

MAYOR EXTENDS GRATITUDE TO LOVE LIFE FOR EMPOWERING BLOUBERG YOUTH THROUGH COMPUTER TRAINING AND CALL ON MORE YOUNG PEOPLE TO MAKE USE OF OPPORTUNITIES ON OFFER

Blouberg Local Municipality Mayor, Her Worship Cllr Maria Thamaga, has extended her heartfelt gratitude to the Love Life management for the successful long-standing partnership with the municipality.

Today, the municipality witnessed two hundred and fifty-three (253) young people graduate in Senwabarwana after successfully completing a two month computer programme - Cyber Ys implemented by Love Life and Save the Children.

The training programme is aimed at empowering local youth with much needed computer skills to enable them to work efficiently and effectively with the Fourth Industrial Revolution (4IR) world.

In her keynote address delivered by the Municipal Manager, Mr Refilwe Ramothwala, the Mayor commended the partnership, which dates to 2019 when Mr Sithole, Love Life provincial manager entered the gates of Blouberg Local Municipality and from there on, relations were strengthened, which brought much needed support for the youth.

"We are meeting here today to celebrate.

Today ke letšatši la mekgolokwane

CEO, since 2022 after the official opening of Love Life Youth Centre, I must say that we felt the presence of Love Life in our municipality, that is the reason we declared old Ratanang as the main youth centre in as far as youth development is concerned. We have witnessed the start of computer lessons and more than 150 have graduated with computer literacy certificates.

On 26 July 2025, about 220 young people graduated from this computer training programme, and today, a month later, we are graduating 253 students. Young people are continuing to show interest in this programme and that demonstrate the need for us to continue with the project.

We welcome and appreciate the donation of 5 computers and for paying 3 facilitators who play a very important role in the day-to-day running of this project. Thank you so much for investing in the future of young people of Blouberg. "

YOUTH CENTRES

As the municipality and Love Life celebrate the milestone achievement of the partnership, Mayor Thamaga called on young people to take advantage of the opportunities that are offered.

The municipal youth centre offers several programmes geared towards youth development. The old Ratanang youth centre offers free Wi-Fi, two months training course, psycho-social support, sports facilities, free outdoor gym. In partnership with Capricorn District Municipality, the municipality, has other youth centres, which also offers free Wi-Fi and computers, and those centres are; Langlaagte, Inveraam and Eldorado.

"Young people must use all these services to better their lives. We requested Love Life to use these centres as additional training centres. This will help take the training programme closer to the young people.

CEO, you and your team heard and understood us that this free computer training programme must reach even young people in the far flung rural areas. Thank you for recruiting 3 groundbreakers who will assist in the implementation of this very important programme that seeks to empower us with much needed computer skills. "

The Mayor congratulated the graduates and advised them to utilize the opportunity for the betterment of their future, community, and that of the country as the future of the country depends on them.

"Bana baka, congratulations to all of you. Halala baswa ba Blouberg halala! We have put our trust in you to turn things around.

Use the skills that you have acquired here to, amongst others;

- * Run your own successful businesses
- * Brighten your CV's
- * Contribute positively towards the development of your communities.

Computer skills have become an entrance to the world of coding, robotics, and the fourth industrial revolution(4IR). You need basic computer skills to do everything, including running a successful business.

Stay focused, love yourself, believe in yourself, forget about your family background, and start your own future. Former President Rolihlahla Mandela once said, and I quote "Everyone can rise above their circumstances and achieve success if they are dedicated to and passionate about what they do" end quote. I challenge all of you to make a decision that they are going to change the circumstances of their family, community, and the Municipality at large.

To all partners, Love Life, Save the Children, and all stakeholders, our partnership has stood the test of time. Let us continue to build on our successes for the future of young people of Blouberg Local Municipality".