

DIOCESE of TZANEEN

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TSD FRB 004

May 2017

FUNDRAISING APPEAL

“Centre Buildings”

BLESSED BENEDICT DASWA PILGRIMAGE CENTRE at TSHITANINI VILLAGE

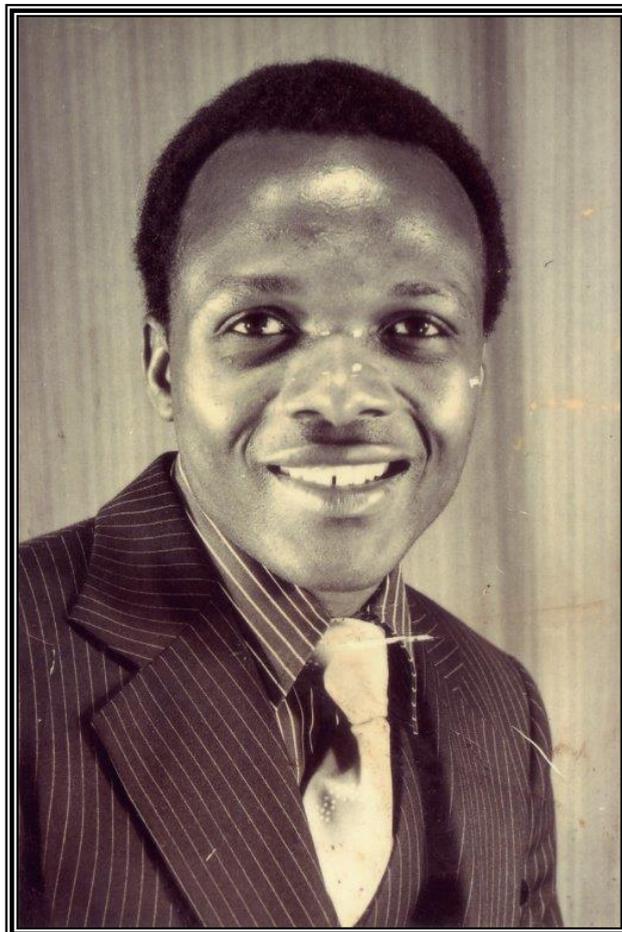


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Blessed Benedict Daswa Pilgrimage Centre

The Daswa Story – A Brief Introduction

On 13 September 2015 an historic event took place at the village of Tshitani, near Thohoyandou in the province of Limpopo, South Africa. This was the religious ceremony of Beatification, presided over by Angelo Cardinal Amato, who came from Rome as the representative of Pope Francis. The purpose of this ceremony was the official declaration by the Catholic Church that one of its members from that area, Tshimangadzo Samuel Benedict Daswa, a member of the small Lemba tribe living among the Vendas, would henceforth be honoured as a Martyr for the Faith with the title, “Blessed”. His feast will be celebrated each year on 1 February to commemorate his death on 2 February 1990 when he was just a few months short of his 44th birthday.

On the evening of that day, Blessed Benedict was ambushed by a group of young men near his village as he was driving home. He was then stoned and clubbed to death. These people attacked Benedict because, after he became a Catholic in 1963 at the age of seventeen, he had taken a public, consistent and principled stand against witchcraft, ritual killings and the use of *muti* or “medicine”. Benedict was strongly opposed to this dark area of his culture because he saw clearly that these traditional practices were against his faith, and caused great suffering in families and communities, which included the killing of innocent people. Many people admired Benedict for his courage, especially as they knew him to be a real man of God, a devoted family man, a dedicated principal of a primary school and an active member of the local headman’s council. He was also involved in guiding the young and in helping the poor.

But Benedict also had enemies. There were people who were angry at his open opposition to the world of witchcraft, and who were also jealous of his popularity and success in life. His enemies had their opportunity to get rid of him after lightning struck several houses in the village in January 1990. They urged the headman to agree that they could ask each family to contribute five Rand so that they could go to a prominent diviner to “sniff out” the witch who had sent the lightning. Benedict said publicly he would not contribute the money, so a few days later he was killed in a cruel and brutal manner.

The Catholic Church is appealing now to generous donors to help in the building of a suitable Church and Shrine in honour of Blessed Tshimangadzo Benedict Daswa at Tshitani, the place where his Beatification took place. Pilgrims will then be able to come from far and near to pray at his tomb and be inspired by the life and death of this Martyr for the Faith, and this brave young South African hero. They will be proud to say, “Blessed Benedict is one of us and we want to be like him, by always standing up for what is right, and keeping away from what is evil. With the Deputy-President of South Africa, Mr Cyril Ramaphosa, we too promise:

‘No More Ritual Killings! No More Witch-Hunts! No More Witchcraft!’

“Blessed Benedict Daswa, pray for us.”

Blessed Benedict Daswa Pilgrimage Centre

A Shrine to Honour Blessed Benedict Daswa

Down through the ages people have erected statues and monuments and memorials to keep alive the memory of distinguished individuals such as religious, military and political leaders. They wanted to express their appreciation and gratitude for the benefits received through these leaders. They also wanted their stories to be told in order to inspire future generations. The Church has done likewise to honour Christ himself and also her great saints and martyrs as our heroes in the faith. We have the Church of the Holy Sepulchre in Jerusalem built on the holy sites where Christ was crucified, buried and rose again for the salvation of all people. In Rome there are the four great Churches called Basilicas, to honour the Blessed Virgin Mary and the three apostles, Saint Peter, Saint Paul and Saint John. Nearer home is the shrine at Namugongo in Uganda to remember the twenty two martyrs, who in the 1880's, were put to death for their faith.

