



MEDIA RELEASE FROM BALLITO JUNCTION REGIONAL MALL

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***Ballito Junction and Build the Future Project complete first phase of new Vukuzakhe Crèche***

Ballito Junction Regional Mall together with Build the Future project have successfully completed the first phase of the much-needed early childhood development and learning centre in Ndwedwe.

The brand new Vukuzakhe Crèche, located 35km from Ballito Junction in the iLembe District now boasts a classroom with toilets and water tanks, as well as playground equipment enclosed by a fence and lock up gates.

Previously, the Vukuzakhe Crèche operated from a tiny mud hut, prompting Ballito Junction Regional Mall's co-owners, the investment consortium of Menlyn Maine Investment Holdings and Flanagan & Gerard Property Development & Investment to make funds available for the construction of a permanent preschool.

Providing a safe and productive learner-friendly environment for the children at Vukuzakhe Crèche forms part of Ballito Junction's commitment to being a long-term force for good within the community.

CEO of Ballito Junction Regional Mall, Geraldine Jorgensen, says: "Our efforts in this project are geared towards making a positive impact in the lives of the youngest members of our community and securing a better and brighter future for the people of our region. Early childhood learning centres not only provide a crucial foundation for later education, they are also spaces where little ones can create, play, laugh, explore, and make friends – all vital ingredients in the development of happy, well-rounded individuals."

The project has already seen substantial collaboration between Ballito Junction's partners WBHO, MDS Architecture, Smith & Winfield, Vision Elevators and community-based family businesses like Super Construction and Bhambhayi Hardware to ensure maximum benefit to the local economy and meaningful skills development.

Shoppers have the opportunity to lend their support to this community-changing initiative by donating educational toys, play mats, crayons, paper and colouring in books for the Vukuzakhe Crèche at any of the We Care boxes located on Level 4 and Level Six of Ballito Junction.



“We are grateful to have the opportunity to be involved in this initiative which puts positive, sustainable and long-lasting benefits for the people of our community at its heart. With the generous assistance of our partners, local businesses and shoppers we’re confident we can do even more to help those who need it most,” says Jorgensen.

**Ends/**

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