



Making a change in the Western Cape

Portland Builders was founded in 1988 by Nico Heyns and Helenus Scholtz, partners for the past 24 years. Portland Group has since been transformed into one of the leading suppliers of aggregates, ready mix and hollow core in the Western Cape.

IN 2000, HEYNS and Scholtz had the opportunity to buy their 65 ha quarry, situated on Vissershok Road in Durbanville. Ever since, visitors and employees have been able to appreciate the view of the blooming canola each year.

Portland Quarry produces construction aggregates, primarily crushed stone and dust from the natural deposits of the Malmesbury Hornfels. In 2000 the quarry underwent a major facelift and new offices were built,



Thanks to a grant covering all travel, accommodation and food provided to him by the US Government, Madimabe set off for Washington, D.C. on 6 January 2012 to begin working on this comprehensive exchange programme of which he will be partaking in the Single Country Project focusing on 'Promoting Leadership and Management in Basic Education', from 9 to 27 January 2012.

The exchange will offer the principal insight into the American society and educational system as he will be given the opportunity to visit like-minded people in his profession and enjoy not only learning about the 'American way' but also sharing information about South Africa. ■

a decent entrance road was scraped and new crushers were also installed. Products handled by the crushers include chip and spray, concrete stone (6 mm, 13 mm, 19 mm, 25 mm and 37 mm) for general construction, basecourse from G1 to G4 and sub-base (G5 to G7) for road construction, crusher dust, and 6 mm ROC.

Only a year after the opening of Portland Quarry, three Portland Readymix plants were installed. These plants provide a range of concrete which are designed for the whole spectrum of the construction industry.

The products are backed by tight quality control which brings a guarantee of strength and workability to the construction site. The company prides itself on the importance of the cubical shape of their stone and in the production of their quality concrete.

Portland Hollowcore panels are manufactured in their purpose-made factory. The panels are reinforced with pre-stressed cables and are formed in an extrusion process using systems from Elematic, imported from Finland in 2008. This manufacturing process ensures that the undersides of the deck panels are perfectly smooth and level. This unique feature eliminates the need for further skimming, making only a textured paint finish necessary to finish the job.

The Portland Hollowcore and Readymix facilities are situated on the quarry premises, making it easy for employers to ensure an effective managing system.

Current major projects include the Andringa Walk next to Eikestad Mall in Stellenbosch. Andringa Walk is the second phase of the Eikestad Urban renewal project, which includes 119 upmarket apartments built on two levels above a newly developed parking garage.

The parking garage is constructed as an in-situ concrete column and beam structure,

while the apartments are built using brick loadbearing walls along with Portland's hollow core decking panels. The first level of hollow core decking is approximately 700 mm higher than the garage roof deck and covers the whole roof area, consisting of apartments, walkways and even rooftop gardens.

Hollow core slabs provide the perfect solution at this level as no propping is required to lay this new deck. The hollow core panels are placed into position using a tower crane which hoists each panel directly off the truck, positioned at street level below. This placing system has proved itself to be especially efficient, enabling large areas of hollow core panels to be placed in short periods of time.

This keeps traffic disruptions to a minimum and reduces the inconvenience caused for pedestrians.

Another project taken on by Portland includes the precast walling of Hirsh's Cape Town situated in Milnerton. Hirsh's is a retail center with a showroom and office block, and two retail blocks, consisting of five shops each. Hollow core slabs have been used as walling panels for most of these buildings, speeding up the construction process for Isipani Construction.

When hollow core is used for walling, the panels are placed horizontally and are attached to in-situ concrete columns by means of steel clips bolted against steel brackets, and again bolted to the columns. This construction method is very fast and efficient and enables a large area of walling to be installed while minimal labour is required.

Portland has also been involved with the recent construction of Curro Private Schools situated both in Hermanus and Stellenbosch.

While Portland Quarry and Portland Readymix stay consistent, Portland Hollowcore is starting to make a great change in the construction industry in the Western Cape. ■