



GAUTENG PROVINCE
EDUCATION
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA



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GDE, Sulabh International and Sanlam call on corporates to support drive to address sanitation challenges across SA schools

The Gauteng Department of Education (GDE), Sulabh International Centre for Action Sociology, a global non-profit organisation based in India, with the support of the Sanlam Foundation, have called on corporate South Africa to support the drive to address sanitation challenges in schools across South Africa.

The partners, led by Gauteng MEC for Education, Mr Panyaza Lesufi, Sulabh International founder, Dr Bindeshwar Pathak, and the Chief Executive of the Sanlam Group market development, Mr Temba Mvusi, sounded the call at a seminar they jointly hosted in Johannesburg today (Tuesday, 01 March 2016).

The seminar was attended by various stakeholders, including other corporates and non-governmental organisations. There were also representatives from schools, Local and Provincial Government.

At the end of the seminar, the participants used the idea sharing session to develop a model with a two-pronged approach that fosters competitiveness, acceptance and access through school leadership and sanitation clubs. It is envisaged that the outcomes of the discussions will provide permanent solutions towards improving schools sanitation.

The Sanlam Foundation has invested an initial R3 million towards the renovation of toilet blocks at six schools in Gauteng. These include IH Harris Primary School in Doornfontein, Malvern High School in Malvern, Hitekani Primary School in Soweto, Makhoarane Primary School in Dobsonville as well as Malerato and Tswelelo Primary Schools in Randfontein.

Prior to the renovations, all six Gauteng schools established a maintenance team, made up of learners and principals, who commit to 'Club I'm Possible' to ensure that toilet facilities are well maintained and are kept clean and hygienic. These clubs are the key to instilling pride, self-confidence, environmental awareness and promoting well-maintained sanitation facilities.

"Sanitation is something that is very close to my heart. When I came into office, we identified about 200 schools with the worst sanitation facilities. All those schools have had their toilets

upgraded and I'm proud that, for example, there are no schools using the bucket system in Gauteng today. But we can't do it alone and that is why I'm excited about this partnership with Sulabh and Sanlam that we have Local Government here today.

"Investing in school sanitation is an investment in the dignity of our youth. In 2014/2015, we invested R250 million in schools infrastructure, and some of this was used for sanitation. I believe we have covered about 87% of the school infrastructure backlog with 13% lagging behind, mainly farm schools. This year, we will invest a further R300 million and I am convinced that we will meet our targets well ahead of time to ensure that there must not be a single school without adequate sanitation facilities in Gauteng", said MEC Lesufi.

Sulabh is a sanitation-focused NGO that first introduced the School Sanitation Club in India, to highlight the benefits of good, basic sanitation and to serve as a core maintenance group for the toilet facilities once they are upgraded.

Chairman of Sulabh International (South Africa), Pragasen Ramiah said: "The school community will also participate and benefit from a range of activities arranged by 'Club I'm Possible', a unique 5-year collaboration of all stakeholders designed to ensure proper maintenance and use of the refurbished facilities as well as inspire and motivate the learners and community to achieve their aspirations and dreams."

Francois Adriaan, Head of the Sanlam Foundation, says that shaping a solution for sanitation in South Africa is an issue that cannot go unnoticed, and that corporates have a role to play in meeting the basic needs of underprivileged South African youths.

In addition to the initial R3 million donation, Sanlam has committed a further R6 million over the next two years in order for the plan to roll out to more schools within Gauteng, KwaZulu Natal and elsewhere across the country.

"At Sanlam we believe that a solid foundation needs to be built through education because every child schooled contributes to the future development of our country. We recognise that sanitation, among other infrastructure in schools, is critical in creating a conducive environment for learning. If we can help to address these issues, we can contribute towards building a learning ethos at schools where young people are treated with dignity and respect.

"As a business with a keen interest in community upliftment and education, we are proud to partner with Sulabh and the Gauteng Education Department. We are confident that this collaboration will address school sanitation issues in the country and make a difference in the lives of many young South Africans," said Adriaan.

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ABOUT THE SANLAM GROUP

Sanlam is a leading financial services group listed on the JSE Limited and the Namibian Stock Exchange. Established in 1918 as a life insurance company, the South Africa-based Sanlam Group has transformed into a diversified financial services business.

Through its business clusters – Sanlam Personal Finance, Sanlam Emerging Markets, Sanlam Investments, Santam and the newly established Sanlam Corporate - the Group provides comprehensive and tailored financial solutions to individual and institutional clients across all market segments. The Group's areas of expertise include insurance, financial planning, retirement, trusts, wills, short-term insurance, asset management, risk management and capital market activities, investment and wealth.

The Group operates in Southern Africa through Botswana, Malawi, Mozambique, Namibia, Swaziland and Zambia; East Africa through Kenya, Tanzania, Rwanda and Uganda; West Africa via Nigeria and Ghana and in India and Malaysia. It has an indirect presence via associate companies in Burundi, The Gambia and Lesotho. The recently announced acquisition of a 30% interest in the Saham Group will further extend the Group's footprint into Francophone Africa. The Group also has business interests in the United Kingdom, the USA, Australia and the Philippines. It has a stake in leading global micro-insurance specialists, UK-based Micro-Ensure Holdings Limited. For further information, visit www.sanlam.com.

ABOUT SULABH INTERNATIONAL

Sulabh International is the world's largest Sanitation Non-Profit Organisation, founded in 1970 by Dr Pathak, a Sociologist and Humanitarian. Over its 45 year history, Sulabh has worked tirelessly to help alleviate the sanitation crisis in India and continues to make a significant contribution in India and internationally through training on its sanitation technologies.

Sulabh International has also established the School Sanitation Club, a unique collaborative programme of teachers, learners and parents to promote environmental, water and sanitation awareness, as well as hygiene and safety education to school learners.

Sulabh International (SA) was registered in 2014 as a Non-Profit Organization focusing on the renovation of school sanitation facilities and introducing "Club I'm Possible", a School Sanitation Club.

The Club promotes the maintenance of clean, hygienic sanitation facilities, inspiring learners to have pride, self-confidence and leadership skills and to become more aware of hygiene, sanitation and environmental issues.

Sulabh plans to work with Government to construct and maintain public pay-and-use toilet facilities around South Africa, in addition.

Working with Government, Corporates and Community Groups, Sulabh (SA) aims to make a meaningful and sustainable contribution to alleviating the sanitation challenge in South Africa.