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## **FOLLOWING A WAVE OF VIOLENT CRIME IN KHAYELITSHA, A TRANSFORMED MASANDE BRINGS A MULTI-COLOURED MESSAGE OF HOPE**

Cape Town, August 5th, 2014 – Located on the Cape Flats and nestled in the busy township of Khayelitsha, a little educare centre called Masande, received two upcycled 6 metre container classrooms, a 6 metre container kitchen and a 6 metre ablution block, on Tuesday 5th August. As part of last month's globally celebrated Mandela Day, the radiantly coloured containers stood on display at the V&A Waterfront's Clock Tower Square. It attracted locals and foreigners alike and served its purpose of educating the general public about just how functional upcycled containers can be.

IsiXhosa for new home, Khayelitsha welcomed the new learning centre for 42 learners between the age of 6 months and 6 years old. Following a spate of violent crime in the area, the brightly coloured Masande, which means "let us grow", brings an uplifting "good news" story and message of hope to community members. Prior to receiving the new classroom and kitchen the conditions of Masande were shocking to say the least – severe leaking, no flushing toilets, an insufficient amount of educational and developmental learning material, etc. Nevertheless, it provided a reliable early childhood development service to the community.

Ntombentsha Sobekwa, the manager of Masande, was a community health worker for 15 years before starting the educare centre. Going from door-to-door, Ntombentsha came across many children both affected and infected by HIV/Aids, tuberculosis, sexual abuse and neglect. Moved by compassion, Masande opened its doors on January 12th 2009 to some of Khayelitsha's most vulnerable children.

As Breadline Africa, Macquarie Securities and the Desmond & Leah Tutu Legacy Foundation presented Ntombentsha with the key to her new facility; she was overwhelmed with gratitude and joy and with tears in her eyes said, "I don't know how nor do I have the words to thank you for what you have done for me and the children of Khayelitsha Site C. When I started the centre, conditions were very bad and time after time I was promised help from other NGOs, but nothing ever came of it. A huge weight has been lifted off my shoulders today – finally, a promise delivered."

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Programme Director for Breadline Africa Puleng Phooko said, “One of the most inspiring things about working for Breadline Africa is the fact that we are able to support individuals, like Ntombentsha, who make a remarkable difference in the lives of children who are exposed to dreadful conditions and who come from heart-breaking circumstances. As a team we are more than thrilled to be supporting Ntombentsha and ultimately the community in this way.”

Happily lodged in its new home with donations of blankets, books, educational and developmental learning material, collected and gathered for the centre during Mandela Month, Masande looks forward to its continued work in the community of Khayelitsha.



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