



MPA Gives Back Abambo Primary School

Abambo primary school in Embo township, Upper Highway

Product

SMALL BEGINNINGS

By Mark Warneke

The Master painters Association was approached by members of the City Hill Church Hillcrest congregations Nation Changers campaign. I was introduced to the Abambo School in Embo Township. At first glance one can see the desperate need for assistance that this school has. From the deteriorated walls and unserviceable guttering to the condition of the playground and landfill which is being used to reclaim some space I found it hard to decide where to start.

Classrooms

The exterior conditions of the building aside the classrooms themselves are the areas where the children aged between 6 and 11 spend most of their time. This is the area where the most impact could be made in terms of improving the students' ability to be taught in an environment which is learner friendly. The walls were not only dark cream, but cracked and dirty and showing years of use. The colour itself made the environment look dark and to be honest depressing. I made a decision to commit to repainting two of the six class rooms I felt that with some assistance from our members this could be achieved relatively easily.



Preparation

As we all know preparation is key to any painting project. I was fortunate to have received a positive response from Sumner Group who donated a day's labour from one of their teams to prepare the classrooms. Stripping and removal of the failing paint and repair of cracks as well as plasterwork around the architraves proved to be a time consuming task and this took up the full days Labour. Over the following days I was able to dedicate some time to patch repairs and filling and priming as well as some damp treatment. With the assistance of some local community members I was able to have the walls washed down with sugar soap and primed where required.



Prostar Paints

The previous product used on the walls was a High Gloss enamel and although Acrylics are easier to apply we would have required applying a coat of Universal Undercoat in preparation of the surface to receive Acrylic paint. Enamels are also very durable and easy to wash. Therefore it was decided that applying a Gloss Enamel would be the ideal product in this case.

I approached Prostar Paints for a donation of 2 x 5 Lt of Gloss Enamel for each classroom as well as 1x5lt of their 4 in 1 Plaster Primer and 5kg of skimming material. They also added to the donation some damp treatment.



VOLUNTEERS



On the 19th August 2017 Volunteers from the City Hill church arrived bright and early armed with rollers and paint trays, brushes, drop sheets and loads of enthusiasm. They arrived to find fully prepared surfaces requiring only to receive topcoats and the 12 or so volunteers duly obliged. The colours I selected for each of the classrooms were Arboretum and chalky vale, pastel green and blue colours respectively. These colours breathed new life into the classrooms and gave them an airy natural feel. The application was enjoyed by young and old as even the smallest of volunteers was able to assist.



THANKS



I would like to thank the following:
Nation Changers Non-Profit Organization in particular Nadine Wright as well as the members of City Hill Church and community members who assisted.
Sumner Group deserves thanks for the donation of labour for the bulk of the preparation.
Mack's Hardware in Crestholme for supply of plaster and binder for repairs.
Prostar Paints for their generous donation of materials and top coats for the project.



Future Projects

The Master Painters Association would like to remain in contact with the Abambo Primary School and God willing would like to be involved in the upliftment of this school. I found the time and effort put into this project to be rewarding, but at the same time feel like it was a drop in the ocean compared to what is needed. For details of how to get involved with Nation Changers please contact the Master Painters Association via our web page www.mpasouthafrica.co.za or email info@mpasouthafrica.co.za alternatively see contact details below.



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