

## **NEWS RELEASE**

10 June 2008

### **Impala Platinum and the NW Department of Education opens Vuk'uzenzele Primary School in Freedom Park**

**EMBARGO: For immediate release**

The North West Department of Education and Impala Platinum Limited (Impala) are pleased to announce the official opening of another joint venture project between the two institutions. Impala and the Department together have made a sum of R10 million available for the construction of the Vuk'uzenzele Primary School near Rustenburg, North West Province. In addition Read, Swatman & Voigt (Pty) Limited (RSV) contributed by providing an engineer to assist with the project's compliance with quality and safety standards during the planning and construction phases of the school building.

Vuk'uzenzele Primary School opened its doors to approximately 1 000 learners and 21 educators on 14 April 2008. All the learners are drawn from the impoverished informal settlement which is situated close to Impala's No 9 shaft hostel in Freedom Park. The construction phase provided employment opportunities for 80 people, 34 of whom live in Freedom Park.

The Mining Charter requires companies to co-operate with local Municipalities in the implementation of their Integrated Development Plans (IDPs). Vuk'uzenzele Primary School is such an IDP-approved project. In this joint initiative contributions by Impala are matched on a rand-for-rand basis by the Department of Education's Bojanala Regional Office and endorsed by the Rustenburg Municipality's Local Economic Development Department.

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Building commenced in January 2007 and was completed in March 2008. The new facilities include a double-storey building with 24 classrooms, a school hall, a computer room, a library, an administration block and ablution facilities. In addition Impala also sponsored the computer and media centres as well as furniture for the administrative offices at an amount of R650 000. Sports fields are also being laid out. Shadwick Bessit, Impala's Executive Director: Rustenburg Operations, said: "This is only the beginning of Impala's involvement. The company is also planning to embark on educational programmes at the school and it will do this in collaboration with the department."

Among the guests officiating at the ceremony were the Honourable Rev. JO Tselapedi, MEC for Education in the North West Province. In his address he said: "We are very proud of this establishment in the Province and the contribution it makes to Education."

Principal Andrew Sekopane, who started the school in 2000 with only 150 learners in Grades 1 and 2 said: "The prefabricated buildings, which were too cold in winter and extremely hot in summer, will be a thing of the past. I would like to thank the staff who never lost the passion for their work, and the learners who continued to come to school, despite these conditions. It makes me proud to see the hunger they have for education."

Shadwick Bessit added, "It is important that we do not lose sight of our responsibilities to the communities in which we operate. As most of Implats' operations are here in Rustenburg it was fitting for Impala to build on and improve the quality of education for the community. We are hopeful that Vuk'uzenzele Primary School will provide a steady source of technically astute learners in the future."

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#### **Queries**

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## **Background Information**

### **Vuk'uzenzele Primary School**

Vuk'uzenzele Primary School is located in Freedom Park Informal Settlement. The school was initiated by Sister Georgina and Brother Joseph from the Roman Catholic Church, who approached Impala to supply temporary accommodation. At the time, the company was able to supply shipping containers as a temporary measure and the first pupils – 150 in total – were enrolled in Grades 1 and 2. In addition, the Royal Bafokeng Administration offered a piece of land to be used for the temporary accommodation. A team of voluntary educators provided their services to the school.

Impala continued to support the school and by 2002, a total of ten temporary classrooms housed over 400 learners from Grade 1 to Grade 8.

By early 2003, the school was registered with the Department of Education with a total learner enrolment of 424 pupils and thirteen educators. All the voluntary educators were registered as temporary educators. A school governing body was also established under the chairpersonship of Ms Mmathabo Moduka. At this time, the school governing body, with the Department of Education, again approached Impala to erect a permanent school facility.

In January 2004, fourteen new staff members were employed and the amount of learners had grown to 478. By 2006, this number had grown to 677.

On 14 April 2008, the learners occupied the new permanent school building.

### **North West Education Trust**

As far as the provisioning of education facilities to needy schools in the North West Province is concerned, the North West Education Trust was established in 1998 in cooperation with the Education Department, ICDT and other sponsors. The Trust has overseen the allocation of some R181 million to date in providing either infrastructure, water or sanitation in more than 132 schools.

### **Impala Community Development Trust - Implats**

Impala Community Development Trust: Implats which was established by the group in 1998. The ICDT's operation is underpinned by the philosophy that it should be the facilitator of social development, rather than the sole sponsor of activities, and that it should encourage the development of meaningful and sustainable interventions. The ICDT has very specifically adopted a collaborative approach – with communities that 'own' the projects, with other donors (in order to attract more investment), with government (to ensure the integration into broader, longer-term plans), with non-governmental organisations (NGOs), community-based organisations (CBOs) and others – to ensure on-the-ground support for projects.

The group's Corporate Social Affairs Policy was adopted during the year and is aimed specifically at the social and economic development of communities in which the group operates and the areas from which the group's employees are drawn. Through our activities, we work to ensure that it makes a positive contribution to poverty alleviation, community development (infrastructure development and empowerment of community structures) and the empowerment of government

to facilitate improved service delivery and local economic development. While we aim to empower

a broad range of stakeholders, it does place a specific emphasis on black youth, women and people living with disabilities. The ICDT aims to

- align our social upliftment activities with the goals and objectives of local, provincial and national government development programmes;
- build capacity within community structures (co-operatives, NGOs and CBOs) operating in areas of interest; and
- encourage self-reliance and minimise dependence on welfare by targeted communities.

Projects submitted to the ICDT are evaluated internally prior to consideration by the ICDT board of trustees. Group CEO David Brown is the chairman of the board of trustees.

Planning for the ICDT is carried out in line with the group's strategic planning process, with budgets outlined on a five-year time horizon. Social development officers based at the operations identify possible projects or review the various applications they receive and submit these for approval. Projects are classified as high-, medium- or low-risk interventions. High-risk projects require a service level agreement to ensure delivery on planned objectives. An independent service provider, funded by the ICDT, undertakes an assessment of the impact of the project as well as the utilisation of the funds.