

After-school care center officially opened

On Friday, the opening of the iThemba elitsha after-school care center made a dream come true for the Kleinmond community and the childcare. Special measures have been taken to comply with the guidelines against the spread of the coronavirus, for example, the chairs were set up for the guests at a great distance and the celebrations were considerably reduced.

Just in time for the opening there was water and electricity on the site and many other initial problems were resolved. Unfortunately, due to the current situation, the children are not allowed to use the new facility until the lockdown ends.

"Kareebome" (trees from the small Karoo (area in South Africa)) were planted. As the saying goes, the trees have symbolic values such as protection and tranquility for life. We hope that the center can convey these values to many children and that one day their children and grandchildren will find peace and tranquility even in the shade of these trees.

Due to the Corona crisis, the main sponsor DER Touristik Foundation and the co-founders of Themba Labantu were unable to attend the opening ceremony. The mayor was represented by Council Grant Cohen. The initiator of the project, Simone Dimmerling, was present.

Theresa Els, the manager of Child Welfare, emphasized the following goals of the center:

- Children from grade 5 (10 years) who would be home unsupervised in the afternoon are looked after and supported with their homework
- Prevention work (drug abuse, violence in families, drifting away in crime)
- Games & fun & Sports
- Later also internships and training advice
- In addition, a "girls club" is to be founded, in which mainly "women issues" such as teenage pregnancies etc. can be discussed
- Computer Knowledge

After the speeches, the children performed two dances with a lot of fun.

Then the trees, which were donated by the Temba Nursery, were planted. The "opening ribbon" was cut and the children received cupcakes and Sweets.

Caption 1: Denovan van Rhodie (builder) Cherry Ronbeck (Chair Person Child Welfare) Grant Cohen (Councilor Overstrand Municipality)

Caption 2: Grant Cohen, Theresa Els and Simone Dimmerling officially open the iThemba elitsha youth Center

Caption 3: The children go home with a cupcake in one hand and sweets in the other