

Operations Support to Mpumalanga Departments of Education and Public Works (OST)



Helping provincial government to plan, budget and manage the delivery of school-related infrastructure to improve the physical environment in which children learn

South Africa

January 2007 –
January 2010

Client:
Mpumalanga Provincial
Treasury

South Africa's Mpumalanga Province suffers from significant under-spending of its capital budget for school infrastructure; this in an environment where children are learning under trees, in unsafe shacks, and with inadequate sanitation and other basic facilities. The consequences of continued under-spending would be severe for economic and social development in the province and future funding.

The provincial government of Mpumalanga has appointed ECI*Africa* to provide Operational Support Teams (OSTs) for the provincial Departments of Public Works and Education. Each consisting of several full-time experts based in the province, ECI*Africa* OSTs focus on assisting responsible provincial government departments to deliver and maintain school-related infrastructure. The OSTs bolster the operational and programme management capacity of the provincial departments to ensure

that funding available for school infrastructure backlogs is spent effectively and in accordance with the developmental mandate of the South African government.

The OSTs' chief responsibilities are to assist the provincial government departments to:

- Plan, manage, monitor and report on infrastructure delivery;
- Establish and ensure that best practise methodologies and systems are implemented and institutionalised within the provincial departments;
- Build the capacity of provincial department staff to improve the planning and delivery of infrastructure projects; and
- Ensure that capital spending patterns are improved and rationalised.

