

Thabazimbi Welcomes a New Community Representative Trustee



The community members voting during the Thabazimbi Community Representative Trustee

By Staff Reporter

In January 2025, the Chairman of the SIOC Community Development Trust (SIOC-CDT) Board, Mr. Llewellyn Delport, accepted the resignation of Mr. Tumisang Pilane following his appointment as the Mayor of Thabazimbi. His new role required him to vacate his seat as a community representative trustee on the SIOC-CDT Board.

While much can be said about this transition, the Trust Deed is clear that a person may not serve as a trustee if they are employees of government or they are public representatives. The Trust Deed defines the Board of Trustees as the governing body responsible for the operations, governance, and accountability of the Trust. It also stipulates that the Board must include community representatives elected from the municipalities in which SIOC-CDT operates.

This development gave the Stakeholder Relations and Communications team a new task: to facilitate the election of a new community representative trustee for Thabazimbi local municipality. Under the leadership of Mr. Mosimanegape Macomo (Head of Stakeholder Relations and Communications), the team approached this election differently from last year's Ga-Segonyana local municipality process. Guided by the Board's mandate to encourage greater gender representation, the 2025 election aimed to elect a woman to the Board of Trustees, hence the nomination was exclusive to female candidates.

To ensure the process was transparent, credible, and fair, an independent party the Independent Election Facilitators of

Southern Africa (IEFSA) was appointed to oversee the elections. IEFSA played a vital role in managing the voting process and ensuring that all procedures adhered to the highest standards of integrity and accountability. The SIOC-CDT played a role of overseeing the process to ensure that it is undertaken as intended.

The journey began in July 2025, with a series of roadshows across the Thabazimbi Local Municipality to conduct voter education and awareness campaigns. The elections took place on 4-5 October 2025 through a hybrid model that combined online and physical voting administered by IEFSA.

This marked the second time SIOC-CDT facilitated such an election in Thabazimbi. In 2022, about 47% of registered voters cast their ballots. By contrast, in 2025 the voter registration rate doubled, and turnout increased to approximately 51%, this is a more than 100% improvement in participation compared to the previous election. The fact that the number of people that registered to vote doubled in the year 2025. These figures highlight the growing reach and credibility of the Trust among its beneficiary communities.

At the conclusion of the election, Mrs. Malebo Sikwane was elected as Thabazimbi's new community representative trustee. Her election reflects the Trust's ongoing commitment to inclusivity, transparency, and community-driven representation. In line with the Trust Deed, these elections reaffirm SIOC-CDT's dedication to empowering communities to select their own representatives, ensuring that every municipality where the Trust operates has a strong and accountable voice at the governance table.



Across our beneficiary communities, we continue to witness inspiring acts of collaboration, innovation, and resilience — values that lie at the heart of the SIOC Community Development Trust (SIOC-CDT). As we journey further into 2025, we are reminded that sustainable development thrives when people work together, each initiative reinforcing the next in shaping the future we envision for our communities.

In this issue, we reflect on several milestones that embody this shared vision. The election of Mrs. Malebo Sikwane as Thabazimbi's new Community Representative Trustee marks another step forward in inclusive leadership and community participation. At Reenpan Primary School, the introduction of interactive learning boards has brought technology to the classroom, opening new ways for learners and teachers to connect, explore, and grow.

Through the Discretionary Grant Fund, we continue to empower grassroots initiatives — from food gardens to youth-driven projects — that build self-reliant and proud communities. Our engagements with NGOs, government departments, and local leaders reaffirm that collaboration remains the foundation of lasting impact. Together, we are crafting communities that can drive their own development.

As part of our child health awareness efforts, we are strengthening the message that every child deserves not only education and opportunity, but also access to good health and wellbeing. Healthy children are better learners and future leaders.

To the Class of 2025, we wish you success as you prepare for your final examinations. Your determination inspires our commitment to continue investing in brighter futures.

I invite you to explore these stories and celebrate the collective progress they represent — one community, one partnership, and one dream at a time.

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Empowering Learning Through Technology at Reenpan Primary

By Staff Reporter

In a major step toward transforming rural education, the SIOC Community Development Trust (SIOC-CDT) has installed interactive learning boards at Reenpan Primary School in the Limpopo Province. This initiative forms part of SIOC-CDT's continued commitment to enhancing education quality in its beneficiary communities and aligns directly with UN Sustainable Development Goal 4 (Quality Education).

