



The Library and Information Association of South Africa

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2014

Breadline Africa launches 40th Mandela Day Library

Itemeleng Primary School – 15 April 2014

Reddersburg, Free State.

The 15th April 2014 marked the launch of the first Mandela Day library sponsored by Via Afrika Publishers. An organisation that has taken the concept of a library and expanded it into what they describe as a digital centre of learning. Itemeleng Primary in the Free State is the first of 3 schools benefitting from the sponsorship which not only includes a library facility, but also access to 15 tablet computers which hosts an interactive platform through which teachers and learners alike may engage the curriculum. In addition to this, there are 400 ebooks loaded onto each tablet as well as wireless internet access.

Through this incredible investment, Via Afrika Publishers have proven themselves to be at the forefront of digital access in under resourced schools, and they have only begun. In shared vision with Breadline Africa and the Nelson Mandela Foundation, Via Afrika Publishers believe in building a strong foundation at primary school level. Their contribution will not only inspire a love of reading, but also build critical skills needed as children move into an ever changing and technologically driven

world. It can be described as the kind of access to information and resources that gives communities like Reddersburg a real opportunity to develop and grow.



In support of the initiative was MEC of Education in the Free State, Mr PHI Makgoe. His presence and speech was inspiring and testament to the rate at which the Free State as a province is positively improving in literacy development at primary school level.

LIASA is a professional non-profit organisation, uniting and representing all institutions and people working in libraries and information services in South Africa. It strives to unite, develop and empower all people in the library and information field into an organisation that provides dynamic leadership in transforming, developing and sustaining library and information services for all people in South Africa.

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The school, selected by Breadline Africa and the Soul City Institute, showed gratitude and a tremendous amount of enthusiasm for the library facility and all the educational resources included in it. Learners celebrated with all invited guests in a display of traditional dance, poetry and singing. The commitment of the active Soul Buddyz group was also acknowledged and it was an assuring moment to recognise leadership being promoted among learners.

We look forward to launching the next 2 in Limpopo and Mpumalanga provinces and would like to thank Via Afrika Publishers for the great input they have had in helping to create a space that is exciting and inspiring to the 852 learners at Itemeleng primary. We know that they will, undoubtedly, be spending much of their time in the library.



Jade Orgill

Project Manager, Breadline Africa.

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