



Iziko Lokuthuthukiswa Komphakathi  
Lefapha la Tshebetso le Ntshetsopele ya Sechaba  
Department of Social Development  
Departement van Maatskaplike Ontwikkeling

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**TO :** Ms. Christina Vanech  
**FROM :** Department of Social Development

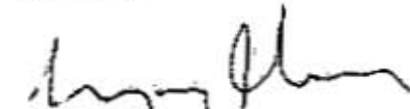
On behalf of the children of South Africa I would like to thank you for setting up an excellent model kindergarten (Grade R) classroom at Thabisile Primary School in Soweto, and for all the other projects in which you and your group have upgraded educational facilities in the West Rand Region. Educationists, psychologists and social development experts are all agreed that early childhood education is crucial, and that children who receive an excellent early childhood education are more likely to excel in academics than those who do not. Learning outcomes are greatly affected by the quality of school facilities; this is why we are grateful to you for working with the Global Literacy Project to set up a top quality classroom that has become a model to be emulated in Soweto, and for your other work in the West Rand Region.

The other Grade R classrooms that you and your group set up at the other three Primary schools in the West Rand Region in 2008 are an equally important contribution to early childhood education in South Africa. The teachers and learners of Bulelani, Zuurbekom, and Setholela primary schools are proud of their newly upgraded Grade R facilities, and grateful for the thousands of books that you helped bring to them.

Also, the library that you and your group established at the Carol Shaw Memorial Center Farm in the Wheatlands has become an important center for literacy and hope for the impoverished children of the former farm laborers in the Wheatlands. This library has brought literacy and great joy to hundreds of children in the last two years. As you may be aware the parents of the children who use this library are illiterate because they are victims of the past apartheid policies of racial segregation and domination. Illiterate parents cannot teach their children to read and write. Fortunately, the library that you set up with your group provides both books and reading programs. This is good news to all of us because education is the foundation of social development.

We hope that you will continue to do work in the interest of Early Childhood Development

Thank you

  
TEBOGO ITUMELENG (Mr.)  
DIRECTOR: WEST RAND