

## Kuruman Celebrates the Launch of Seven Locally Authored Books



Discretionary Grant Fund: The Launch of Seven Locally Authored Books

### By Staff Reporter

SIOC Community Development Trust (SIOC-CDT), in partnership with the Marang Career and Information Centre, proudly hosted the launch of seven locally authored books on Saturday, 22 November 2025, at Kuruman Lodge. The event brought together more than 80 guests, including SIOC-CDT Trustees, Exco Members, officials, local book clubs, families, and community members. The celebration highlighted the achievements of seven writers from communities across the Ga-Segonyana Local Municipality—all members of the Marang Book Club, recognised by the National Arts Council for its contribution to developing local authors and fostering a love for reading.

Through the SIOC-CDT Community Discretionary Fund Programme, the full publishing of all seven books was funded, with each author receiving 50 complimentary copies. The featured works included:

- **Khumo le Lehuma** by Motshegofatsi Brilliant Pitsane, a poetry collection inspired by the Setswana proverb “*Khumo le lehuma di lala mmogo.*”

- **The Brave Royal Princess** by Orefile Casey Olyn, a fictional story capturing a young girl's royal dreams.
- **Mosetlhe Wa Tsela** by Puleng Marama, a first-time poetry publication.
- **Dikgang Kgang Tsa Botshelo** by Tshepang Fong, a poetry collection drawing from personal life experiences.
- **The Old Disgusting Man** by Realeboga Visagie, a short story as her debut work.
- **Uncle Lebogang and the Little Girl** by Lebogang William Sehako, a real-life story promoting disability awareness.

- **Mosadi Tshwene** by Mpho Lekgetho, her ninth publication and a continuation of her community-driven literary efforts.

This partnership reinforces Marang CIC's ongoing work in youth development, career guidance, social awareness, and reading programmes, further supported through its participation in the SIOC-CDT NGO Capacitation and Karabelo GBVF Programme. Together, SIOC-CDT and Marang CIC continue to uplift local talent and strengthen a culture of reading and storytelling within the community.



Across our beneficiary communities, we continue to witness the power of partnership, compassion, and shared purpose — values that define the work of the SIOC Community Development Trust (SIOC-CDT). As we close 2025, we are reminded that sustainable change is built through consistent collaboration, community leadership, and an unwavering commitment to human development.

In this issue, we celebrate several milestones that reflect this enduring vision. The graduation of 48 Early Childhood Development practitioners stands as a testament to our belief that education begins long before a child enters the classroom. By strengthening the hands that shape young minds, we ensure that every child has the chance to thrive.

We also honour the creative voices emerging from Kuruman, where seven local authors proudly launched their published works.

Their stories, rooted in lived experience and cultural identity, remind us of the importance of nurturing talent and building a vibrant culture of reading in our communities.

Through our new Malnutrition Prevention Project, launched in Tsantsabane and Ga-Segonyana, we reaffirm that child wellbeing is central to community wellbeing. The strong turnout at our Child Health Awareness Day events shows a shared commitment to ensuring that every child grows up healthy, supported, and safe.

Finally, we reflect on the progress of our mental health work showcased at the 2nd SA Mental Health Conference. The Ke Botlhokwa programme continues to demonstrate that with the right tools, our rural health workers can bridge critical gaps and bring dignity, hope, and care closer to those who need it most.

I invite you to read through these stories, each one a reminder of what we can achieve when communities stand together — one programme, one partnership, and one step toward a more equitable future.

Editor:  
**Mosimanegape Macomo**

### Where to find us?



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## List of approved projects for the 2025 Discretionary Community Grant Fund across municipalities within our beneficiary communities.

