



## Bushbuckridge Libraries' Handover 7 September 2017

Breadline Africa recently received funding from the National Lotteries Commission to establish five container libraries in Bushbuckridge. The official handover event took place on Thursday, 7 September 2017, in celebration of International Literacy Day, at Saile Primary School, one of the beneficiaries of a new library.

The other schools that were identified as being in need of libraries were: Farel Primary School, S.H. Nyalungu Primary School, Ntsie Primary School and Mothaileng Mashego Primary School, reaching almost 3,000 children.

Bushbuckridge Local Municipality is located in the North-eastern part of Mpumalanga Province, covers 198,000 ha of land area, of which 1970 ha are agricultural land, and consists of 135 settlements divided into 34 wards. Unemployment is very high in the region, especially in rural areas, with less than 15% of the total population employed.

Breadline Africa's partner, Room to Read, will provide literacy support to learners at each of the five schools for the next three years. The provision of container libraries at these schools makes it possible for Room to Read volunteers to work from a dedicated space and to expose learners to literacy materials.

Mrs Lucy Moyane, the Department of Basic Education's Deputy Director-General: General and Further Education and Training, addressed learners during assembly and encouraged them to make *Reading for Pleasure* part of what they do every day. She also committed to ensuring that through the Education Department's Library and Information Services, schools would be supported to ensure that the library is optimally utilised.

Dignitaries and guests thoroughly enjoyed the entertainment provided by learners, which consisted of traditional dance and reading of poetry, as well as a short reading of books from the new library.

This was the first project to be completed since Breadline Africa and Room to Read started to work collaboratively to provide library facilities in under-resourced public primary schools in South Africa, thereby increasing learner access to relevant and age-appropriate literacy resources and support.