Since Benedict has now been declared a member of this great company of the Church's saints and martyrs, it is important that as soon as possible a suitable shrine be built and developed in his honour on the site where he was beatified. People will come from near and far to visit the martyr's tomb as well as other nearby places associated with him. They will thank the Lord for the wonderful gift to the church, to the country, to Africa and to the world of this very ordinary, loving and humble young man, a man of great faith, courage and integrity. In his speech after the Beatification, the Deputy President of South Africa, Mr. Cyril Ramaphosa, gave expression to the sense of profound gratitude and pride in the hearts of the 35,000 people present, and of the thousands more who were following the event on national television and radio. He thanked Pope Francis, Cardinal Angelo Amato and the Catholic Church "for bestowing this great honour on one of our own, one of those who has come from this country, one who has come from this region, from this area. We thank you deeply."

The building and development of the shrine will take place over a number of years. The rate at which the work will go forward will depend on the numbers of pilgrims coming to the place and on the funds available. Every effort will be made to make the buildings and surroundings simple and practical but also beautiful and with an African flavour. This project will make big demands on the generosity of people and be a test of the depth of their faith. People admired the martyr for his generosity towards the Church and recall how he "encouraged the people who had good jobs to be generous and contribute to the Church". His generosity came from his deep faith which the people greatly admired. They said, "The older he got the more his faith developed". We pray that through his intercession, we as a diocese may continue to go forward in faith in the work of building his shrine and making him more widely known, trusting in the generosity of people.

Blessed Benedict Daswa Pilgrimage Centre

The Shrine as a Place of Pilgrimage

The fact that people came in such large numbers to the Beatification ceremony at such a rural and undeveloped site as Tshitani, shows how popular Blessed Benedict has already become. I think we can safely assume that as the years and decades go by, he will touch the hearts of more and more people who will want to come to his shrine and visit his tomb. These people and all who will contribute to the development of the shrine will want to know what to expect at this holy place. It will be a place of pilgrimage for individuals and organized groups from various parts of the country and also from outside South Africa. It will be a place of prayer and worship of God, calling people to experience in a special way God's love, mercy and forgiveness and encouraging them to live their faith more deeply. The pilgrims will be helped by the celebration of the Eucharist and Confession as well as by other spiritual exercises such as praying the rosary and doing the Stations of the Cross. At times pilgrims will also have healing services and anointing of the sick.

The shrine will serve as a powerful symbol of the victory of good over evil and of light over darkness in the life of Blessed Benedict Daswa. As people pray quietly at his tomb and think about his simple but heroic life, they will get new hope and courage for their own faith journey from the exile of this world to our true homeland in heaven. They will look to the martyr as a powerful intercessor with the Lord. Some will come heavily burdened by problems and suffering and sickness in their own lives or in their families. Others will be looking for meaning and direction in their lives, as well as employment and success in their undertakings. There will be many who will want to pour out their hearts in gratitude to Blessed Benedict for answering their prayers.

Very many no doubt will be pleading with Blessed Benedict Daswa for the same courage and strength which he showed, in standing up bravely against the practice of witchcraft, muti and ritual murder. These are issues which affect every area of life including community development and human rights. Hence people were very pleased by the leadership shown by Deputy President, Cyril Ramaphosa, at the Beatification ceremony. He stressed very strongly that, "...ritual killings, witch-hunts and witchcraft do not define us as South Africans. In fact, they debase us. They make us sub-human". He then went on to make the passionate appeal, "No More Ritual Killings! No More Witch-Hunts! No More Witchcraft!" At the same ceremony, the senior traditional Venda leader, Chief Vho-Gole Mushwa Mphaphuli, pointed to the martyr as a true role-model saying, "His deeds should teach all of us to follow the right ways". He also held up Benedict as "a man of faith" and as "a light to the nations".

Blessed Tshimangadzo Samuel Benedict Daswa is a martyr for the faith, an apostle of life, "one of us", a true South African hero. He will live on in the hearts and minds of more and more people as the years go by. In a special way Blessed Benedict will be close to people at his shrine at Tshitani, inspiring the pilgrims by his faith-filled life and by answering their prayers.

Blessed Benedict Daswa Pilgrimage Centre

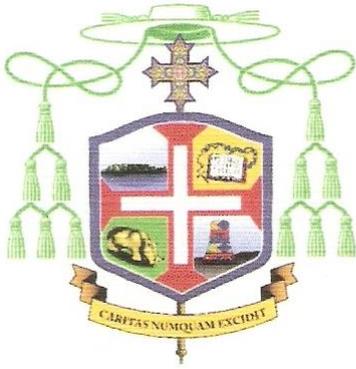
“Centre Buildings”

In order to establish a presence on the Tshitani site, the first buildings to be erected on the property will be the “Centre Buildings”. Please refer to drawings of *Centre Buildings Plan* (TSD Dwg 004) page 13; *Proposed Site Development Plan* (TSD Dwg 001) page 14 and *Typical Ablutions Plan and Elevations* (TSD Dwg 007) page 15 for these buildings. These will provide an office to handle all Pilgrim matters, with facilities to enable the Pilgrimage Site to function properly. As part of this building program, limited accommodation for resident staff will be provided.

The Centre buildings will be suitably located close to the entrance of the site, in order to provide for the following:

- An office with an adjacent reception room used to welcome pilgrims and provide for registration;
- A “museum” room where people can focus on the life, example and work of Blessed Benedict through displays of artifacts, photos, video features and various memorabilia. These items will also be for sale. A limited supply of refreshments will also be made available;
- A meeting or Seminar facility for 50 people is planned. This room will adjoin the “museum” room with a movable partition between them to allow for larger numbers on occasion. This Meeting or Seminar room will have two side walls that can be opened up. Together with the museum room, it will in fact, be the temporary “Church” that will serve the Centre until the Church and Shrine on the hillside are finally built. When there are larger groups for Mass and other religious functions, the adjacent area, which will be paved or grassed, can also be used.
- A small residence with two bedrooms and appropriate living areas will be included to allow for one or two priests to be permanently resident on site.
- Toilet facilities suitable for a building of this size will be provided.

