

## **Barbara Creecy, Gauteng MEC for Education, opens Imperial Ukhamba Hall and Resource centre at Tshepana Primary School in Orange Farm**

Imperial Holdings and its BEE partner Ukhamba today joined forces with Gauteng MEC for Education Barbara Creecy, who opened the new hall and resource centre at Tshepana Primary School in Orange Farm. The building, costing R3,5 million, includes a 1000 seater school hall, kitchen, storerooms and library and was completed in October 2009.

The Imperial & Ukhamba Community Development Trust has been working with Tshepana Primary School since 2007. Its holistic approach ensures that its contribution to the school offers long term structured assistance and is involved in all aspects of the school's development, with a focus on improving numeracy and literacy skills at all levels.

The benefits of the Trust's assistance are now emerging at every level – from the school management teams to the youngest learners. In particular, the Experico Numeracy Programme is boosting mathematics performance to unprecedented levels. In addition, the Trust supplies textbooks, provides training for educators, provides desks and educational excursions, sports facilities, and capital projects such as developing a school library with over 2000 books.

In the Johannesburg South district, the Trust is the biggest donor and no other organisation is as effective. By the end of the financial year in June 2010, the Trust will have contributed R17 million to seven different underprivileged schools in the south of Johannesburg, of which about R12

million has been donated directly from divisions of Imperial. The Trust and Imperial remain committed to ensuring that schools can offer the best education possible to all learners.

Officiating at the ceremony, Imperial Holdings' chairman Thulani Gcabashe commented: "Since Imperial's involvement with the school, levels of numeracy have improved by approximately 30%. This is a significant step towards building a new generation of learners to fill the skills shortage currently facing South Africa. We are proud to be part of a project that offers long term structured assistance by the private sector in sustainable investment towards education."



### **About the Imperial Ukhamba Community Development Trust**

The Imperial Group set up the Trust as part of the Ukhamba empowerment transaction and it benefits from 6% of the Imperial shares held by Ukhamba Holdings as well as 5% in the Lereko consortium which owns 51% of Lereko Mobility (Pty) Limited. The aim of the trust is to support educational projects in underprivileged communities, particularly informal settlements.

The Trust supports seven schools in the south of Johannesburg, namely Inkululeko Yesizwe Primary School (1070 pupils), Finetown Primary School (1250 pupils), Tshepana Primary School (1100 pupils), Vlakfontein High, Rekhutile Primary, Leshata High and Moses Marin Technical school. The aim of the trust is to improve the literacy levels of the children and uplift the community by

investing in the teachers and children by providing the necessary aids and equipment. The situation at these schools is similar to other disadvantaged communities with few or no textbooks, insufficient equipment and materials, too many pupils per classroom – 60 to 70 per class – prefabricated classrooms and no sports facilities. Many of the children at these schools only have one parent and many are orphans.

Imperial & Ukhamba Community Development Trust has an agreement with the Department of Education to support these schools by assisting with curriculum development. Capital projects and other upgrading projects are undertaken when funds become available.