By Staff Reporter

1. Joe Morolong – Loopeng – Registered Company – Music Concert
2. Joe Morolong – Pennyn – Community Representative – Transport, Equipment
3. Tsantsabane – Boichoko – Group – Boxing Club Tournament
4. Gamagara – Olifantshoek – Individual – Cleaning Campaign
5. Tsantsabane – Maranteng / Mountain View – NPO – Soup Kitchen
6. Gamagara – Olifantshoek – Individual – Food Garden
7. Gamagara – Siyathemba, Kathu – NPO – Cleaning Campaign
8. Gamagara – Kathu, Siyathemba, Mapoteng – NPC – Sport Equipment Donation
9. Gamagara – Siyathemba – NPC – Soup Kitchen
10. Tsantsabane – Boichoko – NPC – Soccer Tournament
11. Gamagara – Olifantshoek – NPO – Netball Tournament
12. Tsantsabane – Postdene – Group – Cleaning Campaign
13. Tsantsabane – Maranteng, New Town – Group – Cleaning Campaign
14. Ga-Segonyana – Batlharos – NPC – Football Tournament
15. Ga-Segonyana – Bankhara Boodulong – NPO – Pre-School
16. Ga-Segonyana – Maruping – NPO – Early Learning Centre(Garden Fencing)
17. Ga-Segonyana – Batlharos – NPO – Sports Equipment and Apparel
18. Ga-Segonyana – Sedini Village – NPO – Sports and Arts in School
19. Tsantsabane – Boichoko – Group – Cleaning Campaign
20. Ga-Segonyana – Batlharos – Group – Soccer Tournament
21. Ga-Segonyana – Gantatelang – Individual – Agricultural Equipment
22. Ga-Segonyana – Kuruman – NPO – Book Publishing
23. Tsantsabane – Postdene – NPC – Soup Kitchen
24. Gamagara – Mapoteng – Individual – Donation for Dance Equipment
25. Tsantsabane – Boichoko – Team – Netball Tournament
26. Gamagara – Kathu Town – Team – Netball Tournament
27. Tsantsabane – Postdene – NPO – Soup Kitchen
28. Tsantsabane – Postdene – NPO – Soup Kitchen
29. Gamagara – Olifantshoek – Community – Soccer and Netball Tournament
30. Joe Morolong – Maphinini – NPO – Donation of Food Gardening Materials and Food for the Aged
31. Joe Morolong – Tsineng – Team – Donation of Soccer Kits for Schools
32. Thabazimbi – Regorogile – Private Company – Donation for Play Structures

## Early Childhood Development Practitioners graduate from Custoda



SIOC-CDT/Custoda 2025 NQF Level 5 Early Childhood Development graduation event

By Staff Reporter

Our commitment remains unwavering—to ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and to promote lifelong learning opportunities for all, in line with Sustainable Development Goal 4. One of the keyways we advance this goal is by supporting Early Childhood Development (ECD) practitioners through structured training, valuable resources, and continuous professional support to enhance their skills.

SIOC-CDT, in partnership with CUSTODA Trust, has implemented a tailored programme designed to meet the specific needs of practitioners working in our beneficiary communities. This initiative focuses on improving the standard of ECD learning and laying a strong foundation for children's future education.

ECD represents a crucial developmental period from birth to five years, during which the foundations for a child's physical, cognitive, emotional, and social growth are established. Investing in ECD is essential for promoting social equity, levelling the playing field for disadvantaged children, strengthening long-term human capital, and breaking intergenerational cycles of poverty.

A massive congratulations to our 48 dedicated ECD Practitioners who have successfully completed their NQF Level 5 qualification through this fully funded programme! Your hard work, dedication, and passion for early learning are truly inspiring. Thank you for your unwavering commitment to giving our children the strongest possible start in life. Together, we are transforming Early Childhood Development across our beneficiary communities.



## Project fighting child malnutrition launched in Tsantsabane and Ga-Segonyana



Scenes of activities during the malnutrition project launch events

### By Staff Reporter

The SIOC Community Development Trust (SIOC-CDT), in partnership with Save the Children South Africa, social development and the department of health have launched a new Malnutrition Prevention Project in the Tsantsabane and Ga-Segonyana Local Municipalities. The initiative aims to reduce child malnutrition, strengthen community health systems and support caregivers with essential knowledge and services. Where the project have appointed community agents to find and refer qualifying children to the project.

Launch activities took place through Child Health Awareness Day events at the Batlharos Community Hall in

Ga-Segonyana and the Postmasburg Show Grounds in Tsantsabane. hundreds of parents, caregivers and children participated in sessions on infant nutrition, breastfeeding, child safety, birth registration, access to child support grants and the importance of enrolling children in ECD centres. Families also connected with health referral pathways and received educational materials to continue learning at home.

