

# TRAC's outreach gives Thanda Primary



Simon Mabuza, MMC budget and treasury, NLM, Bonakele Majuba, Mpumalanga MEC for education, Graham Esterhuysen, TRAC CEO and Saneth Sibiyi, chairperson of Thanda Primary.

Danienne Fritz and Solange Soares

**HECTORSPRUIT** - A road runs through it. The busy N4, running like a life-giving artery through the length of the Onderberg and operated as a toll concession by TRAC, recently made a further contribution to its social investment responsibilities towards the communities along its route.

The completion of phase four of the major upgrade undertaken by TRAC at Thanda Primary School was celebrated this week.

This R6 million project forms part of TRAC's corporate social investment responsibilities to communities along the N4 Toll Route, and was launched in February 2018.

Phase one saw the construction of an ablution block with environmental toilets. Phase two followed, with the construction of the foundation phase block with a road-safety-themed playground.

Phase three comprised the building of an eco-friendly, self-sustainable kitchen

The R6 million project forms part of TRAC's corporate social investment responsibilities to communities along the Toll Route, launched in February 2018



Zanele Mabena, Lettie Mabaso and Zodwa Mhlanga, of the Department of Education, Ekhazeni District, BK Magagula, HR, Department of Education, and Sipho Makhubela, Transformation.



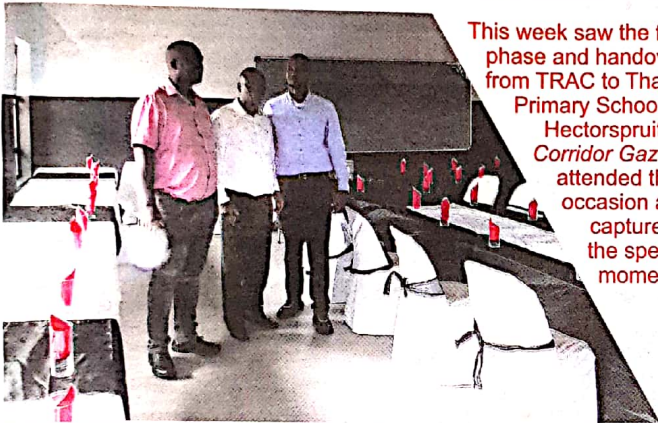
Susi Mkhize, Nonhlanhla Sidu, Derick Howe-Dreyer and Emilio Iori, TRAC.

and seating area where the school's 763 learners are served a daily meal as part of the National School Nutrition Programme.

The fourth and final phase of the

project included the building of three classroom blocks consisting of two classrooms each, with every block having its own JoJo tank.

Although the initiative was funded



Kenneth Phiri, RCL Foods, Thabo Nkambule, DCES project coordinator, and DM Mthembu, director of strategic planning, monitoring and evaluation.

This week saw the final phase and handover from TRAC to Thanda Primary School in Hectorspruit. Corridor Gazette attended this occasion and captured the special moments.



Front: Busi Siwele and Welcome Mabaso, learners; Klippie du Toit, Earth Switch Architects; Siphosethu Sambo and Khensani Mashaba, learners; (back) Sibongile Msibi, principal; Kathleen Greeff, TRAC; Graham Esterhuysen, TRAC CEO; Bonakele Majuba, Mpumalanga MEC for education; Simon Mabuza, MMC budget and treasury for NLM; Hazel Brukwe, Elhazeni District director.

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# something to smile about

by TRAC, it consisted of other key role players, namely Earth Switch Architects, that designed the new facilities, and Laduma Construction, that built them. Much planning and creativity went into the design of the new amenities, to ensure that the learners enjoy first-rate facilities in a rural area.

The new classrooms, for example, were designed and built in such a way that they stay cool even in the heat often experienced in the Nkomazi area. Apart from giving the schools' learners and staff the opportunity to appreciate modern, new buildings, the initiative has also had a profound impact on the Nkomazi community.

