

ESKOM CONTRIBUTES TOWARDS THE WELLNESS OF CHILDREN

MAPELA: Hundreds of children in poor communities are to benefit from newly improved Early Childhood Development (ECD) centers in Mapela, thanks to ESKOM, the department of Social Development, Mogalakwena Municipality and Hans Masebe Langa II who officially opened crèches in Mapela, Millennium and Rauwele village respectively. The two crèches, WitRivier Educare and Stirum are registered NPO organizations established in 2005 and the other in 1996 at Mapela (Rauwele and Millenium villages respectively).

The preschools aim to take care of farmworkers' and local community members' children by providing a suitable environment for early childhood development activities that stimulate language, learning and creativity.

Previously the preschools were operating in shacks, but now Eskom has given them structures, educational toys and learner materials. The items donated are to the value of R60 000 for each preschool.

The purpose of this donation is to give back to the local community in which Eskom operates and to support the vision of universal access to education for all. Eskom has built a new 400 kV and 132 kV substations (Borutho project) next to where the preschools are located.

At the handover celebration, Mr Dikgabane Rampedi, Eskom's Customer Relations Manager in Limpopo said this was not a donation but an investment. He encouraged the community members to support the Borutho project so that Eskom could continue to electrify new households. He also appealed to the community to ensure that these two buildings and educational toys are well taken care of.

Marcus Lengwate, Programme Manager of Borutho said the economic growth of our country depended on Eskom's ability to supply a reliable source of energy. Eskom can achieve this with the support of and collaboration with community members within which projects are executed. Eskom further donated food parcels and school uniforms to Millennium Primary School.

Mogalakwena Municipality's representative Cllr Malesela Mokwele urged community members to join hands and recognize the ECD sector as one of the key basic necessity of all South Africans.

As we work alongside each other we realize that there are better ways of improving the lives of our people in rural areas. We are grateful of ESKOM's gesture as we continue to focus on ensuring that ECD practitioners and governance structures are equipped through training and mentorship.

"As we celebrate 23 years of democracy, we should remember what our beloved Tata Nelson Mandela once said, I quote "Education is the most powerful weapon which you can use to change the world". I am quite certain that these words apply to us today. Our children can only be free if they get proper and good quality education," Mokwele signed off.

Eskom encourages its customer to report illegal connections by sending an anonymous sms to 32211.