The Entrance walling, gates, roadway, kerbing and paved parking areas should ideally be constructed at the same time as these Centre Buildings.



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Blessed Daswa Pilgrimage Centre Funding for the Project

**The estimated cost of the Centre Buildings
is expected to be in the order of**

R3 199 005

The members of the Catholic Church are renowned for their generosity in supporting the many works of the Church but especially those for a good cause. The Church has had a remarkable history of providing a broad range of facilities in all parts of the globe, predominantly with funding from its own resources, for the help and comfort of all people without distinction.

The Church in the Diocese of Tzaneen has played its part in this munificent provision of charitable and practical works in the Province of Limpopo where it is located. The Church has over the years provided an enormous financial commitment towards the uplifting of the people in the areas where it is at work. The Catholic Church in the Tzaneen Diocese can and does make things happen.

We are making the Cause of Blessed Benedict Daswa well known right around the country and also in many other parts of the world. Throughout history there have been wealthy people who have become "Patrons" of projects of their choice and have funded these to a large extent. We have a number of such patrons in our country and have been supported by many patrons from other countries. We are confident that funding will be forthcoming in generous measure for this project from all of these sources. Since the Beatification of Blessed Benedict Daswa on 13 September 2015, the Diocese of Tzaneen now needs to develop the place of pilgrimage at Tshitanini in Thohoyandou Parish as a place of prayer and healing for all people.

Without you, dear donor, this project cannot happen. We are relying on your generous support.


Bishop Joao Noe Rodrigues
Diocese of Tzaneen

4th April 2016

TSD Doc 009

"Caritas Numquam Excidit" – "Love Never Ends" (1 Cor 13:8)

Blessed Benedict Daswa Pilgrimage Centre

at

Tshitani

BANK DETAILS FOR BUILDING FUND DONATIONS

Bank: Standard Bank of South Africa

Branch code: 052 749

Account Name: Diocese of Tzaneen: Project A

Account number: 33 09 06 313

Type: Current account

Swift code: SBZAZAJJ

Ref. -	TSD BoQ 004-Centre Buildings			Original:-	17 April 2015	
				Last Updated:-	18 April 2016	
Blessed Daswa Pilgrimage Centre						
4. Proposed CENTRE BUILDINGS on TSHITANINI Site						
Provisional Estimate only - Bill of Quantities						
Item	Description	Unit	Quantity	Rate	Amount	Total
4	Centre Buildings					
4.1	Clear site and earthworks	m ²	440	150.00	66 000.00	
4.2	Foundations	m	400	400.00	160 000.00	
4.3	Surface beds	m ²	300	380.00	114 000.00	
4.4	Super structure	m ²	500	600.00	300 000.00	
4.5	Doors	no	15	4 000.00	60 000.00	
4.6	Windows	no	29	3 500.00	101 500.00	
4.7	Shop fronts	m ²	16	3 200.00	51 200.00	
4.8	Ceilings	m ²	320	270.00	86 400.00	
4.9	Roof structure	m ²	390	450.00	175 500.00	
4.10	Roof covering	m ²	400	300.00	120 000.00	
4.11	Floor tiling	m ²	270	280.00	75 600.00	
4.12	Wall tiling	m ²	150	250.00	37 500.00	
4.13	Plumbing fittings	no	11	8 500.00	93 500.00	
4.14	Joinery fittings	Item	1.5	50 000.00	75 000.00	
4.15	Electrical installation	m ²	320	500.00	160 000.00	
4.16	Apron	m ²	70	290.00	20 300.00	
4.17	Paved walkways	m ²	50	300.00	15 000.00	
4.18	Sundries	Item	1	20 000.00	20 000.00	
4.19	Air conditioning	no	0	15 000.00	0.00	
4.20	Staircase to upstairs	no	0	35 000.00	0.00	
4.21	Septic tank and rainwater collection	no	1	50 000.00	50 000.00	
4.22	Provide for furniture	Item	1	100 000.00	100 000.00	
						Total for Centre Building:-
						1 881 500.00
Additional Costs to be Allowed for;						
1	Preliminaries	Allowed at	10.00	%		188 150.00
2	Contingencies	Allowed at	7.50	%		155 223.75
3	Escalation	Allowed per month at	0.60	%		
		for a period of -	24	Months		320 381.82
						2 545 255.57
4	Professional Fees	Allowed at	10.00	%	254 525.56	
	Estimated Disbursements		0.25	%	6 363.14	260 888.70
	<i>(Architect, QS, Civil, Structural & Electrical Engineers)</i>					2 806 144.27
5	Value Added Tax	Currently at:-	14	%		392 860.20
ESTIMATED COST for the "Centre Building":-						R 3 199 004.46
Notes;						
1	The measurements and areas allowed for have been based on the preliminary drawings.					
2	The Item values and Prime sums allowed for in these estimate have not been investigated in detail but on reasonable assumptions for the work and costs envisaged.					
3	The rates entered are current for the area at the date the estimation was made. Escalation has been allowed for as shown above. The Escalation rate could vary significantly					
4	The cost of Escalation will also depend on the rate that we are able to progress with the works which in turn depends on the level of donor support.					

