

## **Knowledge is Power**

*Article and photographs by: Cpln B.M. Maleho, Res Cpln AFB Swartkop  
During Ops CORONA*

The opening of Philasande Crèche in Upper Tugela was one of the most significant projects that Charlie Company, Natal Carbaneers Pietermaritzburg under Joint Tactical Headquarters KwaZulu-Natal (J-Tac HQ KZN) had within the community of Upper Tugela. The Project began two years ago during the deployment period by Charlie Company Commander Maj E.M. Msimango. It was finished during the same period but was awaiting opening and handing over.

When Maj Msimango was deployed to the area again he initiated the opening and handing over of the Crèche to Ms Sizeni Sishange, the principal of Philasande Crèche and to the community. We went to do a recce to check what was needed and the number of the children that have registered. We also planned to give the children late Christmas presents for them to take home and a small feast to mark the occasion. The aim of buying gifts was to put a smile on the little ones' faces. The gifts were bought from the money donated by members in Merrivale Military Base and platoons at Upper Tugela and Himeville Military Bases.

On 08 February 2019, the day of the opening and handing over of the Crèche the Chaplain opened the ceremony. Referencing Proverbs 22:6, she read -

“Teach children how they should live, and they will remember it all their lives.”

She emphasized the importance of educating children from a young age in their homes, communities, day care centers and up to university level. Once they are taught they will forever remember and cherish the lessons that they were exposed to. Once they have knowledge they will have the power to drive the success wheel in life. Imparting knowledge to young minds is a powerful weapon for them to succeed in life.

The opening was honoured by the presence of Maj Lucky Boyboy from Natal Carbaneers Pietermaritzburg, Maj L.B. Ncube from J-Tac HQ Kzn, Deputy Mayor Mrs Thabile Ngozo and Councillor Representative Ms Buki Mjijakho.

Maj L.B. Ncube together with Maj E.M. Msimango cut the ribbon to officially open the Crèche and handed it over to the principal and the community.

Cpln Maleho states that when the time came for the handing out of gifts to every child present, she saw a smile in their little faces as they began to play along with the soldiers. It was a great day indeed for the children, their families and uniformed members. The Crèche also received gifts from the Mayor's office and were promised more assistance in the future.



*Right to left, Mrs Abigail Sishange ( Principal of Philasande day care centre), Maj Boyboy Ncube (J-Tac HQ Kzn) and Chaplain Bernice Mothibi Maleho (AFB Swkp) cutting the ribbon.*



*On the left, Mrs Abigail Sishange, the principal of Philasande day care centre  
Major Boyboy Ncube of J-Tac HQ Kzn giving children gifts*