



PPC MARKS YOUTH MONTH WITH OPENING OF 9TH PATH OUT OF POVERTY YOUTH CENTER

Western Cape, Thursday, 14 June 2018 - Today PPC marked Youth Month with the opening of Path out of Poverty (POP) youth center in Porterville, Swartland district, taking the number of such centers it has funded to nine. The center was built by PPC in partnership with the Bergvriër Municipality, Goedgedacht Trust and the Porterville community in line with its Social Labour Plan (SLP), a requirement of the Mining Charter.

To guarantee high impact and as part of its long-term commitment to communities wherever it has operations, PPC has committed to spend R5 million over a period of 5 years at each of its mining operations, including PPC De Hoek in the Western Cape.

The POP youth center aims to address the generational poverty and social ills affecting the community in the Swartland area.

As stated above, PPC has a solid history of involvement in projects of this nature. In 2011, the company invested R7, 5 million in a similar center in Riebeeck West where it also has a mine and a cement manufacturing facility. Beyond this project, PPC will continue to explore opportunities to partner in community projects that have high socio-economic impact wherever it has operations.

“Over and above the legal requirements, as PPC, we realise that communities give us what we call a ‘social licence’ to operate in their areas. It is critical that we treat them with utmost respect”, says Njombo Lekula, Managing Director: PPC Southern Africa.

“For us it is not simply a matter of ticking a corporate social responsibility box, it is about support for impactful and clearly articulated programmes premised on our approach of genuine partnership with communities wherever we operate,” added Lekula.

“The Path out of Poverty is just such a programme, and we are excited to continue our support towards helping the next generation realise its full potential. It will not only benefit them as individuals, but the society at large”, said Lekula.

The Goedgedacht’s Path out of Poverty programme has been running for 20 years, and its sustainability is supported by all the partners: government, the local communities and PPC. It offers a holistic intervention aimed at helping young people in the rural areas of the Swartland acquire both the skills and values required to be employable. From this, it is hoped that they will become active participants in the economy able to break the cycle of poverty so that they too can raise their children in environments that are not poverty-stricken or negatively affected by social ills such as alcohol abuse.

“The Path Out of Poverty programme is a long-term intervention to reach and impact the lives of nearly 3000 rural children and 7000 rural people in total. Having the infrastructure and facilities from which the programme can be run is half the battle won in fulfilling the Trust’s vision of transforming rural communities,” says said Marguerite Holtzhausen, Senior Manager Development at The Goedgedacht Trust. “We are deeply appreciative of the support from PPC and the Department of Mineral Resources to contribute so much in creating a safe

conducive environment in which the youth can develop life-skills, build their self-confidence while getting adequate education to prepare them for leadership in the future.”

The backbone of the programme is a chain of youth centers in different communities, which offer safe spaces in which young people can receive the education and nurturing they need.

The center caters for children whose ages vary from very young children to school-leavers. Amongst others, the programmes offered include educational support, early childhood development, school holiday programmes, youth life and leadership training, youth work preparedness training, a bicycle empowerment project and a victim empowerment project.

The Path out of Poverty model corresponds with the United Nations’ Community-Based Rehabilitation Matrix for Children, which is endorsed by the International Labour Organisation, the World Health Organisation and UNESCO.

Ends.

About PPC Ltd

A leading supplier of cement, lime and related products in southern Africa, PPC has 11 cement factories and a lime manufacturing facility in six African countries including South Africa, Botswana, DRC, Ethiopia, Rwanda and Zimbabwe. The commissioning of PPC’s milling depot, located in Harare, Zimbabwe and the completion of new integrated cement plants in the DRC and Ethiopia during 2017 bring PPC’s capacity to around eleven and a half million tons of cement per year, compared to 8 million tons in 2015.

As part of its strategy and long-term vision, PPC is expanding its operations in South Africa with the modernisation of its PPC Slurry complex outside Mafikeng in the North West province. In April 2018 the new kiln, Slurry kiln 9 (SK9) was fired up for the first time marking a key milestone in the project.

PPC Lime, located in the Northern Cape province of South Africa, is one of the largest lime producers in the southern hemisphere. It produces metallurgical-grade calcitic and dolomitic lime and sinter stone for use mainly in the steel and related industries.

The acquisition of Pronto Holdings, consisting of Pronto Building Materials, Ulula Ash and 3Q Mahuma Concrete, has grown PPC’s footprint in the readymix sector to over 25 batching plants across South Africa and Mozambique and capacity to produce fly ash to half a million tons. PPC also produces aggregates in South Africa and Botswana.

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