

# MASKING LANGUAGE BARRIERS

**Rustenburg** – The COVID-19 virus has all of us up in arms and traversing this new and uncharted territory is daunting for many people, but more so for those living with disabilities. People with autism rely on facial expressions to read social cues, and they need to understand why we are suddenly covering our faces. Autism Little Learners speech therapist wrote a lovely story explaining the use and necessity of wearing a mask during the COVID-19 pandemic to students with autism. Rustenburg Skool vir Buitengewone Onderwys’ student governing body chairperson doctor Cathy Dzerefos saw an opportunity to translate the story for local learners.



Rustenburg Skool vir Buitengewone Onderwys educator Hendrik Bodenstein is worried about how his learners are adapting to changes in their daily routine.

**Lebone II** – College of the Royal Bafokeng Grade 12 learner Atlegang Dikgang translated the story to Setswana. Rustenburg Skool vir Buitengewone Onderwys educator Hendrik Bodenstein translated it to Afrikaans. Both jumped at the opportunity to volunteer their services to translating Tichel’s story. “Wearing a mask: A social narrative for children”. You can download it at [www.autismlittlelearners.com](http://www.autismlittlelearners.com). The website offers several helpful resources, not only for autism-spectrum children, but for all kids who are confused by these strange times.



Lebone II – College of the Royal Bafokeng Grade 12 learner Atlegang Dikgang translated the story about masks into Setswana.



Bodenstein translated the story about making masks for students with autism to Afrikaans.

## PROPERTIES ON SLOW ROAD TO ROCK BOTTOM

**SA** – The property research group Lightstone predicts that house prices will decline by 8.8% on average in the next few months and a 20% value loss for higher-end properties. This is in line with the Reserve Bank predicting a 7% shrink in the economy. Some economists think that a 10% shrink in the economy is more realistic. If that is the case, properties would lose at least 14.5% of their value, taking into account that at some point of time the reserve bank is going to normalise their repo rates. “This is partly due to pre-existing supply-demand imbalances (excess supply) and depressed sentiment. In contrast, we expect a relative resilience in the affordable market, partly due to a structural supply deficit (i.e., demand is higher than the available stock),” said Lightstone’s analytics director Paul-Roux de Kock. According to Private Property: “South Africans awoken to a reality that is cause for some anxiety, from a lagging economy, a Rand that tends to weaken more often than it strengthens and annual consumer price inflation dips.” Other factors might further drive down property prices, including the perception of or real political or economic instability. Economist John Loos of FNB says the recession is here for the long run. He predicts that even after lockdown has passed, the market will remain weak. He says the ‘rock bottom’ – which is theoretically the best time to buy a property, is still to come. Property investors are therefore in no rush to buy as this downward value spiral is predicted to carry on for the next few years.



## HELPING THE HUNGRY

**Isaiah 58:10-11 New King James Version (NKJV)**  
10 If you extend your soul to the hungry  
And satisfy the afflicted soul,  
Then your light shall dawn in the darkness,  
And your [a]darkness shall be as the noonday.  
11 The LORD will guide you continually,  
And satisfy your soul in drought,  
And strengthen your bones;  
You shall be like a watered garden,  
And like a spring of water, whose waters do not fail

**Rustenburg** – Casual workers and people who were laid off are severely affected as companies countrywide closed their doors to comply with lockdown regulations announced by President Cyril Ramaphosa on 27 March. Every morning, Rustenburg do-gooders are giving food to these vulnerable people who are gathering in small groups in the central business district (CBD). Touched by the plight of these people who are now unable to work and buy what they need, Bothwell Muyambo, Archibald Nyanyiwa, Leonard Makava, Tseko Rantai, Thabo Moloi, Tsitsi Muyambo, Sandra Muyambo, Sarike Horn, Omolemo Tawana and Annemarie Niewenhuis are extending a helping hand. Since the beginning of May this year, they have been providing tea, coffee and sandwiches every day to about 100 people in the CBD, Protea Park, and Safari Gardens. “Many of us are teachers while some are employed in other fields. We have been fortunate enough to remain employed during the lockdown and realised that many people have not been that fortunate,” Muyambo told *Platinum Weekly*. “Each morning, we drive around and give coffee, tea and sandwiches to those in need. It is our way of assisting them to get through the day.” For more information, contact Muyambo on 073 797 2781 or Nyanyiwa on 073 586 6597. Alternatively, drop an email to [moloiwelcome@gmail.com](mailto:moloiwelcome@gmail.com).



Leonard Makava (extreme right) handing out sandwiches.



People lining up to receive food.

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