

New school built in record time

STEVEN TAU

IN a bid to address the need for schooling infrastructure in the province, the Gauteng government yesterday unveiled the Orefile Primary School in Olivenhoutbosch.

The construction of the school took a record 10 months, according to education MEC Barbara Creecy.

Also in attendance at the unveiling of the school was Gauteng Premier Nomvula Mokonyane and infrastructure development MEC

Qedani Mahlangu.

Mokonyane called on local residents to help look after the school. "Education is a societal issue and therefore the education of an African child can never be postponed nor delayed.

"This school is a product of a decision taken by the executive council to quicken the time of building schools," Mokonyane said.

A razorbill alternative construction method was used to build the project instead of

bricks and mortar. It cost R33.4 million.

The building comprises lightweight steel frames joined together and clad with fibre cement boards filled with lightweight concrete mix.

It can resist fire for up to four hours.

Among other features, the school has 24 classrooms, a laboratory, office library, a sports field (for both soccer and rugby) and change rooms.

The school is set to dramatically improve learning conditions in the area, especially for pupils currently enrolled at Philena Primary School, which is housed in temporary mobile classrooms.

At least half of Philena Primary School's current pupil complement of 1 192 will transfer to the brand new, state-of-the-art school at the beginning of the new school year in January 2013.

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GREEN MOVE. MEC for education Barbara Creecy seen planting a tree at the opening of Orefile Primary school in Olivenhoutbosch, yesterday. The school was built over 10 months and makes use of many eco-friendly techniques. *Picture: Alaister Russell.*