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PRESERVING RUSTENBURG'S HISTORY

Rustenburg – The old commando building in Kommando Road was known as the Old Rustenburg Gaol ("jail") and reportedly built back in 1885.

This building forms an integral part of Rustenburg's history. It has served many necessities over its lifespan, among other things; a police station, jail and the head quarters for the Rustenburg Kommando.

The infamous 'Rebels of Pilanesberg' who were arrested in 1914 by the *Van Tonder Horse*-regimen was transported and held in this very jail.

Since then, the building has fallen into disarray before being looted – leaving only a derelict skeleton of the original building.

Meisie Mthetwa intends to breathe new life into this old building. She plans to build a new pre-school and primary school on the grounds. Due to its historical significance, Meisie decided that instead of demolishing the building, she will restore it and build the school around it.

In an interview with *Platinum Weekly* Meisie said: "This is part of Rustenburg's history and we will use this old building to lay the foundation to create a brighter future for the next generation."

An independent consultant, Johan Schoeman who is assisting Meisie with the financing and development of the project, said: "I grew up in Rustenburg and this site is part of our history. I am grateful that Meisie decided to restore the building. We will assist Meisie through the process of achieving her goal with the school while also cherishing this part of our heritage."

If you would like to be a part of this restoration, contact Meisie on 072 900 2606 or Johan on 082 455 7539.

From left: Primrose Xhalbile, Johan Schoeman and Meisie Mthetwa.

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