



ArcelorMittal divisional manager, Francois Bezuidenhout, with students at the GetOn Skills development centre.

PICTURE: PHILL MAGAKOE

# ArcelorMittal funds skills development project

## SIBUSISO NAPAAI

BRAZZAVILLE residents near Atteridgeville are to benefit from a R100 000 skills development donation.

The payment was made by ArcelorMittal South Africa (Amsa) to GetOn skills development and job creation centre, located at the company's business park in Pretoria West.

GetOn is a concept of two businessmen, Jan Bijspot and Isaac Skosana, who in 2006 saw the need to develop the impoverished community of Brazzaville, a squatter community outside Atteridgeville.

The project offers life skills and also prepares students for job-readiness by providing courses that seek to develop entrepreneurial skills and business etiquette.

Courses include point of sales skills, basic computer literacy (to help with sending e-mails and CVs), baking for profit and preparing candidates for employment and developing economic skills.

"It is a privilege to contribute to

these operations," said ArcelorMittal foundation chief executive, Maggie Mopedi. "Since 80 percent of Amsa's CSI budget deals with education, this particular partnership is only fitting."

The most grateful sentiments at the cheque handover, however, came from former students, such as current office administrator Kabelo Rabaji. After finding out about GetOn, he studied with them and consequently got his first job as office assistant and teacher.

"I appreciate this centre's hands-on approach and its ability to provide the hopeless with a chance to have a productive life," said Rabaji.

Handing over the cheque, Amsa's general manager of corporate affairs, Themba Nkosi, said: "As Africans we must reverse our dependency complex to a mentality of *vuka uzenzele* (wake up and do for yourself) – giving people the capacity to be self sufficient."

GetOn graduates are often snapped up by retail outlets to work in office administration.