

# Building up the next generation

Two early childhood development (ECD) centres have been revamped, thanks to the Rustenburg Community Development Trust (RCDT). The upgrades at the Tshelang Ka Lethabo centre in Seritube and the Tshwaraganang centre in Sunrise Park were unveiled on 11 March.



**"The brain of a young child is able to absorb specific information and skills easily. Once that window of opportunity passes, the same information and skills must be learned the hard way."**

**RCDT chairperson  
Nthabiseng Matsobane**

Investing in education is one of the strategic pillars of the RCDT, which took a holistic approach to helping the centres improve their learning environments. This included providing training in communication, teamwork and problem solving to the centres' employees.

"We trust that this intervention will go a long way towards building a foundation for future leaders and critical thinkers," said RCDT chairperson Nthabiseng Matsobane.

## Tshelang Ka Lethabo ECD centre

Martha Khuduge started the Tshelang Ka Lethabo ECD centre in her backyard in 2004. She named the school after her grandson, Lethabo, and her granddaughter, Tshelang, who passed away at the age of 13.

The nanny who looked after Khuduge's grandson did not come to work one Friday, so Khuduge had to take time off from work to look after him. A few phone calls to people in the area revealed the need for childcare in her community. Within the first week of opening, she already had 15 children to care for.

The centre moved to new premises with three prefab structures in 2014.

Their state of disrepair led Khuduge's ward councillor, Richard Ntsimane, to reach out to the RCDT in 2021.

As a result, the centre now has two new classrooms, a storeroom and a bathroom as an addition to the prefab structures.

The new classrooms are also airconditioned and have been brightened up with colourful paintwork.

The Tshelang Ka Lethabo centre provides breakfast, lunch and snacks to 20 children, aged two to four.

## Tshwaraganang ECD centre

Ponatshego Diraditsile started the Tshwaraganang ECD centre in Sunrise Park in 2000. Thanks to RCDT, the old building that housed the centre was demolished and replaced with a new building containing two classrooms and a bathroom.

The centre provides breakfast and lunch to 25 children aged two to four.



**Educator Kentsenao Diraditsile with Tshireletso, her daughter.**



**Ponatshego Diraditsile,  
Tshwaraganang ECD supervisor**



**Martha Khuduge,  
Tshelang Ka Lethabo ECD supervisor**