

Addressing Issues

The Mother Ship Project 2012

I have a dream that one day my daughter and son will be brought into a world which I can be proud of! A world where people live in dignity and freedom, where mother nature is respected and loved, where dreams are dreamt and DO come true!

The Mother Ship Project 2012

The Mother Ship Project (MSP) is a combination of different sustainable, innovative, technological and creative elements combined as a whole to sustain small communities in rural and disadvantaged areas. The planned implementation date of the first community build will be in 2012.

The project will aid in the alleviation of unemployment, homelessness, reduce crime and allow all South Africans including other disadvantaged communities to experience success and a good quality of life. And most of all to provide an alternative Eco-friendly way of living.

The problems and conditions MSP will be addressing are the following:

1. Poverty
2. Homelessness
3. Unemployment
4. Education
5. Reducing the Information Gap
6. Sustainability
7. Self-governance
8. Crime
9. Environment
10. Energy

So how will MSP (MotherShipProject) address these aspects?

The idea is to organize or purchase a piece of land in The Republic of South Africa (RSA) for the implementation of a pilot project. Three to five families will be selected from underdeveloped communities in RSA and be trained in the fields of Earthship Construction, Information and Communication Technologies and Craft Entrepreneurship.

An Earthship is a type of passive solar home made of natural and recycled materials. The homes are primarily constructed to work autonomously and are generally made of earth-filled tires, using thermal mass construction to naturally regulate indoor temperature. They also usually have their own special natural ventilation system. Earthships are generally Off-the-grid homes, minimizing their reliance on public utilities and fossil fuels.

Earthships are built to utilize available local resources, especially energy from the sun. For example, windows on the sunny side admit light and heat, and the buildings are often horseshoe-shaped to maximize natural light and solar-gain during winter months. Likewise, the thick, dense outer walls provide effective insulation against summer heat. Internal, non-load-



bearing walls are often made of a honeycomb of recycled cans joined by concrete and are referred to as tin-can-walls. These walls are usually thickly plastered with stucco. Earthships also produces its own food in internal food gardens which not only acts as source of nourishment but also acts as a natural water filter.

Once the communities have been built. These trainees will in return train another group of families. **Earthship construction will address the problem of unemployment, poverty, homelessness and reduce crime.**

The next phase would be to implement skills developed while studying Internet Technology and teach youth in the community how to dismantle and assemble old usable computers. To complete the traineeship, students will be required to implement their skills learnt by training another group of youths. Computer parts will be collected from large local and international companies and promoted as a form of e-Recycling. **This technological aspect will be addressing the technological gap facing third world countries especially Africa and also have a positive ecological effect on the environment.**

Once the computers have been assembled students will be given the opportunity to take it home for family use. A network will be built, connecting each household in the community to a common local e-government site. Open source technologies will be the center of all technological endeavors. The e-government site will be used to start a form of self-governance where technology will be used to empower individuals in the community to play an effective role in managing themselves.

There will also be a community center where crafts will be made by the community, marketed and sold creating a source of income for the community. Jobs will be created by building parts needed to build the next community, like solar panels, wind turbines...etc. A lot of training and capacity building efforts will be needed, fortunately South Africa is investing heavily in the training of underdeveloped communities creating opportunities for constructive development. **This aspect will focus on sustainable job creation for the future of the community and benefit the next community which will be built.**

So in a nutshell, MSP will be an alternative way of living which will aid us in achieving our dream of leaving our off-spring a world to be proud of!