



Phumelela gets more than just a kitchen

One of the biggest privileges TRAC has as the concessionaire of the N4 Toll Route is to be able to empower communities and institutions along our route which in the end impacts positively, and directly, on individuals.

Phumelela Secondary School in Middelburg is just one such institution. The school caters for learners in and around Nasareth and given the demographics of the communities it serves was declared a no-fee institution in 2014. As most of its learners come from disadvantaged, low-income households the school also falls under the National School Nutrition Programme (NSNP), serving its 800+ pupils a daily meal.

Doing this in general is a challenging task – doing it without the adequate facilities is almost impossible. Being a no-fee school Phumelela did not have the funds to build a kitchen and therefore approached TRAC for assistance in building a cooking facility.

Construction of the facility commenced in May 2016 and was completed in October the same year. Designed by Klippie du Toit of EarthSwitch Architects, the facility isn't just a cooking area – it is an ultra-modern, self-sustainable kitchen that meets TRAC's environmental responsibility goal. The building is environmentally friendly and comprises two self-contained converted containers running on solar electricity, rainwater tanks for water and gas for cooking. This not only ensures it is environmentally friendly, but also alleviates monthly overheads such as water and electricity costs.

Furthermore, the unit was built in such a way that it can be transformed into an outdoor classroom or meeting room when the need for such arises.

At the official opening of the facility the school's headmaster, Daniel Makuse, expressed his gratitude to TRAC. "We are extremely grateful to TRAC for this. Being able to cook for our learners in a proper environment is essential as for most of them the meal they get at school is the only solid meal they can rely on," he continued, "This kitchen is testimony for our learners that there is always a way to achieve one's goals and dreams."

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