

BMW Group South Africa strengthens impact on education with latest Lethabong School of Specialisation development.

+++ BMW Group South Africa hands over state-of-the-art facilities at Lethabong School of Specialisation (SOS) in Soshanguve +++ BMW Group South Africa marks a continuous commitment to youth development and educational infrastructure in South Africa +++ The event reinforces the BRIDGE partnership with UNICEF, aligning with the BMW Group's global educational ambitions +++

Soshanguve, Tshwane. A new chapter in youth development and community upliftment officially began on 25 July in Soshanguve, as BMW Group South Africa proudly handed over state-of-the-art facilities at Lethabong School of Specialisation (SOS) in Maths, Science & ICT. This latest phase in a series of continuous refurbishments and modern infrastructure underscores the company's enduring commitment to creating a brighter future for South African youth through sustained investment in educational development. The pivotal event was attended by Ilka Horstmeier, Labour Relations Director and Member of the Board of Management of BMW AG, responsible for People and Real Estate, and Peter van Binsbergen, CEO of BMW Group South Africa. They were joined by a distinguished assembly of guests, including the members from the Department of Basic Education; UNICEF South Africa and various local municipality representatives.

A collective commitment to future generations.

The extensive enhancements at Lethabong SOS include a new school auditorium, two advanced IT centres housing a total of 40 workstations, and a fully equipped kitchen. These vital infrastructure investments are a tangible expression of BMW Group South Africa's impact-driven approach to corporate social responsibility, demonstrating that the company builds more than just cars – it builds futures. The newly introduced auditorium provides matriculants with a dedicated, conducive space for examinations for the first time, ensuring uninterrupted learning for all grades. Additionally, the modern kitchen serves learners with healthy meals and improves the overall learning environment.

Lethabong SOS emerged as the optimal choice, not only serving as a feeder school from Ntsha-Peu Primary School but also representing a community poised for this dedicated support.

A vision unveiled.

During the event, both Ilka Horstmeier and Peter van Binsbergen addressed the learners, school leadership, and attendees, articulating the vision behind BMW Group South Africa's investment. The day also featured a walkabout, allowing guests to experience firsthand the significant additions to Lethabong SOS that will deliver a fully modernised campus experience, complete with cutting-edge learning spaces and foundational amenities crucial for contemporary education. Additionally, Ilka Horstmeier engaged with school principal Maphefo Malope and the learners, gaining meaningful insights into the daily realities and aspirations of the school community.

Empowering through partnership: The BRIDGE way.

This initiative is a cornerstone of BMW Group South Africa's 'BRIDGE: Educating Young People for Tomorrow, Today' partnership with UNICEF South Africa. This collaboration aligns with UNICEF's global ambition to reach children and young people through educational programmes worldwide, including learning in STEM subjects (science, technology, engineering and maths), a vision championed by the company's leadership.

"Investing in education is investing in the very fabric of society. Facilities like those at Lethabong SOS create environments where young minds can truly flourish, where potential can be meticulously nurtured," states Ilka Horstmeier. "Our work here in South Africa, as part of our broader engagements across the nation, reflects the BMW Group's fundamental belief in empowering communities and enabling the next generation to shape their own success stories."

The partnership with UNICEF at Lethabong SOS also unlocks unique learning avenues for students through innovative coding and robotics programmes, equipping educators with essential skills to deliver advanced curricula. This hub will extend its reach to neighbouring schools, operating as an essential resource centre in collaboration with the Department of Basic Education and UNICEF South Africa.

This country-wide programme was initiated in 2023 and provides young learners from disadvantaged schools with unparalleled access to mentorship, inspiration, and guidance within the dynamic fields of science, technology, engineering, and mathematics. By immersing these pupils in real-world STEM environments across BMW Group South Africa's business units the programme aims to ignite a passion for innovation and cultivates the skills essential for navigating the challenges and opportunities of the future.

Building a legacy of progress.

Van Binsbergen affirmed the company's strategic vision: "Our commitment to South Africa transcends traditional business models. The transformation at Lethabong SOS is a powerful reflection of our collective conviction that sustained investment in education and infrastructure development is paramount for national progress. It solidifies BMW Group South Africa's leadership in responsible business practices and social transformation, inspiring assurance for a thriving tomorrow."

This handover marks a significant step in BMW Group South Africa's ongoing journey to support human potential and build robust educational foundations within the communities it serves.

Media information

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With its four brands BMW, MINI, Rolls-Royce and BMW Motorrad, the BMW Group is the world's leading premium manufacturer of automobiles and motorcycles and also provides premium financial services. The BMW Group production network comprises over 30 production sites worldwide; the company has a global sales network in more than 140 countries.

In 2024, the BMW Group sold over 2.45 million passenger vehicles and more than 210,000 motorcycles worldwide. The profit before tax in the financial year 2024 was € 11.0 billion on revenues amounting to € 142.4 billion. As of 31 December 2024, the BMW Group had a workforce of 159,104 employees.

The economic success of the BMW Group has always been based on long-term thinking and responsible action. Sustainability is a key element of the BMW Group's corporate strategy and covers all products from the supply chain and production to the end of their useful life.

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