

Coal for Hope

At the 2021 digital Coalsafe we managed to raise over R200 000 for the Langaletu Women Drop in centre in Klarinet, Emalahleni. The intent was to capacitate the 150 women and youth who are part of the centre with skills that will enable them to benefit financially. Coal for Hope which is led by SACMA president and the President's of the sister associations had decided on buying brick making equipment, tools, building materials and brick making training for the women.

However, on visits to the centre prior the purchase we realized that the centre would need more than the equipment. There was also a need to secure and upgrade the facility they were using to enable the work. That meant more funds, so we embarked on approaching more corporate sponsors who opened their hand and hearts to the Langaletu ladies. In total, R370 000 was raised for the centre. The cheque was handed out to the centre at the 2022 Coalsafe at Emperors Palace by 2021.



Past President Rico van Staden and President Nozipho Dlamini handing over the R370 000 check at Coalsafe 2022 to Langaletu's Deliwe Game (extreme right) and Sonto Nyembezi.

Prior to purchasing the equipment, we had to complete the construction work on site which included clearing the vegetations off the yard, roofing in the buildings, floors, windows and burglar bars. We also had to construct a 15mX15m concrete slab which will be used as a work bench.



The Langaletu facility before the donation. We supplied a slab work bench, roof, floors, windows, burglar bars and doors installations prior to equipment donation to ensure the donation would be secure.

We then bought the following equipment for the centre:

- Six drop interlocking paving machine and moulds
- Ten Drop Maxi Brick Electrical Machine and moulds
- Six Drop Hollow Block M140 Electrical Machine and moulds
- 350Ltrs Single Phase Pan Mixer
- Customised wheel barrow for the equipment



The equipment handed over to the Langaletu Women's Centre

We also had to ensure that they had all the building materials, accessories and tools to start working so we also procured JoJo tank for water supply, electrical cables for power supply, spades, rakes, shovels, hose pipes, 80 bags of cement, different sand and rock aggregate mixes, wheelbarrows and most importantly protective wear for safe operation. This was followed by days of intense training by the equipment supplier. A hand-over ceremony was held December 2022 attended by the Langaletu Women and SACMA and sister association Presidents.



SACMA President Nozipho Dlamini cutting the ribbon with Langaletu's Deliwe Gama and Sonto Nyembezi.

Coal for Hope also signed an agreement with the Langaletu leaders on the day on ensuring that the donation benefits all that it was intended for and how governance will be enforced.



The Langaletu ladies and Coal for Hope leadership at the Handover.

Giving much-needed brick making equipment and skills to these women has made a real difference to their lives and they have since handled and delivered orders of various quantities in their community and they are beating their productivity records daily.



The Langaletu ladies hard at work beating productivity targets.

Additional support is needed to enlist them on supplier development programs and help them set up a sustainable business that makes a positive impact to more members of the community. Coal for Hope will continue monitoring their progress and has signed a governance agreement with the centre for a year.

SACMA and Coal For Hope would like to acknowledge and express gratitude to the corporate sponsors, sister associations, members of the associations and individuals who gave from their hearts and have made a real significant impacts in the lives of the women. For more information or questions and how you can get involved with future projects, please contact Elaine Govender on Elaine Govender elaineg@mpas.org.za.