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## Official Handover of the Lo-Itekile Primary School Library Mapetla - Soweto, Gauteng Mandela Day - 18 July 2016

Celebrating Mandela Day has become something of a tradition in South Africa – taking the time on 18 July to volunteer time and effort for the betterment of society offers a brilliant opportunity to pay homage to the man who changed a nation, and the world.

This year, Breadline Africa was privileged to spend Mandela Day launching a new 12m container library at Lo-Itekile Primary School in Soweto, Gauteng. This library was kindly funded by Hollard Group Risk.



Three years ago, this small 46-year-old school with 265 learners was in a poor state and struggling to produce good academic results. When the current principal – Mrs Thembisile Qodashe – was appointed, she was able to successfully turn the school into a thriving and well managed institution. Mrs Qodashe is recognised as the person behind the change by her team of teachers, as well as in the surrounding community.

The team at Hollard Group Risk saw the potential that her interventions had created and decided that a library partnership between the company and Lo-Itekile would be an ideal way to promote literacy and a love of reading in the school.

Ms Busisiwe Dlamini, Head of the Gauteng Department of Education Library Services explained that she was confident that the school would make good use of the library facility. Her feelings were echoed and supported by the Hollard Group Risk representatives.

Mr Victor Boshomane from Phiri Library - a local community library - will be helping out at the school until such time as a permanent librarian is identified. He expressed excitement at being able to help out and assured everybody that he would do his very best to make full use of the library.



Following a programme of poetry, drama and dance performed by the learners, a charismatic traditional leader – Ms Nana Shomang, expressed how she wished she had completed her schooling. She said the enthusiasm shown by the learners at the event made learning seem thrilling and exciting. She articulated her envy for all the great opportunities that await them.

Volunteers from Hollard Group Risk ensured that the library looked bright, beautiful and inviting – a much-needed asset for the school, to be well used and looked after!

Pictured below is the Hollard Group Risk representative, Ms Cathleen van Eeden handing over the library keys to the school's principal, Mrs Thembisile Qodashe.



Hollard Group Risk representatives Ms Gabrielle Poole (front left), Mrs Fiona Simon (front right), Ms Cathleen van Eeden (back left) and Mr Peter Robinson







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