The introduction of interactive boards marks a shift from traditional chalk-and-talk methods to dynamic, digital classrooms where both teachers and learners engage more deeply with the curriculum. These smart tools allow educators to display multimedia lessons, integrate videos, and encourage hands-on participation, making learning more visual, engaging, and effective. The boards have currently been installed in the Grade 4 - 7 classes in the school. This is an initiative

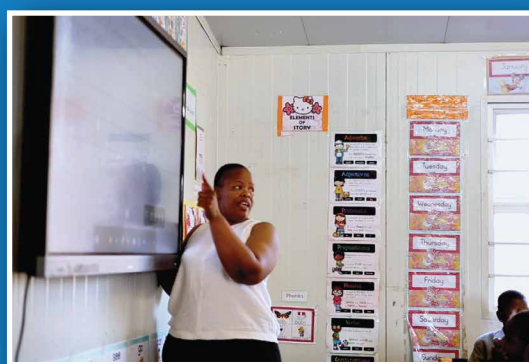
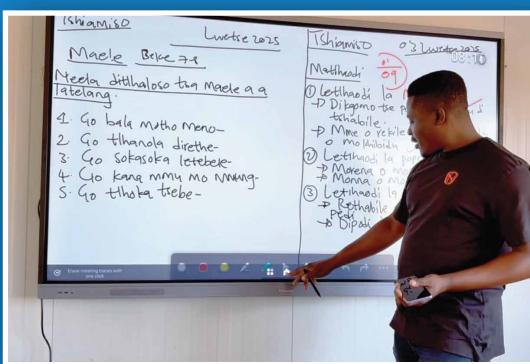
of about R189 268.

For schools in rural areas like Reenpan, the benefits go beyond the classroom. Technology helps bridge the gap between urban and rural education systems by exposing learners to modern digital tools, improving computer literacy, and nurturing problem-solving and critical thinking skills essential for the 21st century. Teachers also gain access to a wealth of online teaching resources, empowering them to deliver lessons more efficiently and creatively, even in resource-limited environments.

"Through this project, we are not just investing in technology but we are investing in futures," says SIOC-CDT Head of Stakeholder Relations and Communication, Shimmy Macomo. "Every learner deserves access to quality education that inspires innovation and opens doors to new possibilities" - he further says.

With initiatives like this, SIOC-CDT ensures that even the most remote schools have the tools they need to equip young minds for *the future*.

"It hasn't been long that these interactive boards were installed and the teachers underwent a brief user orientation, and it is amazing how we are already reaping the fruits of these technology based system, The curriculum implementation is peaking. Reenpan is characterized by a high staff complement who are youth and they are enjoying this gadgets making our migration from the conventional chalk-board teaching mechanism much easier. We are very thankful to SIOC-CDT for taking a need to advance rural-farm school like ours to modern technologies and make us part of the globe," says Mr Mogotsi, Principal of Reenpan Primary School. Technology in schools is the future, and SIOC-CDT is making it a reality.



Newly sponsored interactive boards at Reenpan Primary School - Thabazimbi

Discretionary Grant Fund Update

By Staff Reporter

Announced early in 2025, the SIOC Community Development Trust's Discretionary Grant Fund was set-up with its primary role being to support small but impactful initiatives that strengthen and empower communities. Each of the five beneficiary communities i.e. Joe Morolong, Ga-Segonyana, Gamagara, Tsantsabane, and Thabazimbi, all receiving equal allocation of the fund, with Community Representative Trustees playing a crucial oversight role on the process by virtue of their proximity and extensive knowledge and understanding of the needs of their respective communities.

The fund was designed to support once-off initiatives that focuses on building community pride and resilience. Examples include food gardens, clean-up campaigns, soup kitchens, and projects assisting vulnerable groups. The fund also supports events and awareness activities aligned with national and global observances, such as campaigns on poverty eradication, environmental protection, and projects that promote sports, arts, culture, and recreation. With the allocations made, each qualifying initiative could receive up to R50,000 maximum grant.

For the current 2025 financial year, Tsantsabane, Ga-Segonyana and Gamagara have already closed their application processes, as the allocated funds for these areas have been fully utilized. This reflects the strong interest from community members, particularly in sports, arts and culture, and poverty alleviation initiatives such as soup kitchens. In total, more than 30 projects have been approved across the beneficiary communities. The application process was designed with clear criteria to guide applicants, ensuring that opportunities remain open and accessible. Each initiative is allowed to apply only once per year to create fair access for all.

The Discretionary Grant Fund is a testament to SIOC-CDT's ongoing commitment to building resilient, empowered communities. By investing in grassroots initiatives, the Trust continues to make a meaningful and lasting difference in the lives of the beneficiaries. Let us list all the initiatives approved and granted. Just initiative, its focus and beneficiary area

Building Stronger Communities Together through NGO Capitation



Stakeholders attending the strategic sessions - Northern Cape and Thabazimbi

By Staff Reporter

SIOC-CDT is deepening its commitment to inclusive, community-driven development through a series of stakeholder engagement sessions with NGOs, government departments, sports federations, and community leaders across its beneficiary areas. These sessions, held in both the Northern Cape and Limpopo provinces, lived up to the expectations as they showed to be inclusive vibrant platforms for dialogue, collaboration, and shared vision-building around sustainable community development.

