



SPREAD SOME LOVE AT GRACE HELP CENTRE

Rustenburg – With the month of love finally here, Grace Help Centre invites you to spread some love during February.

You can show your love in the following ways:

- **Pre-loved clothing** – Quality second-hand clothing from new-born to female adults is always welcome. You can also make up a care package for the ladies. A handbag filled with basics such as tissues, body spray, a facecloth, a notebook and a pen will go a long way. Make it extra special by including a note of encouragement or a small sweet treat.
- **Pre-loved beds and bedding** – Grace Help Centre urgently needs 20 beds with bedding for the centre.
- **Pre-loved, good condition paintbrushes and fabric paint** – We plan to kick off February by enabling the woman in our care with skills and crafts to empower them and enable them to make the most of their talents and creative abilities.
- **Pre-loved tablets or smartphones** – The tablets or smartphones, will help children in our care to do research and complete assignments.
- **Gym equipment** – A healthy body supports a healthy mind. We would like to encourage women to take care of themselves and get their self-confidence back.
- **Pre-loved furniture** – Occasional furniture, lounge suites, chairs, scatter cushions and chests of drawers.

If you can't deliver, we will collect it.

For any enquiries please contact Rina van der Berg at 072 348 6526 or gracecentre@gmail.com

CONDUCT OF ROADSIDE MECHANICS RAISES EYEBROWS

Letter to the Editor

Rustenburg – I drive along Oliver Tambo drive quite regularly and I am not happy with the increasing number of mechanics who have set up their 'workshops' by the roadside, right next to the premises of a major vehicle spare parts dealership.

I am aware that job opportunities in the formal employment sector are becoming very hard to find and one cannot blame the mechanics for trying to find a way to make ends meet.

However, the way they go about their work also poses a very serious environmental risk which can have serious effects if unchecked.

On many occasions, I have seen them pouring large quantities of engine oil into a stormwater drain close to the Total filling station.

This does not only contaminate the water but exposes the environment to toxic liquids whose impact and negative effects on us and the lives of future generations are too grave to contemplate.

Besides its devastating effect on the water environment, oil pollution is harmful to animals and insects. It also prevents the vital process of photosynthesis in plants.

I call upon the Department of Community Safety and Transport Management to put a stop to these roadside mechanics before they cause serious damage to our environment!

Concerned reader



A concerned reader is worried about the behaviour of mechanics who operate at the roadside.

TAKING DRUGS OFF THE STREETS

Meriting/Rustenburg – After receiving a tip-off from the community, police members of Phokeng K9 and Rustenburg crime intelligence units conducted a search and seize operation on Wednesday 15 January at two houses located in Meriting near Rustenburg.

During the search of the first house, two suspects were arrested and detained after a substantial amount of rock-cocaine was found. The team then proceeded to the second house where they found 13kg of high-quality dagga, leading to the arrest of a second suspect.

'MR FIX IT'

MAKING A POSITIVE DIFFERENCE

Rustenburg – Jacob Motamba is not employed and survives on the money he gets from motorists in Rustenburg who appreciate and value his hard work in improving the conditions of the roads.

Motamba, a 31-year old man from Phokeng, has become popular among motorists in the Rustenburg central business district (CBD) and can be seen wearing a yellow reflective vest while filling up potholes in various streets.

"The municipality is supposed to fix the roads but if they do not, then it is up to us," he said in an interview with *Platinum Weekly*.

"I get R20, R50 or even R100 from motorists, who sometimes stop and greet me while I am working. It is my way of putting food on the table, instead of just sitting at home and doing nothing," he added.

Motamba described himself as a 'Mr Fixit' who can do odd jobs from mowing the lawn, cutting long grass, gardening to construction.

He said he decided to patch up the roads in November 2019 after witnessing two accidents in Proteapark and Cashane.

He believes the accidents could have been avoided if there were no potholes on the roads.

"I would like to encourage people who do not have jobs to think out of the box and create employment for themselves," Motamba said.

Community members who are impressed by the work Motamba is doing have embarked on a fundraising drive with a view of buying him a bushcutter.

This will enable him to cut the overgrown grass at street corners, which can sometimes create nightmares for motorists – especially at intersections.

For a small fee that will go towards his food and petrol for the cutter, Motamba will continue to earn an honest living while making the crossings more visible and safer.

If you would like to assist in this fundraising initiative, contact Estie Rupp on 083 578 9210.



Jacob Motamba patches up damaged roads in the Rustenburg CBD.



Jacob Motamba always puts up his sign before working.



Jacob Motamba works hard to make a difference.