinguishers;
- Installation of concertina doors to divide the Hall into two classrooms.
- Extensive work was also done to repair or replace and paint ceilings, and waterproof roofing.
- Learners and staff could also look forward to having new furniture,



DSFM (Batho) Project Manager Moeketsi Lehoko (right) with residents of Batho, employed to work on this project.

Much of the renovations required skilled workers, most of whom were recruited from the Batho community. And of course, DSFM has a track record for creating not just employment, but ongoing employment.

As evidenced by the passion and commitment shown on the Batho Primary School renovations, DSFM is not just a 'quick-fix' solution partner. We are in it for the long haul – intent on improving and maintaining facilities and infrastructures into a stronger, brighter future. DSFM has turned the industry upside down with its innovative approach to infrastructure and facilities management projects. Driven by the mandate of job creation, SMME development and support for local cooperatives, DSFM is leading the way in the Free State and in South Africa, showing how facilities and infrastructure management should be done.

***Operation Hlasela's motto is "Working together, we can do more."
Through our own extensive experience, DSFM knows this to be true.***

shelves and cupboards in the school's library and staff room. Last but not least, landscaping, irrigation and paving was undertaken at the school's front entrance.



A big thank you to Fedics Operations Director Rachel Nagel and her team, who handled catering for our VIP guests. Fedics also served up delicious soup and rolls to learners during their first break-time.