Blessed Benedict Daswa Pilgrimage Centre

List of Professionals

for the

Development on the Tshitani Site for Blessed Daswa

1 Town Planner



Pieterse, Du Toit & Associates (Pty) Ltd

Town and Regional Planners

Concillium Building, 118 General Beyers Street, Welgelegen, POLOKWANE, 0699

P.O. Box 11306, BENDOR PARK, 0713

Contact Person: Jaco du Plessis PR. PLN (A/178/2010)

Email: jaco@profplanners.co.za

Tel: (+27) 15 297 4970/1

Cell: (+27) 82 853 9070

Fax: (+27) 15 297 4584

2 Architect



Osglo Architects

Company Registration No: 2006/228010/23

25, Erasmus Street, Makhado

P.O. Box 1210, Makhado, 0920

Contact person: Christian Mocke

Email: chrism@osglo.co.za

Tel: (+27) 15 516 5155

Registration Number - SACAP 7187

Cell: (+27) 83 604 0515

3 Quantity Surveyor



Quanti - Serv cc

91 Buffell Street, Makhado

P.O.Box 1465. Makhado 0920

Contact person: M.J.Beukes

Email: qserv@telkomsa.net

Tel: (+27) 15 516 2355

Company Registration No: 2006/14996/23

Cell- (+27) 82 893 5164

4 Other Professionals

Other Professionals viz. Civil, Structural and Electrical will be appointed only when the works go ahead.

5 Project Manager for the Diocese

Ivor Bailey - Pr Eng

Unit 358, Waterfall Hills, 2 Waterfall Lane, Sunninghill, 2191

Unit 358, Private Bag X05, Sunninghill, 2157

Email: ivor.bailey358@gmail.com

Tel: (+27) 10 591 4664

Registration Number - 690605

Cell: (+27) 82 900 3209

Blessed Benedict Daswa Pilgrimage Centre

Witchcraft and Ritual Killings

The importance and positive impact of the Blessed Tshimangadzo Samuel Benedict Daswa Shrine for the people of Limpopo and in particular for the Vhembe Region

INTRODUCTION

The issue of ritual killings and witchcraft has existed within our various communities for centuries and is creating a big challenge for both the government and the communities to eradicate this scourge. According to the Ralushai Commission of Inquiry,” the period 1985 to 1996 was characterised by witchcraft and ritual killings related crimes to a very alarming extent”

Witchcraft and ritual killings practices are continuing, despite calls coupled with campaigns, made by various stakeholders and concerned community structures. The whole situation is exacerbated by community members trying to take the law into their own hands by tracking and destroying life and properties of people suspected of practising witchcraft, and those suspected of being engaged in ritual killing.

These tendencies lead to a chaotic situation in which both state and private properties are senselessly destroyed, leaving the community members shocked, terrified and helpless, as well as horrified by this senseless destruction of life and property. Some of the suspected witches are usually chased out of their homes, and in most cases, as police are unable to deal with these situations effectively, some of them end up being held at various police stations.

During the period from 1985 to 1996 great numbers of people were arrested for assault and arson, as well as murder. According to the **Ralushai Commission** most of these cases were the result of contravening section 1(a) of the Suppression of Witchcraft Act 3 of 1957, which includes pointing out a person as a witch.

The **Ralushai Commission** and **The Limpopo Summit on Ritual Killings** both unequivocally indicated that appropriate educational programs and other mitigating measures must be put in place to combat criminal acts related to witchcraft and ritual

killings. The establishment of the Shrine at Tshitani is a good example of the Church's endeavour to combat these evil practices.

It is our belief as a church that, although we must respect the different cultural practices within the various communities, we must be on the same wavelength in fighting all cultural practices that destroy life, as these are against the teaching of the Message of Christ.

The Catholic Church considers that any negative culture that destroys life is unacceptable, and as such wants to play a part in getting these practices rooted out, as these beliefs are of no benefit to humanity and render all of us vulnerable. (It must also be mentioned that during the preparation for the Beatification, Tshifudi which is less than 30 km from Tshitani, was characterised by serious unrest resulting in a number of properties belonging to people who were suspected of ritual killing being destroyed.)

The Blessed Benedict Daswa Pilgrimage Centre will be our response to the call of playing a meaningful role in the fight against these unhealthy practices. The Centre will be a beacon of hope, providing the community with a place where people can be educated and learn the importance of the preservation of life. It will also provide an important Centre for worship, as well as healing, both spiritual and physical.

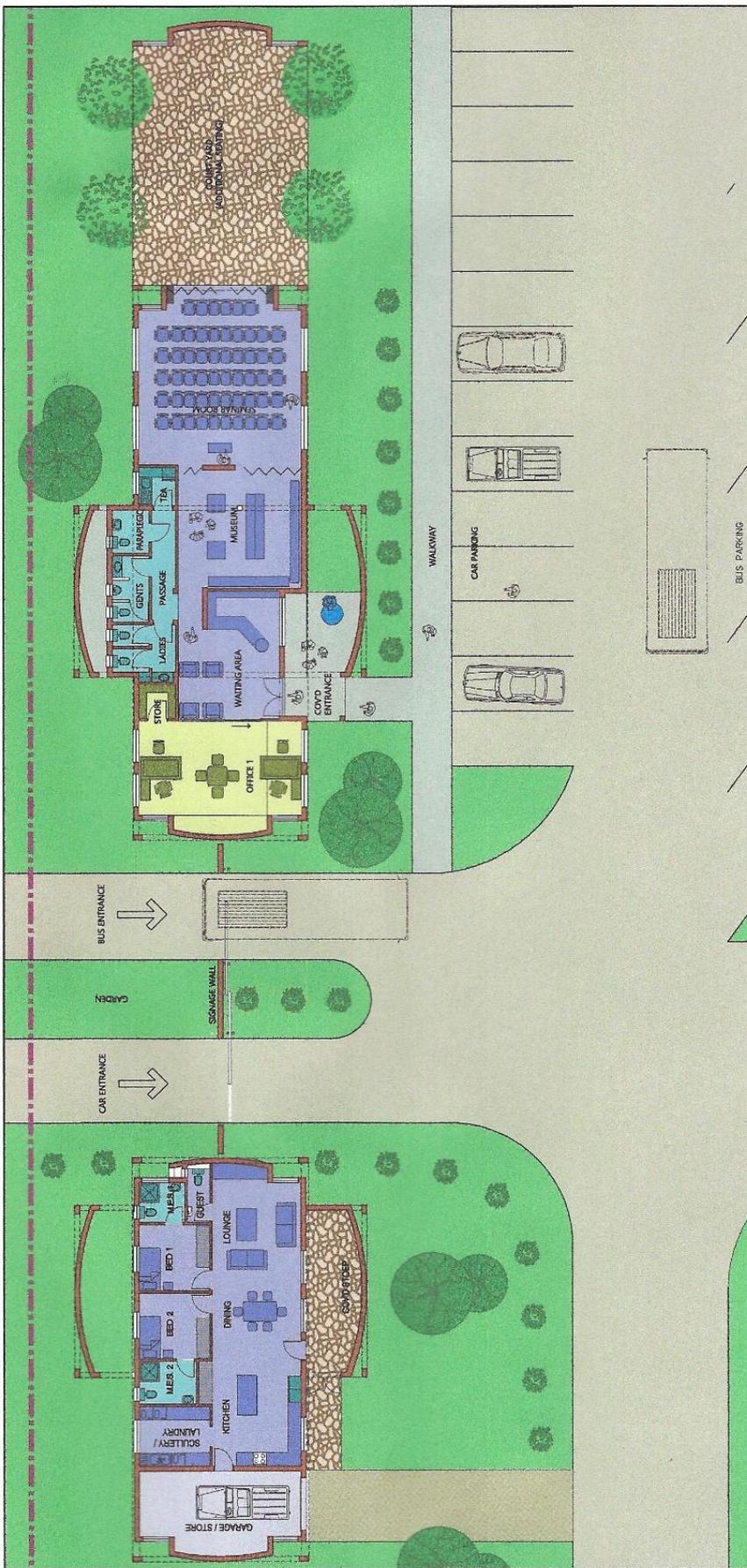
The prevailing poverty, coupled with under-development and lack of appropriate education, creates a fertile ground for these destructive beliefs. This Centre, established in an isolated rural area of Tshitani, will help to combat the scourge of ritual killings and witchcraft.

