

Investing in tomorrow's leaders today



Community members from Tlapa and Maumong villages attended the handover of the Mphe Bana ECD centre.

Mphe Bana Early Childhood Development (ECD) centre – located in Tlapa village just outside Rustenburg – has become an ideal learning environment thanks to the Rustenburg Community Development Trust (RCDT) and was officially handed over on 31 August.

The RCDT constructed brand-new buildings for the Mphe Bana ECD centre and officially handed it over to the centre on Wednesday 31 August.

The centre was established in 2010 by Wilhelmina Motepe as a nursery school for children aged one to four years, who live in the Tlapa and Maumong villages. The shack Motepe was using at the time was hardly ideal as it exposed both her and the learners to harsh weather conditions during hot summer days and the cold winter months.

The RCDT, who were recently informed about this challenge, stepped up to the mark.

In less than three months – from June and August 2022, the RCDT built two buildings; one of which, has two classrooms and adjacent ablution facilities, and a second building which includes a kitchen and an

office for administration. The classrooms were also equipped with air conditioners.

In addition, work was put into a colourful and large playground area of which was also equipped with swings and seesaws, which now provides the 38 learners at the centre with endless hours of fun when they are not getting lessons.

At the ribbon-cutting ceremony, community members joined the children in song.

RCDT chairperson Nthabiseng Matsobane urged members of the community to take pride in the centre. "ECD centres are very important for the development of our children. That is why we mobilised financial resources and stepped in to help. It is our hope that this centre goes on to benefit future generations of learners," Matsobane said.

"Our children are the future. This centre is one of the first steppingstones in achieving their future dreams."

**Mphe Bana ECD centre principal
Wilhelmina Motepe**



"Community development is our passion."

RCDT chairperson Nthabiseng Matsobane



From left: Royal Bafokeng Administration's Tlapa chairperson Boitumelo Lefine, Rustenburg Local Municipality ward 29 councillor Patrick Phutu, Mphe Bana ECD centre principal Wilhelmina Motepe, and RCDT chairperson Nthabiseng Matsobane officially unveiling the buildings with a ribbon-cut ceremony.

Rustenburg Local Municipality ward 29 councillor Patrick Phutu described the centre as a major breakthrough for the community. "The construction of this centre was completed in a record time. Centres like these are a beacon of hope, a place where we can teach our kids from a young age to shun drugs, alcohol abuse and to concentrate on their education. Values are instilled in kids when they are still young."

Principal of Mphe Bana ECD, was overcome with joy.

"I am very grateful to the RCDT for assisting us because we were really struggling before their intervention. We can see that this donation made the children happy – they couldn't wait to inspect every corner of the buildings and have fun in the playground. We are very blessed with the brand-new and decent learning facilities," she added.



Royal Bafokeng Administration's Tlapa chairperson Boitumelo Lefine (left) and Mphe Bana ECD centre principal Wilhelmina Motepe enjoyed a glass of water inside the kitchen.



The Tlapa and Maumong villages are one ECD richer thanks to RCDT.



The colourful painted play area will provide hours of delight!



Tracey could hardly keep her son Kgosi Monyatsi from the swing set; he was very excited to get onto the jungle gym.



There was no end to Princess Buthelezi's fun on the swings! Her mom, Maria Nyoni, definitely found Princess' favourite hangout spot!