

Case study: Education

Eskom's donation to Bethel Primary School levels the digital playing field. Sugné de Beer, the deputy principal and a teacher at Bethel primary school on the Zoutpansdrift farm in the Northern Cape, believes an impact that is made on a child at school equals an impact on the community at large.

"In this day and age and with the career opportunities available, it is unimaginable that a school-going child is not exposed to a computer and learns how to use it. It is crucial to a child's learning process," comments de Beer.

De Beer says this in the wake of the Eskom Development Foundation's donation of 10 computers with software and all the necessary fixtures to the school.

The donation also included fencing around the school premises, installation of running water in the kitchen, a motor pump, a book shelf, storage cabinets, kitchen appliances (a microwave, stove and fridge), painting of the kitchen and storeroom, a sink and water connection in the kitchen, burglar proofing, educational toys, paving, and roofing for shelter in front of de Beer's classroom.

Says de Beer: "Our school was truly in a dire state, especially without electricity and running water. I for one don't know if it would still be here without the support we've received over the years. We are at a disadvantage in terms of funding applications because we are an isolated and rural school. But because of the support we've received from Eskom most of our daily activities run smoothly now."

Says Haylene Liberty, CEO of the Eskom Development Foundation: "It is one of the Eskom Development Foundation's core objectives to provide assistance to impoverished and rural communities and institutions like Bethel primary school by supporting them with donations for the purchase of necessary equipment and materials. We have seen how this goes a long way as far as ensuring children get the necessary quality education they deserve."