

Builders empowering black entrepreneurs



First row (standing) – from left: Sifiso Basi (Builders Training Centre); Gerald Ndlovu (Black Suppliers); Themba Mabona – Plumber (Protea Glen); Albert Malale – Builder (Cosmo City); Thabanga Thlabanelo – Painter (Vosloorus); Thipe Selala – Painter (Tswelo-pele); Stalana Twani – Plumber (Evaton); Daniel Msiza – Painter (Evaton); Lazarus Ntimane – Plumber (Vosloorus)

Builders launched the Builders Enterprise Development programme late last month at the Sunnyside Park Hotel in Parktown. The programme will see 30 local tradesmen from the communities surrounding the Builders Superstores in Tembisa, Evaton, Cosmo City and Vosloorus embark on a year-long training programme to develop their businesses.

“Our decision to source tradesmen from the communities that we operate in is testament to our commitment to making a difference in people’s lives. This initiative

will ensure that tradesmen have access to technical skills and business training which in turn will provide our customers with access to qualified service providers. We are extremely proud and excited about this initiative,” Builders Superstore executive Mncane Mthunzi said.

The initiative aims to develop and empower black businesses, particularly small to medium enterprises with the skills to effectively operate a business within the local contractor/trade market. This includes technical

elements and skills such as business management, help them as registering a company, assisting with developing a website.

The 30 participants will embark on a year-long training journey with various partners after which, they are expected to be skilled to a level whereby they are preferred suppliers within the local communities.

The local tradesmen were selected based on a range of criteria developed by Builders together with training partners Leago Capital and Build

Aid. The rigorous selection process included a capacity and skills verification audit as well as an interview to explain expectations and identify opportunities for skills enhancement.

The official launch of the Enterprise Development programme, where the 30 participants were introduced to the Builders Enterprise Development committee as well as the partners who joined builders on this journey, took place on 29th September 2015.