



**PHELANG  
BONOLO**

**BOTSHILU  
PRIVATE HOSPITAL**

**TO: MEDIA HOUSES**

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**BOTSHILU PRIVATE HOSPITAL AND BMR FAMILY HEALTH CLINICS MADE A  
DIFFERENCE IN THE COMMUNITY THIS MANDELA DAY**

“What counts in life is not the mere fact that we have lived. It is what difference we have made to the lives of others that will determine the significance of the life we lead.” These were the words expressed by our iconic hero Mr. Nelson Mandela on the 18th May 2002, whilst speaking at the 90th birthday celebration of Walter Sisulu.

The management and staff of Botshilu Private Hospital and BMR Family Health Clinics echo the same sentiments as we strongly believe that it takes one family at a time to make a difference in the community. We all have the power to transform the world and to make a long-lasting and positive impact to those in need.

As everyone is encouraged to set aside 67 minutes of their time to recognise, celebrate and commemorate Mandela Day on the 18<sup>th</sup> of July annually, this year we called upon all citizens and raised donations of 640 sanitary pads, toiletries, cleaning and washing detergents. This was in place of our annual fun walk which unfortunately we had to forgo this year due to the global COVID-19 pandemic.

The hospital has previously adopted five non-government organisations (NGO's) that are within a 10 kilometres radius of the hospital in February 2020. Two of these homes, namely; Xola Disability Centre and Good Hope Community Centre accommodate young girls who are in their pubertal stages, and just like many other NGOs in the country; stricken worse by the pandemic, they do not have the luxury to afford basic hygiene essentials like sanitary pads and toiletries.

“The idea behind this donation drive was initiated by Dr Reshoketsoe Rampedi, after realising the financial impact that COVID-19 left on many families and organisations. It is disheartening to know that many of them are not able to afford to buy their monthly essentials because a lot of companies and institutions that were previously sponsoring them were forced to cut down their budgets on sponsorships and donations”, Mrs Boitumelo Mphake, Stakeholder Relationship Manager at Botshilu Private Hospital.

“We often come across news articles about young girls not being able to go to school during their menstrual periods as a result of not having sanitary pads. Every girl deserves the right to dignity and a decent life. And it is Mr Mandela’s humanity that inspired us to take action to offer

help in such times of uncertainty with heightened financial predicaments”, continued Mrs Boitumelo Mphake

Dr Reshoketsoe Rampedi is the daughter of the renowned and respected family doctor Dr Jacky Rampedi who is the founder and CEO of Botshilu Private Hospital and the three BMR Family Health Clinics located at Soshanguve, Lebanon and Wonderpark Mall.

“My father is passionate about uplifting the community and this is testimonial in his own work after establishing a 100% black-owned private hospital bringing an affordable, accessible and world-class healthcare in the township of Soshanguve. All his life he has been working selflessly and tirelessly to give back to the community by making sure that everyone has an opportunity to experience private healthcare right at their doorsteps and also creating employment for a vast number of families in and around Soshanguve. With this in mind, we saw it fitting to continue to follow his footsteps to give back to the community by affording young girls the freedom to be comfortable and confident when on their menstrual periods, preserving their dignity. To make a difference in someone’s life, you do not have to be brilliant, rich, beautiful or perfect, you simply just have to care”, said Dr Shoki, as affectionately known.

Our staff, doctors, supportive services and other stakeholders really joined hands and played their part to make a difference in a girl’s life. Amongst the donations, was a box of 200 *Happime* sanitary pads donated by Nephrologist Dr FikileTsela, the founder of Happime Foundation.

“Happime Foundation, is an organisation dedicated to fighting period poverty by providing high quality sanitary pads to girls in disadvantaged communities, ensuring that the girl child stays in school. And thus, we are very honoured to join the hospital and the BMR clinics today to make it possible for these young girls to go to school during their menstrual periods”, Dr Fikile Tsela

Xola Disability Centre and Good Hope Community Centre were also relying on handouts from other families in their neighbouring areas but unfortunately, many of these families have lost their jobs or are receiving salary cuts so they too, are not able to continue in committing to assisting them.

We are truly grateful to everyone who joined hands with us in continuing Mr Mandela’s legacy by making donations of sanitary pads, toiletries, cleaning and washing detergents to these two homes earlier during the day. And as the hospital is continuously playing its part to flatten the curve and to end the spread of the Coronavirus, unfortunately there was no formal program for the handover of the donations and everyone was wearing their facemasks and sanitised their hands regularly.

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For more information and times that we will be visiting these homes and directions, please contact:

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