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AS MECS WELCOME THE END OF THE LIMPOPO INTERVENTION, PONDO COMBINED SCHOOL WELCOMES ITS BRAND NEW UP-CYCLED CONTAINER LIBRARY

Limpopo, August 6th, 2014 – Just a few days ago, 5 Limpopo MECs were handed back control over their departments.

In a province where financial mismanagement threatened to paralyze service delivery, national government took control of almost half of Limpopo's departments including education, health, public works, roads and transport and treasury. It has taken the administration more than two-and-a half years to bring financial stability and sustainability to the affected departments.

In a move to support the province and some of its greatest assets, Breadline Africa in partnership with SHOUT SA launched a brand new SEED library at Pondo Combined School based in the Mopani District of Limpopo. Reading is a fundamental function in society. Most of our daily activities depend on the ability to read and people are limited in what they can accomplish without good reading and comprehension skills.

In the Annual National Assessments of 2013, the Department of Basic Education reported a direct relationship between literacy results and learner access to resources. In comparing grade 6 learner achievement levels based on government ranked poverty quintiles, the 2013 scores revealed a 16% difference in First Additional Language (FAL) results between those schools least resourced and those with good access. For Limpopo, being one of the two least resourced provinces in public education resource access in South Africa, this investment by SHOUT SA is certainly welcome.

Whilst education remains a top priority for government, non-profit and private sector organisations like Breadline Africa and Shout SA are pleased to be supporting government in its efforts by investing into primary level education. "The Mandela Day Libraries project is a simple yet impactful and sustainable initiative," says Jade Orgill, Breadline Africa Project Manager. "We need to inspire a love of reading in a way that has a positive impact on literacy at primary school level. The art and discipline of reading is absolutely essential in gearing our children to become tomorrow's leaders. Investing in education is so important if we are to make significant inroads into transformation."

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At the launch, school Principle Mr. Mkansi said, “The children of Pondo Combined Primary School are inspired to achieve the many wonderful things around them but don’t necessarily know how. Books are a way of inspiring children and a way of allowing them to live into their dreams.”

Breadline Africa is looking forward to launching many more Mandela Day Libraries across South Africa in the upcoming months – the benefit of which ensures that South Africa’s children have the opportunity to access the wonderful world of reading, one book at a time.



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