

## ArcelorMittal South Africa Solidarity Holidays 2014

### ArcelorMittal Foundation invests R1 million to provide housing for families in Blaauwbosch, Newcastle

ArcelorMittal Foundation today handed over ten, two bedroom 40m<sup>2</sup>, Protea houses to selected families in Blaauwbosch. The initiative is supported by the district mayor of Amajuba in Newcastle.

“The project forms part of ArcelorMittal Foundation’s Solidarity Holidays initiative. It will help with the lack of adequate housing for the ten disadvantaged families in Blaauwbosch, Newcastle,” explains Maggie Mopedi, Manager Corporate Social Responsibility, and External Relations ArcelorMittal South Africa.



The aim of the Solidarity Holidays is to offer ArcelorMittal employees across the world, the opportunity of spending part of their annual leave volunteering in a Foundation project in a country different from their own. During this year’s Solidarity Holiday ArcelorMittal international volunteers from ten countries, including Italy, Brazil, France, Spain, Belgium, Czech Republic, India and Germany, together with 39 local volunteers and some members of the ArcelorMittal South Africa management team, will contribute towards building six of the houses. The initial four houses were built in December 2013. The houses will be built in Blaauwbosch, Newcastle where ArcelorMittal South Africa Foundation, through its partnership with the local community and government stakeholders, has identified the need to make provision for housing.

During the construction phase of the project local construction company, Senzumusa Construction will assist the volunteers with the erection of the houses and the project will create employment for 20 local community members who will undergo training.

“The beneficiaries of the houses who were selected from the Department of Social Development’s database and are mostly child headed households who live in dilapidated one bedroom mud houses or shacks that are unstable and unfit for human habitation”, explains Maggie.

The Mdlalose family is one such family who will benefit from the Solidarity project. The four children have lost both their parents and are currently in the care of their older sister who is unemployed. The family currently lives in a one-room mud house and had previously been victims of a natural disaster.

The Protea houses will provide a place of refuge for the ten families and are each equipped with an open plan kitchen, lounge, a bathroom with running water and flush toilets and two bedrooms. The Protea technology is a low cost high quality housing alternative that requires installation period of four days making it relatively easy for a larger number of houses to be built in a shorter period of time as compared to the conventional masonry construction methods. The material is extremely resistant to the detrimental effects of adverse climatic conditions and can withstand earthquakes, strong winds, heavy rainfall and harsh UV rays. The Protea houses remain warm during the winter months and cooler during the summer months.



The ArcelorMittal Foundation launched its Solidarity Holiday initiative in 2010. "The Foundation has presence in 29 countries and we plan to organise ten Solidarity Holiday projects in 2014. We fully believe that the week spent in Newcastle by our employees will not only be beneficial to the community of Blaauwbosch but it will also encourage others to make a positive contribution in less privileged communities across South Africa" remarks CEO of the ArcelorMittal Foundation, Felicidad Cristobal.

