

## GVK-Siya Zama awarded contracts for special schools

GVK-Siya Zama was selected as the contractor for the construction, renovation and upgrading of three schools for learners with special educational needs. The schools are situated in Hluhluwe in KwaZulu-Natal, Kwadwesi in Port Elizabeth, and Uitenhage.



The reason why GVK-Siya Zama was awarded the contract at Khulani Special School in Hluhluwe was because the company had the skills required to successfully manage projects in rural conditions, with very little access to basic resources.

"There was always a requirement for a school in the region to accommodate learners with special needs. The community, together with local business, got together and raised funds to build, what was then, an admin block and two classrooms," says Dumisani Madi, group managing director of GVK-Siya Zama.

### Growing demand

The need to extend became obvious as the demand grew. With the involvement of the Department of Education, a decision was made to extend the school into a 5,000m<sup>2</sup> establishment with eight classroom blocks, a library, computer lab, dining hall and hostel facilities to accommodate 300 special needs children. The extension also included a new sports field and the relocation of an existing homestead and church building. The scope of work further involved electrical and mechanical installations as well as construction of a self-sufficient sewer treatment plant. Additional civil constructions included parking areas and bus shelters.

The project, valued at R63m, was completed in December 2013. "The children have since moved into the school and are thriving under the ideal conditions. I hope this is not the last of such projects in our country," shares Madi.

In the Eastern Cape, the group is currently busy with two schools, namely, Khanyisa and Sunshine. The 17-month Khanyisa and 24-month Sunshine projects in the Eastern Cape are valued at R60.19m and R81m respectively.

## **Hostels for learners**

"Khanyisa is a school situated in the heart of Kwadwesi that provides a haven for visually impaired kids. The school is not only an educational institution but also provides accommodation in the form of hostels for learners. Sunshine is a brand new school for mentally challenged kids and will serve the Uitenhage and surrounding community, " Madi says.

The project at Khanyisa comprises the building of additional classrooms, a new dining hall and paved walkways along with the refurbishing and upgrading of existing dormitories. The Sunshine school project, on the other hand, requires building from scratch.

Both the Khanyisa and Sunshine schools are due for completion in early 2015.

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