In conclusion, it must also be indicated that this Centre is going to attract people from the different parts of South Africa, as well as people from the Southern African States. This is shown by a number of people who currently want to visit Nweli for prayer and worship where the remains of Blessed Tshimangadzo Samuel Benedict Daswa are currently laid awaiting transfer to the Shrine. Pilgrims in growing numbers will also contribute to providing some of the much-needed economic spin-off for the whole of Vhembe Region, in particular for Tshitani.

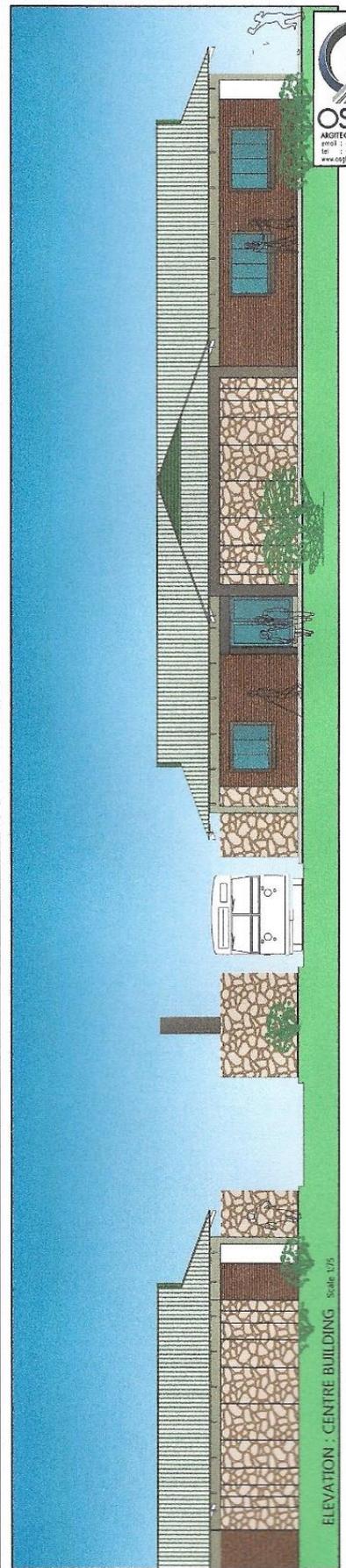
Gabriel Malaka
2015

21 October

TSD Doc 012



PLAN : CENTRE BUILDING Scale 1:100

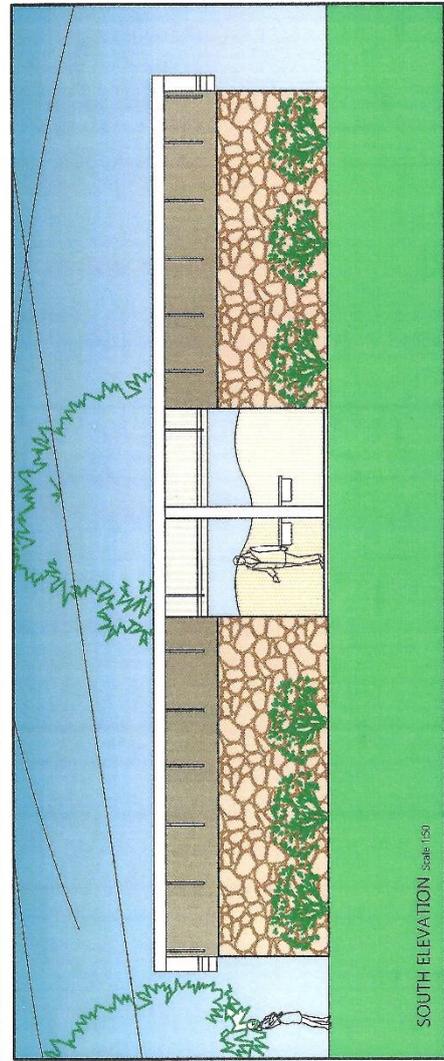
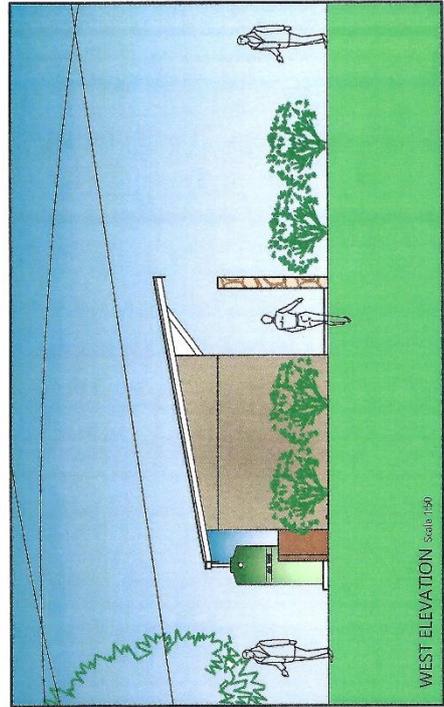
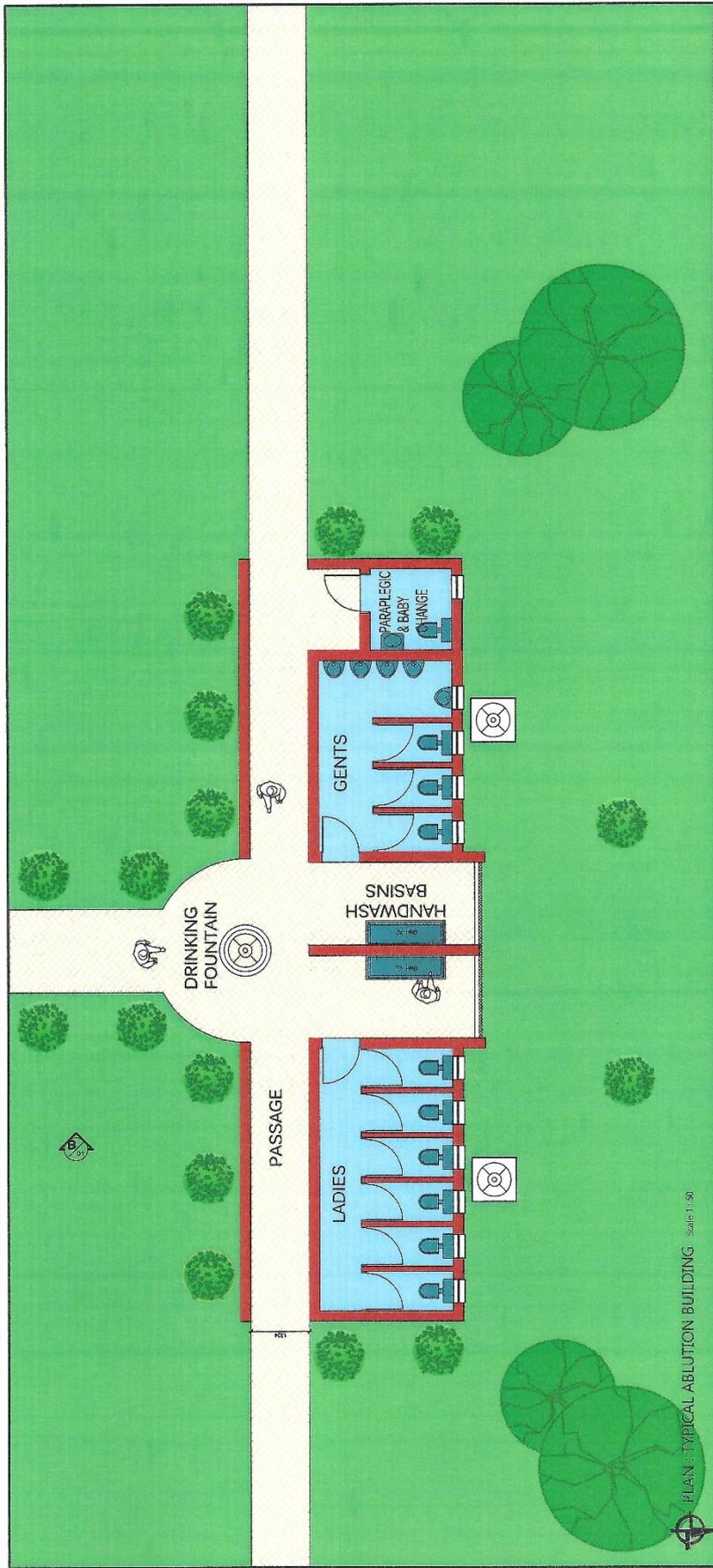


