

RUSTENBURG COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT TRUST

FREE COMMUNITY WI-FI

DEVELOPMENT PLATFORM SUPPORTS SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

The Rustenburg Community Development Trust (RCDT) launched a free community Wi-Fi development platform which was at Mfidikwe Primary School on 7 November. It has opened up a wealth of sustainable development opportunities to the community, including information for learners, teachers and community members living within a 5km radius of the school, with plans to expand its reach in the next phase.

The community WiFi development platform and network is a community asset for development. This development platform enables residents to access a wide range of development resources on the portal including health information, educational curricula support and available employment opportunities.



KEEPING WITH THE TIMES... E-mbizo Solutions CEO Thabo Malebadi (left) and Mfidikwe Primary School headmaster Molefe Modise.

It also makes it possible for entrepreneurs to communicate with their customers and access new markets, driving economic development and social inclusion.

The project, which will modernise both the teaching and learning methods, and support improved learner performance in at least 10 local schools, was made possible through a partnership between RCDT and Anglo American Platinum.

Mfidikwe educators are excited about leveraging the wealth of digital education resources which is now easily accessible with the free Wi-Fi development platform, as learning and teaching resources, preparing the learners for a modern and ever-changing society, improving learner performance, and driving employability.



EXCITED ABOUT FREE WI-FI... Grade 7 learner Khaya Mphagele (left) and Anglo American Platinum's head of corporate affairs Seara Mkhabela.



OPTIMISTIC... Tihage Primary School teacher Refilwe Sedio agreed that modern learning techniques are the way to go.



NEW LEARNING METHODS... Representatives from Platinum, RCDT and educators from local schools agreed that the Wi-Fi project was a step in the right direction.



TECHNOLOGICALLY MINDED... Nthabiseng Matsobane, RCTD chairperson (left) and Seara Mkhabela, head of corporate affairs at Platinum, motivated the learners and educators during the launch.



Wi-Fi service providers for the project, E-mbizo Solutions chief executive officer (CEO) Thabo Malebadi said the successful rollout of the project was an example of what communities can achieve if they work together.

Platinum's head of corporate affairs Seara Mkhabela urged learners at the school to embrace modern methods of learning. "I believe in education. The quality of education is influenced by teachers and the learning methods implemented at schools. We must keep ahead of 21st century learning strategies and embrace technology – it's the future. The internet and Wi-Fi will create many opportunities. Nothing should stop you from achieving your purpose in life."

RCDT chairperson Nthabiseng Matsobane underscored the need for teachers and principals to be well-acquainted with technological advancements. "We must move with the times. E-books for learners must be a priority, and these and many other resources are available at no cost via the community Wi-Fi development platform. However, this is only possible if the educators are also well versed in the internet and digital age technology." Continuous free and professional teacher development resources via the platform supports and empowers teachers with the required skills.

Mfidikwe Primary School headmaster Molefe Modise assured the RCDT and Platinum that the digital technology infrastructure installed at the school is in safe hands and will be kept under lock and key.

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