

AfriSam opens new classroom doors at Metoloaneng Primary School

Friday, 5 November 2010 - AfriSam has successfully completed the Metoloaneng Primary School construction project which will provide three classrooms for learners at the underprivileged school. The classrooms were handed over to the Department of Education at a celebratory function held at the school in Mphaki today.

The event was attended by members of the local community, the Honourable Assistant Minister of Education and Training, 'M'e 'Matanki Mokhabi, government dignitaries, AfriSam representatives as well as teachers and learners.

"This initiative is in line with our Corporate Social Responsibility mission to understand the needs of society and communities in areas where we do business in order to make meaningful and sustainable contributions to their upliftment," says Thato Tsuene, Country Manager, AfriSam Lesotho.

AfriSam's involvement in the project was prompted by a request which the company received from the school in 2008.

"At the time the school used make-shift tents as shelter for classes. In 2007 the tents were blown over by ferocious winds and pupils have had to study in the open since, making it very difficult for them under the changing weather conditions," says Tsuene.

This situation has resulted in a gradual decline in the number of scholars, ending up with only 74 pupils which the school currently has enrolled.

With the building of the new classrooms and the provision of new ablution facilities, AfriSam hopes to see an increase in the number of scholars.

“We hope that this improvement will serve as motivation for more children to return to school and get educated, with the vision of a better future for themselves and their people,” concludes Tsuene.

Preparations for the provision of ablution facilities and a perimeter fence are underway and the construction of both will commence soon.

Note to editor:

AfriSam has an intensive CSR programme with a focus on education and conservation. The company is involved in various educational projects nationwide, with the objective of empowering and equipping communities with the knowledge and skills, as well as providing them with the tools and facilities to become self-reliant and sustainable.

The company’s overall **Community Involvement mission** is to understand the needs of society and communities in areas where it does business to make meaningful and sustainable contributions to their upliftment.

ABOUT AFRISAM (PTY) LTD

Founded as Anglovaal Portland Cement Company Limited in 1934, AfriSam is today the leading black-controlled building construction materials group in southern Africa. With operations in South Africa, Botswana, Lesotho, Namibia and Swaziland the company has nearly 2 000 employees and an annual production capacity of over four million tons of cement.

It has six cement production facilities, eight cement depots, 16 quarries and aggregate operations, 40 readymix concrete plants and a Ground Granulated Blast Furnace Slag (GGBFS) milling plant. The company also has a 62.5 percent interest in Tanzania-based and listed, Tanga Cement Company.

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ABOUT METOLOANENG PRIMARY SCHOOL

Metoloaneng Primary School was established in February 1970 at Tsekong in Mphaki. The school was started with 15 pupils and one teacher in a house. In 1972 the number of pupils rose to 104 and it relocated to the local Anglican church. By 1985 enrolment had increased to 300 and the number of teachers increased to four. The school moved from the church to the present site in 2005.