ELEVATION : CENTRE BUILDING Scale 1/5

BLESSED DASWA PILGRIMAGE CENTRE

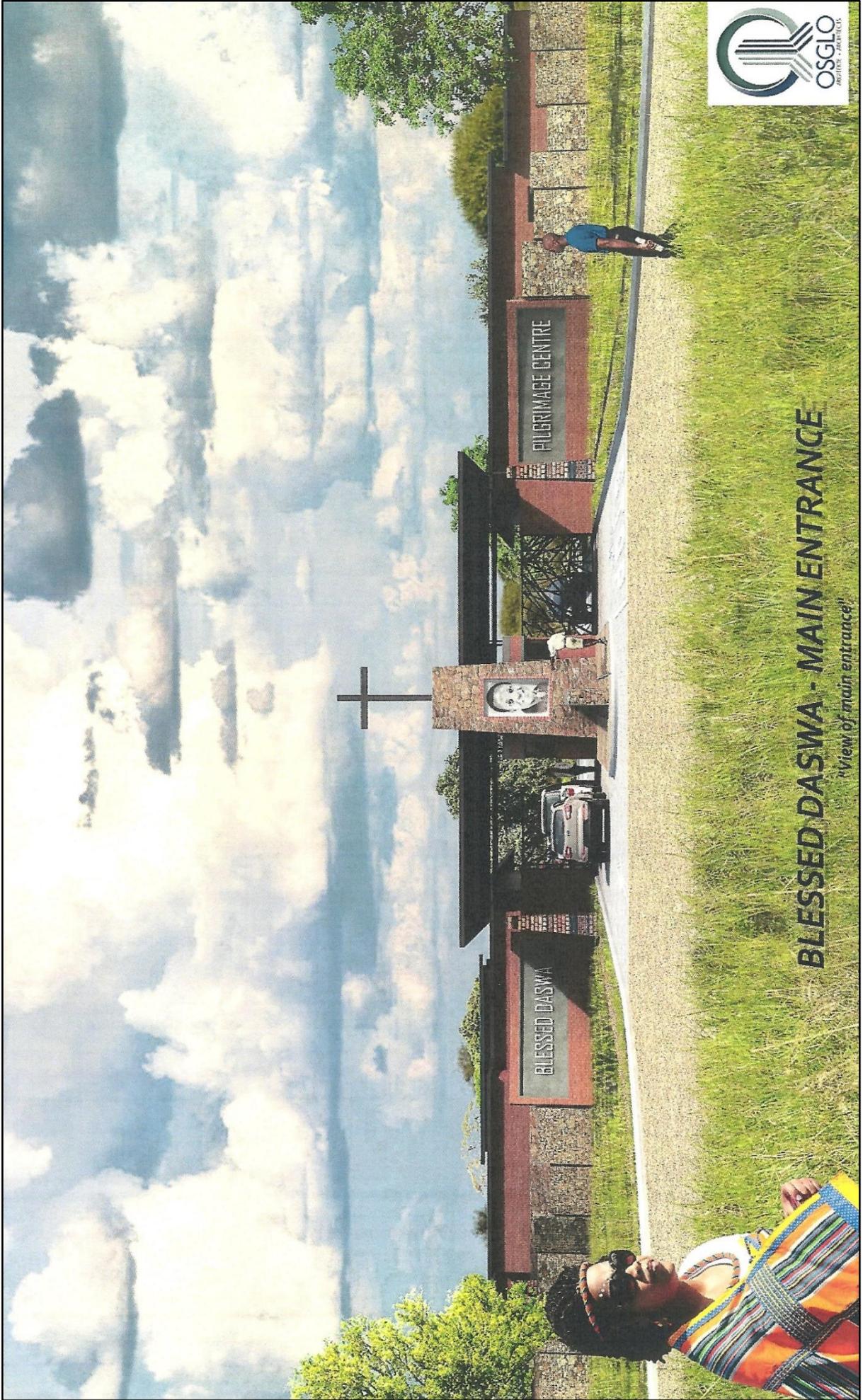
CENTRE BUILDING - plan and elevation

TSD DWG. 004



BLESSED DASWA PILGRIMAGE CENTRE

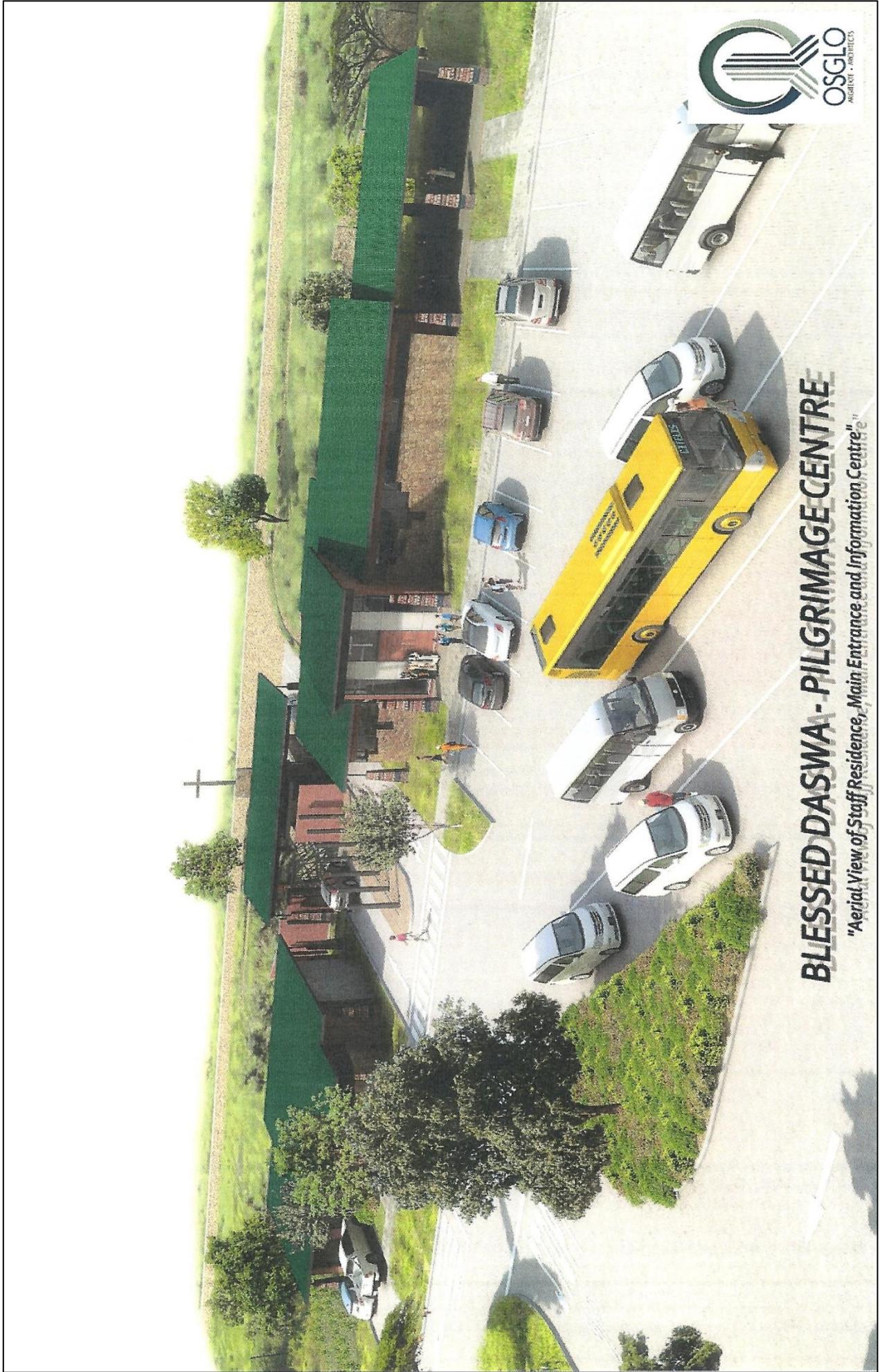
TYPICAL ABLUTIONS - plan and elevations



BLESSSED DASWA - MAIN ENTRANCE

View of main entrance!





BLESSED DASWA - PILGRIMAGE CENTRE

"Aerial View of Staff Residence, Main Entrance and Information Centre"



BLESSED DASWA - INFORMATION CENTRE

"View of entrance"



