

Bomme Ba Boithatelo Bo Botle

PROJECT PROFILE

Project name: *Bomme Ba Boithatelo Bo Botle*
Sector: *Food and Nutrition Programme (Community Nutrition and Development Centre - CNDC)*
Location: *Free State, Lejweleputswa District, Matjhabeng Municipality, Ward 7*
NDA Funding: *R88 665, 98*
Contact Person: *Ms Pulane Molale, 063 159 7683 or Pulanemolale140@gmail.com*



Bomme ba Boithatelo bo Botle (BBB) is a non-profit organisation registered in 2017 and operates from the declining mining area of Meloding, Virginia. The organisation is a Community Development and Nutrition Centre (CNDC) that provides daily nutritious meals to unemployed and vulnerable members of the community living below the poverty line. The organisation also secures their own food security by planting various vegetables crops that are included in the daily menu. A youth programme that focuses on homework classes and cultural dance activities to keep children away from the streets – where drugs, gangsterism and alcohol is rampant, is also run from their premises.

“This area is characterised by poverty. People do not work, have no food and go to bed hungry. We started back in 2015 with no funding, cooking in the open field and one-room shack. It is only in 2020 that we registered and became more determined to advance our mission to provide a hearty plate of food to those who have nothing. We work hand in hand with government officials and our local Councillor to continuously identify those in need. There is no money in this field, however, the gratitude we see in the eyes of our beneficiaries and their words really keep us going and coming back, for their sake. Also, seeing the children that come in for the youth programme do so well at school and being an example in the community is encouraging” says Ms Pulane Molale, Managing Member of BBB.

Matjhabeng Municipality is mostly covered by non-arable and moderate potential grazing land. It is currently a declining mining town. Since the mid-2000s, amidst declining economic opportunities especially for many families, the community has become fragmented. Lack of work opportunities, access to affordable nutritious vegetables, poverty and poor service delivery have become the order of the day.

The National Development Agency (NDA) funding of R88 665,98 has enabled the purchase of kitchen tools, serving and catering equipment, allowing the organisation to efficiently perform their services to full capacity in feeding 160 community members daily. Additionally, vegetable garden implements and a 5000L Jojo tank for access to water, as the premises do not have any water supply, were purchased. The governance, operations and managerial capacity of the Members will be enhanced through the provision of ongoing capacity building training including Financial Management, Project Management and Governance as well. Organisations including SARS have also provided training in compliance.

The organisation employs 11 full time staff members (10 females and 1 male) and 5 Volunteers who contribute R140 each to the programme as a sustainability fund to avoid situations where donor money is not available and to avoid turning beneficiaries back.

Continues...

BBB has been funded by the Department of Social Development (DSD) for the past 2 years, payments are transferred in quarterly tranches which includes stipends. The Department also assisted with the container structure that houses a kitchen, dining hall, storage and meeting room as well as toilet facilities.

“Our risks are minimal for the CNDC, the community takes it upon themselves to protect the facilities overnight and weekends. Our vegetable garden was recently destroyed by the storms and floods, so the environment is the only challenge currently. We will soon rebuild the tunnels sponsored by Meals on Wheels which will support our open air garden.

We have been fortunate to retain our staff over the years, which provides stability and consistency for our operations. We are thankful to local retail stores and churches who also support the programme when we call on them. The NDA went beyond the call of duty to also ensure that we get access to electricity from Eskom. We also hire out the catering equipment over weekends to get additional income for our daily operations,” says Ms Dimakatso Ntsane, also a Managing Member at BBB.

BBB future plans include extending their premises to include a shelter where women can access help when experiencing gender based violence and femicide incidents; they also wish to add an internet café to expand the existing after-school homework programme to keep young people out of trouble as the police station and library are far from their Ward. These additional facilities would be very valuable.



UNLOCKING POTENTIAL