

ACTION



CEO: Nokulunga Mngqeta

MESSAGE FROM THE CEO

It gives me great delight to welcome our new staff who enhance the core business leadership of the ASPIRE Team. I am optimistic that their appointments will go far in improving service delivery and that their skills and expertise will make a significant contribution to the growth, stability and sustainability of our organisation.

As we undergo the transition to the new financial year we look back with pride at the many milestones that characterised the 2013/2014 year:

- Significant strides were made in the implementation of our new strategic plan.
- The regeneration of the rural town of Stutterheim continued with pace with the launch of the R49 - million Mlungisi Community Commercial Park, designed to create jobs for the local community and improve the quality of life of residents by bringing jobs, retail and services closer to their homes.

- The upgrade of the Hamburg CBD was completed.
- Funds of R11,8 million were unlocked for the Alice CBD upgrade.
- The Unemployed Graduate Programme saw jobs secured for four graduate interns during the financial year.
- An impact analysis was conducted on completed projects to give insight into the sustainability of our projects and the impact that such projects have had on people's lives.
- As our most valuable asset, the ASPIRE Team underwent a series of teambuilding and leadership sessions to boost morale and to ensure our readiness to face the challenges that lie ahead.

PROGRAMME UPDATE

SMALL TOWN REGENERATION

The Small Town Regeneration project in Hamburg was completed in July 2014, with the finalisation of three centers:

- Umthombo Music Academy
- Umthombo Environmental Centre
- Umthombo Arts and Crafts

Umthombo
MUSIC ACADEMY

Umthombo
ENVIRONMENTAL CENTRE

Umthombo
ARTS AND CRAFTS

WATCH THIS SPACE, ASPIRE IS A FORCE FOR CHANGE AND MEANS BUSINESS...

It remains for me to thank you for your contribution and commitment to ASPIRE's successes and to wish you all a safe and joyful festive season.



Mlungisi Community Commercial Park



Alice CBD upgrade

Umthombo is an isiXhosa word which means 'spring', or 'well' or 'fountain'. It is also the isiXhosa name for the town of Hamburg. Hamburg is surrounded by the water of the Keiskamma River and the Indian Ocean. These waters are a source of life for the people of this small town.

The Umthombo project is the home for creativity for all to share in. It provides a tranquil and creative space for the fulfillment of the arts. It represents a source of inspiration and a symbol for sustainable living towards economic development.



Program Manager: Themba Cebani

RURAL DEVELOPMENT

DATE JOINED: 01 September 2014

Some of the many interventions ASPIRE is involved in include the Extended Public Works Programmes that are environmentally uplifting and contribute to solving the environmental challenges facing the region. It is my responsibility, as a Project Manager, to spearhead the success of these projects to ensure their delivery and sustainability.

PEOPLE MATTERS



Program Manager: Sinovuyo Makongwana

SMALL TOWN REGENERATION

DATE JOINED: 1 september 2014

I joined aspire to fulfil my dream of being part and parcel of a positive drive towards efficient small towns and rural communities.

I am responsible for the small town regeneration programme. Regenerating small towns is in the business of changing "no-hope areas" into important production centres and economic hubs of essential materials and services. The intent in regenerating small towns is to anchor and ensure sustainable rural development.

Personal profile: When the opportunity arises I marvel at the beautiful creation of god through adventure and site seeing. I am married and blessed with a lovely daughter.



Programme Manager: Bonke Tyhulu

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

DATE JOINED: 01 September 2014

Community development oriented. Responsible for tourism and heritage. Maximizing the economic potential of tourism and heritage to contribute to increase of visitor numbers in the district municipality. Fundraising for tourism and heritage initiatives.



Project Administrator: Zandile Shai

DATE JOINED: 02 September 2014

Reports directly to the Chief Operations Officer (COO). Acts as central point of contact for COO. Responsible for the co-ordination of the Operations Department to lend administrative support to the COO on a day to day basis.



Chief Operations Officer: Thabo Shexane

OPERATIONS DEPARTMENT

DATE JOINED: 01 August 2014

I head up the Operations Department which implements the 3 strategic programs of ASPIRE. I aim to add value in whatever I do, to continuously be a helper and provider, ensuring support for development issues.

STAKEHOLDER MATTERS



Photo's of a staff team building event held in July



SHUTDOWN DATES: 19 DECEMBER 2014 TO 4TH JANUARY 2015

MAKE CONTACT AND JOIN THE FORCE FOR CHANGE

Please join **the force for change** by contributing to this newsletter. We welcome your news and views regarding the economic development of our region, your comments on this issue and what you would like to see in future issues.

For contributions and/or enquiries, contact Sandra Weppelman at info@aspire.co.za or call 043 721 2070.