From the Northern Cape to Limpopo

The consultative journey began in the Northern Cape, where stakeholders from Gamagara, Ga-Segonyana, Tsantsabane, and Joe Morolong areas gathered in Kathu (29–30 September 2025). Discussions focused on NGO capacity building in with a mission of empowering local organizations to lead in tackling community challenges and designing people-centred solutions. Building on that momentum, SIOC-CDT hosted the Limpopo chapter in Thabazimbi (2–3 October 2025). The sessions sparked robust

dialogue and innovative ideas, weaving together health, wellness, environmental sustainability, and sports development into a holistic approach to community upliftment.

Collaboration in Action

The Thabazimbi engagement was enriched by the participation of the SA Swimming Federation, community formations, government departments, and esteemed dignitaries including Mayor Tumisang Pilane (Thabazimbi Local Municipality), Ms Ria Ledwaba (former SAFA Vice-President), and Mr Ali Pole (President of the Limpopo Sport Confederation, whilst the Northern Cape sessions also attracted participation from among others, the JTG Sports Federation, JTG Sports Council, Tsantsabane sports clubs, Development Partners such as Tshikululu Social Investments, Beeshoek and BlackRock mines, SAFA region and many other formations. Their contributions underscored the shared commitment to building stronger, more resilient communities through partnership and collaboration.

Government institutions such as the provincial departments of

Education, Sports, Arts and Culture as well as Social Development in both the NC and Limpopo attended these sessions, and this is very encouraging for SIOC-CDT, as they are key role players from government stakeholder point of view. The inputs received from these sessions will be tabled before our Board of Trustees for consideration in enhancing our strategy to be as holistic and inclusive as possible, said Mr Tao Mutsago, SIOC-CDT Head of Projects.

A shared vision for sustainable growth

Through these engagements, SIOC-CDT is crafting an inclusive capacity-building strategy that seeks to empower local structures to drive a meaningful change in the Trust's beneficiary communities. By integrating health, wellness, environmental, and sports components, the initiative promotes a holistic model of community development.

"Together, we are shaping a future where communities thrive through collaboration, leadership, and shared solutions."

Child Health Wellness is key to save the generations

By Staff Reporter

“Ngwana sejo wa tlhakanelwa – a child belongs to the community.” Guided by this belief, the SIOC Community Development Trust (SIOC-CDT), in partnership with Save the Children South Africa and key government departments, has launched the Child Health Awareness initiative in Northern Cape (JTG and Tsantsabane) and Limpopo (Thabazimbi).

The campaign, launched in August and October respectively, aims to combat malnutrition and improve child health. It brings together the Departments of Health, Social Development, and Home Affairs, which provided mobile services including birth registrations, health screenings, immunizations, nutrition advice, and counselling.

Community change agents and project coordinators play a central role in identifying children at risk and linking them with health professionals. Save the Children also works with dietitians and specialists to ensure targeted support.

“This initiative brought real relief to families in need,” said Kgadi Magongoa, SIOC-CDT Programme Manager for Health and Wellness. “We are grateful for the strong community turnout and the impact of these services.”

More than a health intervention, the project empowers communities and strengthens referral systems to ensure children get the right care at the right time. It aligns with Sustainable Development Goal 3: Good Health and Well-being—ensuring every child has the opportunity to grow, thrive, and succeed.



Activities during the launch of Child Health Awareness - Deben

A Message of Encouragement to the Class of 2025



As the SIOC Community Development Trust (SIOC-CDT), we extend our warmest wishes to all matriculants across our beneficiary communities of Gamagara, Ga-Segonyana, Joe Morolong, Tsantsabane and Thabazimbi as you prepare to write your final examinations.

This is a defining moment in your journey, a time to reflect on your hard work, perseverance, and commitment to building a better future for yourselves and your communities. Your determination and focus embody the spirit of growth and progress that SIOC-CDT champions through all its community development efforts.

At SIOC-CDT, we believe that success is built on action, not words. Through our matric support programmes we have given to the learners from the beneficiary schools, we are confident that it remains a worthwhile collaborative effort and this has proven over the years with the positive results.

As you take this important step forward, remember that your efforts today are an investment in the brighter tomorrow you wish to create.

We are proud of each one of you and confident that your dedication will lead to success, opening doors to new opportunities in education, careers, and personal development. “Define your future through your actions, because your dreams deserve the best of your effort.” From all of us at SIOC-CDT, we wish you the very best for your matric exams.

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