

Departments 'raising the bar' towards uplifting the community

Report and images by Vusi Shabalala

On the 3rd of November 2015 the '*Communications Team*' published an article on 'donation of computer equipment to the Adams Depot', one of the department's service delivery hubs of eThekweni Regional Office. On Tuesday the 8th of March 2016 we made a follow-up visit to the depot to witness the commitment made in 2015 in the use of the computers for the academic uplifting of Adams community.

As we arrived at the centre, it was business as usual. Mrs Nzimande, an educator by profession and Centre Manager (Principal) fully employed by the Department of Education, was busy presenting English lesson to a group of enthusiastic learners, with 20 females and nine males, they are all residence of Adams. Learnership enrolment has significantly increased from 15 in 2015 to 29 in 2016. It must be highlighted with appraisal that commitment and dedication of the learners was key to their participation because most of them have not performed so well in their previous academic years or having not completed their matriculation at all. They were determined to make amends by making good choices of changing their lives for the better.



Adams Centre Educators (*ltr*): Ms TS Mahowe; Ms CZ Jaja; Ms S Sibisi; Mrs DD Nzimande and Ms BN Chakane. Ms NT Mpanza (not in the picture)

The Centre currently boasts about six female educators who offer formal subjects which include English, Travel and Tourism, Computer Literacy (theory and practical), Early Childhood Development, Mathematics and

Science. Business hours are on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 8:00 to 14:00 and all learners are within the proximity of the Centre and thus would not foresee transport problems for attending. According to Mrs Nzimande, there is still a need for more computer equipment due to an anticipated increase of learner enrolment in the near future.

Firstly, it must be acknowledged and commended that through the goodwill and support of Mr Mkhize, the Head of Adams Depot, classrooms (even though there is still a demand for more) have been made available for this purpose. Secondly, appraisals should be extended to the leadership and initiatives of Mr Thandukwazi Ximba and Mrs Khanyi Ndaba respectively. These are two staunch representatives of the Human Resource Management component from eThekweni Region who took all efforts and ensured that amid all difficulties experienced along the way, the project remains a reality today. Thirdly, one must appreciate the willingness and readiness of the KZN Department of Education for heading a call towards forging healthy inter-departmental relations with the KZN Department of Public Works in '*raising the bar towards uplifting the local community*' of Adams. Finally, to continuously inspire the current learners through various platforms in spreading the message across to their peers who experience similar problem within the local community in understanding that participation to such a community development project has reasons for change.



Above: Learners and their educators at Adams Training Centre

As we unpack the Adams Depot project value that adds towards community development we have noticed and affirm that the provincial government has utilised its minimal available resources to attain optimal results. All learners now study at a conducive venue which is within the proximity of their residential area. The learners have not as yet completed Grade 12, and they are studying towards the completion of Level 4 and thereafter will register to complete Level 5 which is the mainstream matriculation. Once they have attained their matric results, they shall have reached their goal. Furthermore, we highly appreciate the existence of healthy and strong partnership between Provincial Public Works and Education by making a mark that the government of the day will continue to moving South Africa forward in changing peoples' lives for the better. Finally, amid various criticism, known and unknown, it should be reported that there are those public officials who are ever loyal to the course and committed to showcasing their skills and expertise so as to add value and positive contribution to others, this praise go to all those officials (from Public Works and Education departments) that have made this project possible.

This is just the beginning.