



## How we've changed their lives for the better.....

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By Oupa Segalwe

**MAFIKENG:** In a move that changed for the better, the conditions for learners, North West Public Works has delivered on its mandate, building 12 class rooms which have become a jewel for farm learners around Delareyville in Tswaing Local Municipality.

The new Lodirile Secondary School rose from the ashes of dilapidated Paaauwkop Farm School which was not only an eyesore but not habitable for learning purposes.

In a quest to get learners educated in acceptable environment, Paaauwkop pupils in - Grades 8 to 11- had to share a school building elsewhere with primary learners of George Madoda Primary School on a shift system.

This, according to Principal Mpho Ramadieng, had a bad impact on the performance of learners.

“We used to wait for the primary school pupils to complete their lessons at around midday before starting with our day’s job into the late afternoon,” Ramadieng explained.

“This set up created a situation whereby the educators did not have sufficient contact time with the learners. But since moving into our own building in January, that has all changed and we hope this will help improve our performance.”

The new facility, built at a cost on more than R13m, has had an impact and inspired 657 learners to perform better this year and forth.

Approximately half of the student population is from farming communities in the area.

For the first time this year, the school has also enrolled Grade 12 learners who previously had to walk or travel a long distance to access education at others schools like in Phatsima

Phillip Ntlame (21), one of the 45 matrics rearing to carry the flag as one of the first group of matriculates to sit for the exams at Lodirile, said the new structure has developed an environment conducive to progressive learning.

“Since moving into our new school building, we have enough time to study and interact with our teachers. Our school is also nearer to our homes and we as a result most of us do not have transport problems anymore,” he said.

The school is one of the three newly built that the provincial Department of Public Works has handed over for first delivery to the client department of Education.

The other two are the R13million Tirisano Secondary in Sannieshoff and the R6million Rapoo Primary in Matile outside Mafikeng. Learners moved into the buildings in January and May this year respectively.

Tabling his budget vote for the 2008/09 financial year in May, Public Works MEC Jerry Thibedi said his department had managed to complete 18 of the 19 school building projects that were implemented during the 2005/06 and 2006/07 financial years. This is inclusive of Lodirile, Tirisano and Rapoo.

Thibedi told the provincial legislature that the remaining project was 89 percent complete and expected to be completed soon.

Meanwhile the three projects that were handed over this year created a combined total of 101 job opportunities for the unskilled labourers in the localities of the projects. Twenty of the beneficiaries were women.

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