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Our work brings us ever closer to our dreams. Work grounds our dreams even the more Fantastic they are. The reality of work connects us to our dreams.

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NATIONAL DEVELOPMENT PLAN / VISION 2030

**Partners for Possibility (PfP)** is a creative solution to South Africa’s education crisis - it is a co-action, co-learning partnership between School Principals and Business Leaders, enabling social cohesion through partnerships, and empowering Principals to become change leaders in their schools and communities. The **PfP** Programme facilitates cross-sectoral reciprocal partnerships between Business, Government and the Social Sector.

## POWER IN NUMBERS

Principal Lulekwa Bunguzana and iPlay Marketing Solutions/ Pioneer Foods Partner, Dewald Scholtz, are firm believers in Nelson Mandela’s quote: ‘Education is the most powerful weapon which you can use to change the world’.

They started where all great journeys do – with the first step: meeting the members of School Management Team (SMT).

“I started by introducing Dewald to the team in a small classroom, where we discussed a Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities and Threat (SWOT) analysis. The aim was to understand where the school is in order to plan the best way forward,” Lulekwa recalls.

The Partners held weekly training sessions with the school management team based on the SWOT analysis outcomes. The subject of Accounting was a particular focus for the way forward.

Our vision was to improve the results of our school.

In order to do this, the most valuable resource that teachers have is one another. Without collaboration, our growth is limited to our own perspectives.”

*Principal Lulekwa Bunguzana*

“We started with our first grade 12 class of 2012. In order to understand how to make improvements, we looked to the better-resourced schools for support. This is how the partnership with Paarl Girls High came about,” Lulekwa said.

In 2014, only 47% of the Grade 12 class passed their accounting matric exam. In April 2015, Deputy Principal Andiswa Tshula recognised an opportunity for improvement and contacted Paarl Girls High Principal, Elsabé Conradie.

## At a glance

- Ihlumelo Senior Secondary School is a public secondary school, and in 2014 there were 16 registered learners.
- Located at 1 Zingisani Street, Mbekweni, the school houses 1400 learners and 38 educators.
- ISSS used to be located on the same grounds as Desmond Mpilo Tutu Senior Secondary School.
- In 2015, Ihlumelo partnered with Paarl Girls High to improve their accounting marks, which were initially 44% on average.
- The School has participated in life-skills development among the youth through not-for-profit organization: MOT.

## GOING THE EXTRA MILE

“Ms Tshula is known for being dedicated and committed, loves children and has a passion for education. She does everything in her power to make the school better,” Lulekwa said proudly. Initially, Elsabé sent DVDs and activities to help the learners; however, when she mentioned this to her accounting matric class, the learners wanted to get involved.

As a result, several workshops were held where the two schools shared accounting activities. The learners were given study guides and sponsored lunches from Paarl Girls High hostel. Network 24 news article Paarl Girls’ helping hand for Ihlumelo reported:

“The wonderful outcome of this story is that intercommunity relationships were formed due to these workshops and the learners exchanged phone numbers in order to follow through the support during the year-end exam.”



### THE PRINCIPAL:

#### Lulekwa Bunguzana

My partnership with Dewald has taken my personal growth to another level. We usually meet at his house to plan and I got to know his wife, Sarah, who is a life coach. I was invited to her workshop: Design The Life You Love.

The rich experience was one meeting and sharing with like-minded individuals, who also desired to empower themselves and others. Alongside this, **PfP** taught me a great deal as a Principal.

I was initially reluctant to do this programme due to personal time constraints, but Dewald showed me tricks about time management. As a Principal, everything is always urgent. However, if you plan, everything becomes important - but not urgent.

Dewald means so much to me. Always smiling, always available with prayers and support. Hopefully the road does not end here - **PfP** have blessed me.

The success of the partnership peaked on 6 January, when the matric results were announced and 92 % of the matric class passed their Accounting exams with two of the Ihlumelo learners achieving above 80%. The news article reported that “Conradie did not think the few sessions had such a big influence, but was surprised and very excited about Ihlumelo’s great results.”

This support is being extended to other subjects such as Maths, Science, and Economics. Paarl Girls High is paying for the mentorship programme, which includes transport and study material.

“With the support of Paarl Girls High and our dedicated teachers, the learners can benefit from these techniques and materials in other subjects as well,” said the Principal.

As a result of the intervention and a dedicated school management team, further improvement in marks included History (which was below 48%) which improved to 73%; English 91%; Tourism 95% and Consumer studies 96%. ■



### THE PARTNER:

#### Dewald Scholtz

Youth Entrepreneurship and Skills Development Facilitator and CEO at iPlay Media, Dewald recalls experiencing ‘Lulu’ as a mother, a parent, a counselor, a nurse - everything to everybody - and I just had such a good time. It was a privilege.

I really enjoyed the programme, as **PfP** opened a lot of doors for us – to be able to sit together as 6 different schools learning from one another.

You think you are going to be the one to give, but you get much, much more in return. I have grown immensely; it is a change from my usual experience as skills development facilitator.

Lulu knows who she is - a strong lady and a fantastic headmaster. It has been great to listen and learn. The reward was to see how we can make improvements together, dream together, and to come up with ideas of how to constantly improve Ihlumelo together...