BLESSED DASWA - INFORMATION CENTRE

View from South West



BLESSED DASWA - STAFF RESIDENCE

"View from North-West"

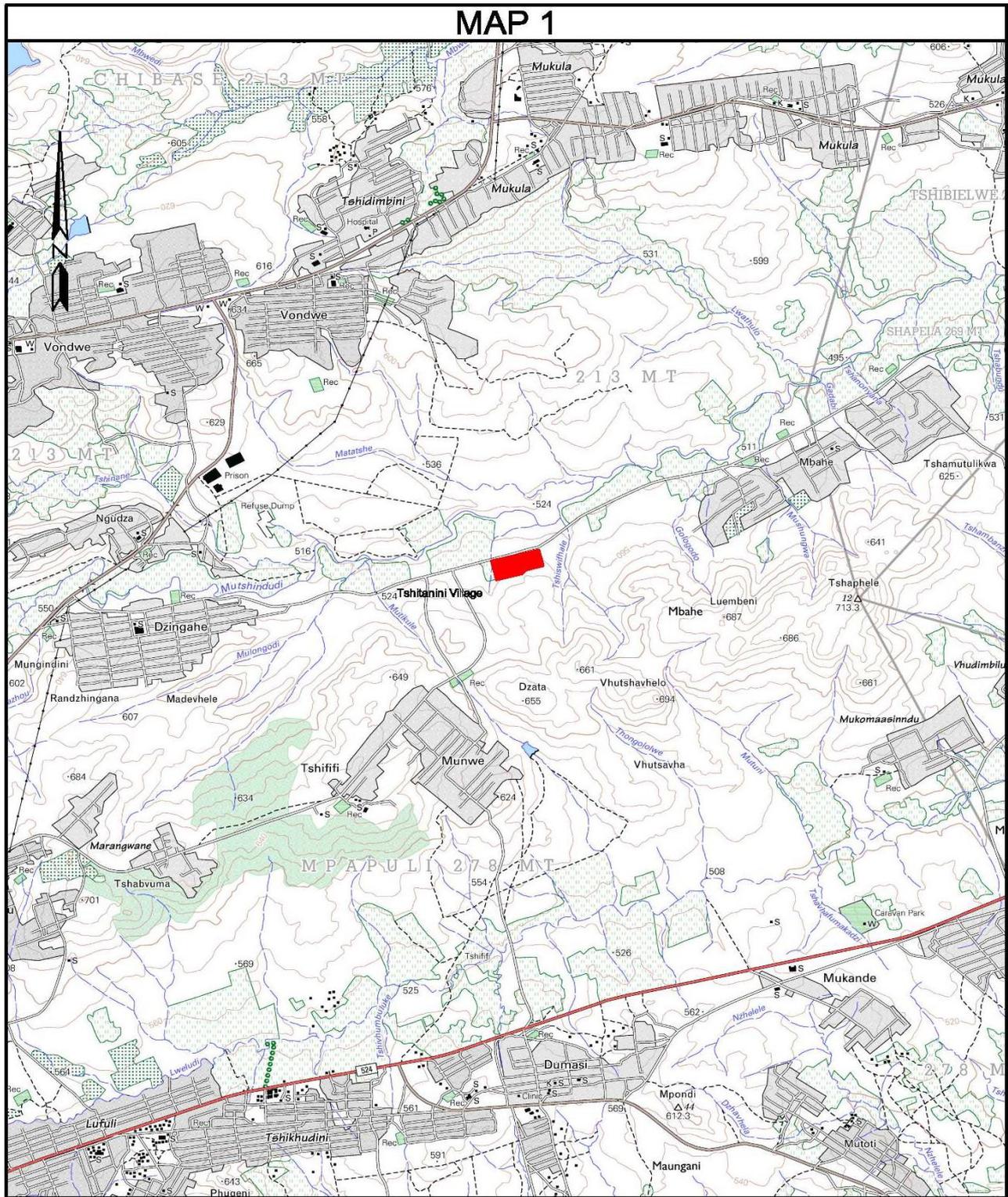


BLESSED DASWA - STAFF RESIDENCE

"View from South West"



Blessed Benedict Daswa Pilgrimage Centre



LOCALITY MAP 1

LEGEND

 APPLICATION PROPERTY LOCATED ON A PORTION OF THE FARM MPAPULI 278-MT

SCALE: NOT ACCORDING TO A SPECIFIC SCALE

**PIETERSE
DU TOIT
& ASSOCIATE
(PTY) LTD**
(2013/014886/07)

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