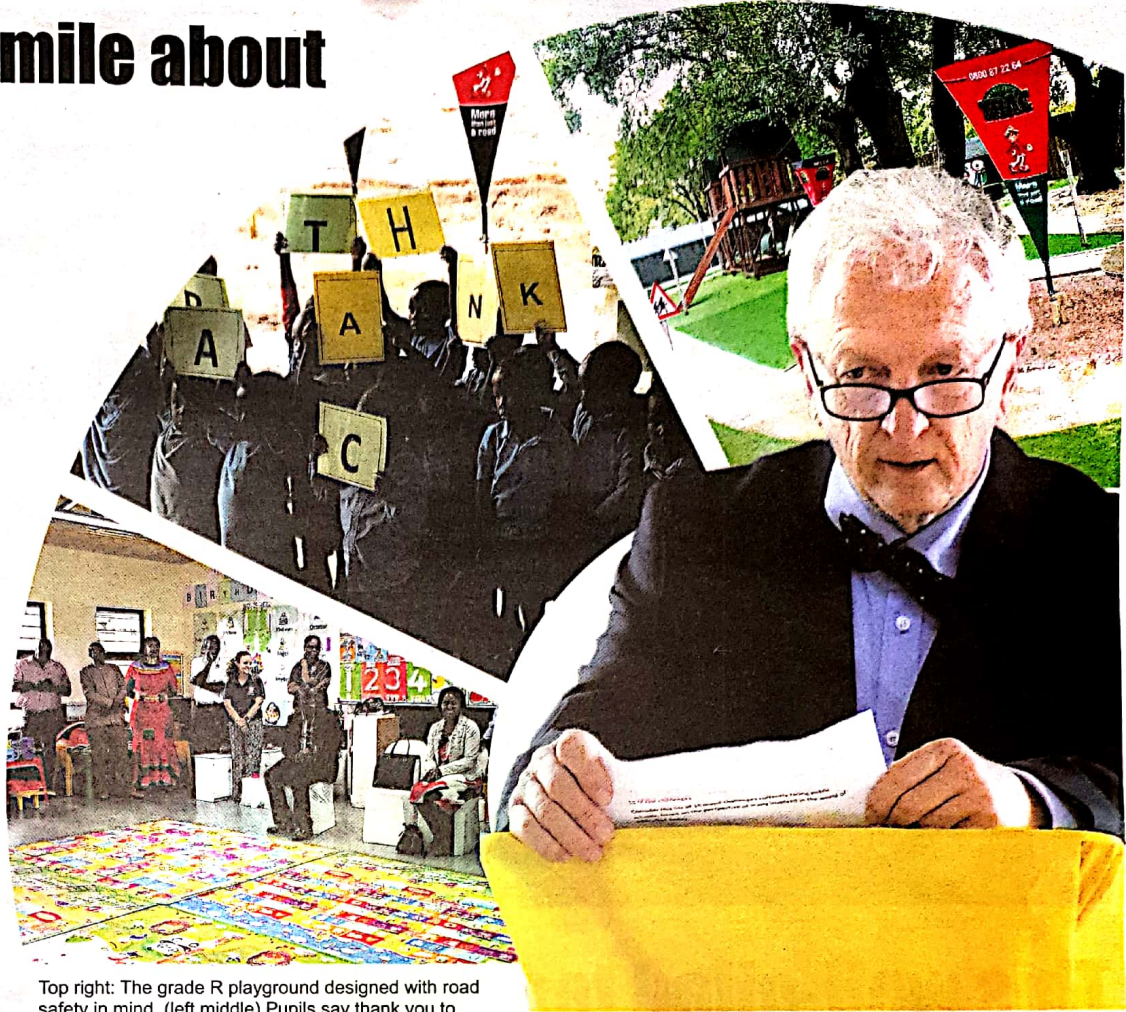
At the official handover of the project recently, TRAC CEO, Graham Esterhuysen, said Thanda Primary has an incredibly special place in his heart.

"In 2017 we were approached to assist the school with something small, but when we saw how much was needed, we decided to give it our all.

"It was always my biggest wish to leave one of our most prominent communities along the route the gift of education. I take great pride in the knowledge that this has now been achieved in Nkomazi.

"Education is crucial to the prosperity of our nation, because without it there is no hope for future generations. This is why we at TRAC consider education one of our most important CSI portfolios," explained Esterhuysen.

"We are grateful that the Mpumalanga Department of Education entrusted us to serve the Nkomazi community in this manner. We are also delighted to hear of the provincial government's commitment to continue looking after this institution to ensure it never goes without again."



Top right: The grade R playground designed with road safety in mind. (left middle) Pupils say thank you to TRAC. (Bottom left) Guests in the grade R classroom.

Graham Esterhuysen, TRAC CEO