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Breadline Africa Launches 69th Library in Limpopo with Air Traffic and Navigation Services

Silvermine Village, 25 April 2016 – The village of Silvermine, located approximately two hours away from Polokwane, Limpopo was in the news for all the wrong reasons in 2012. There were no centrally located primary schools and villagers were forced to send their children to primary schools in neighbouring villages. Reports of children being assaulted – some even raped – on their way to school forced parents and community members into action and they approached the Department of Basic Education (DBE) for a school of their own.

Realising that they could not afford to wait for a response from the official channels, the community started Selowe Primary School as a ‘tree school’, teaching learners under trees and in shacks in the village. Teachers were not remunerated and learners had no materials to learn with during this time.

By the end of 2015, this resilient community had received a brick and mortar primary school with nine new classrooms and four paid teaching staff from the DBE. In addition, in partnership with Breadline Africa, Air Traffic and Navigation Services (ATNS) recently sponsored a 12m x 4.8m school library. Breadline Africa has trained three staff members in library systems and management, and sponsored the delivery of more than 1 000 books. ATNS also provided 23 notebook computers, a printer, and a data projector and screen that can be moved to different classrooms, as needed.

The nearby high school, Ramohlakana Secondary was also the recipient of sponsorship. ATNS refurbished their science and computer laboratory for grades 8 to 12. This was the venue for the celebratory event, which took place after dignitaries formally handed over the library and equipment at Selowe Primary.

The Deputy Minister of Transport, the Honorable Sindisiwe Chikunga, the Executive Mayor of Capricorn District Municipality, Councillor Gilbert Kganyago and CEO of ATNS, Mr Thabani Mthiyane, addressed the audience of approximately 500 guests. They spoke of the importance of access to books and technology resources and the need for children to be comfortable with using them from an early age. They also commended the community for their steadfast drive and working together to bring the village of Silvermine the much-needed infrastructure and support.

The high school learners shared song and poetry during the ceremony, after which they had an opportunity to find out how they could build a career in aviation by visiting the ATNS-manned stations on display.



Above: The ATNS sponsored library at Selowe Primary, implemented by Breadline Africa



Above: Parents of children attending Selowe Primary preparing for the handover ceremony.

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