The project comes at a critical time. Both municipalities have long faced high levels of poverty due to limited economic opportunities, historic inequalities and uneven access to basic services. Many households

struggle with food insecurity, making children especially vulnerable to stunting and preventable illnesses. The new programme responds directly to these challenges by focusing on early nutrition, accessible services and stronger support networks for families.

Through this partnership, stakeholders aim to build healthier communities and ensure that every child has the chance to grow, learn and thrive. The strong turnout at both events shows a shared commitment to breaking the cycle of malnutrition and giving children a healthier future.

*Happy Holidays*

To all our Stakeholders

As we wrap up the year, we want to thank our stakeholders, partners, and beneficiary communities for walking this journey with us. Your support, ideas, and hard work have helped the SIOC Community Development Trust strengthen its impact and bring real change to our communities.

We truly value your partnership and spirit of togetherness.

We wish you all a safe, joyful and restful festive season. May 2026 bring good health, hope, and new opportunities for us all. We look forward to continued collaborations in the new year to build stronger and thriving communities.

From the Board of Trustees, the Executive Management and all Staff of SIOC Community Development Trust

# Showcasing Rural Mental Health Success at the 2nd SA Mental Health Conference 2025

By Staff Reporter

The SIOC Community Development Trust (SIOC-CDT), through its Health and Wellness Unit, together with its mental health programme implementing partner Anova Health Institute, proudly participated in the 2nd SA Mental Health Conference 2025 held at Emperors Palace on 28–29 October 2025.



SIOC-CDT at the 2nd SA Mental Health Conference 2025

At the conference, Dr. Enock Zibengwa from ANOVA Health Institute presented a research paper, while Ms. Kgadi Magongoa, Programme Manager: Health and Wellness at SIOC-CDT, presented a poster showcasing the Ke Botlhokwa (“I Matter”) programme. Their presentations were delivered under the theme: “Building Skills to Improve Access to Mental Health Services in Rural Communities of Limpopo and Northern Cape.”

## Background: Mental Health in Focus

Mental health continues to be one of the most serious public health issues in South Africa.

- More than 25% of South Africans experience mental health challenges
- Yet fewer than one in four receive the treatment they need.
- Rural areas are particularly affected due to a shortage of trained health

care workers and limited screening for mental health conditions.

To help close this treatment gap, SIOC-CDT, in partnership with ANOVA Health Institute and the Department of Health, launched the Ke Botlhokwa (“I Matter”) programme. The initiative aims to build the capacity of existing Primary Health Care (PHC) workers in Limpopo and the Northern Cape to identify and support people with mental health needs. The focus of the programme is specially focused on the SIOC-CDT beneficiary communities i.e. Thabazimbi in the Limpopo, and Gamagara, Ga-Segonyana, Joe Morolong and Tsantsabane in the Northern Cape.

About the Ke Botlhokwa Programme  
The name Ke Botlhokwa means “I Matter”, a reminder that mental health is just as important

as physical health. The programme works with 15 primary health care facilities across Limpopo and Northern Cape, equipping health workers to screen, identify, and refer patients needing mental health support.

Key Achievements:  
Empowering Local Health Workers  
Since its launch in 2023, the Ke Botlhokwa programme has shown significant results:  
- 92 PHC workers trained in mental health screening and referral using the validated Brief Mental Health (BMH) tool.  
- 6,797 people screened for mental health conditions between November 2023 and June 2025, a huge rise from just 36 cases identified, annually, before the programme.

- 1,678 people (25%) screened positive and were referred for counselling or clinical support.

This achievement shows how upskilling current clinic staff can dramatically expand access to mental health services without hiring new staff. Reducing Stigma and Strengthening Communities  
By including mental health screening in routine services such as HIV, TB, and chronic care, the programme reduces stigma and helps people seek help earlier. Community awareness and leadership support at clinic and district level have been essential to the programme’s success.

“Our findings show that with the right tools and support, existing health care workers can make a big difference in closing the mental health treatment gap,” said Dr. Enock Zibengwa from Anova Health Institute.

“Through Ke Botlhokwa, we are proving that every person’s mental health matters, and that care should be accessible to everyone, no matter where they live,” added Ms. Kgadi Magongoa, Programme Manager: Health and Wellness at SIOC-CDT.

“We are not building a parallel system,” said Ms. Magongoa. “We are strengthening the one that already exists, ensuring that mental health care is integrated, accessible, and sustainable for rural communities.”

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