

Ribbon Cutting Ceremony Report

Siyamdumisa Day Care – Mlambo, Valley of 1000 Hills

Project Hope | 1 December 2025

In the Valley of 1000 Hills, in a quiet and far-off corner known as Mlambo, stands a small preschool with a mighty purpose: Siyamdumisa Day Care. True to its name—“we praise Him”—Siyamdumisa is a beacon of hope. It is the only opportunity for preschool education in the entire area, a lifeline to almost 70 young children whose futures depend on the foundation laid in these early years.

Its story is one of struggle: years of being overlooked, too small to be funded, and surrounded by starvation, deep social challenges, and the daily erosion of dignity. For five years, Project Hope has stood within this community—hand in hand, heart to heart—becoming part of the rhythm of its children and caregivers. Every child knows us, and we know them. Together, we have carved out a path forward for those most vulnerable.

With research showing that 90% of brain development is complete by the age of five, we know that a false start can shape a lifetime. That is why Project Hope supports children in attending Early Childhood Development centres like Siyamdumisa. Each centre becomes more than a classroom—it becomes the centre point of each child’s life story. From health to nutrition, education to psychosocial support, we walk with them.

This approach includes the hearts that guide them every day: their primary caregivers. These remarkable women or men volunteer their time not for a hand-out, but for a hand-up. Parenting workshops, vocational skills, support groups, and income-generation projects wrap around each caregiver, strengthening both home and child. In this way, poverty is lifted—one child, one family at a time.

A Partnership Begins

In early 2025, a gentle but powerful ripple reached us: Albaraka Bank reached out to Project Hope after learning of the needs in Mlambo. When we shared this news with the community, the ululating echoed across the valley. The request was clear and urgent: an ablution block.

Until this moment, the children used potties outside—no privacy from passers-by walking the dusty paths, no protection from the open valley staring back at them. No running water, no taps, no flushing toilets. Just a long drop: hazardous, unhygienic, and deeply undignified. For years, this has stripped the children of what every human being deserves—privacy and safety.

And then, within weeks, something extraordinary happened.

Khule and his team from Gift of the Givers arrived.
Side-by-side with Albaraka Bank...
Standing with little Project Hope...
All together for 70 little hearts in Mlambo.



What an honour it was to work with such exceptional teams. Their joy, their optimism, their unwavering “we can make a plan” spirit breathed life into the project. Our small plot at Siyamdumisa posed a challenge—there is no additional land available in Mlambo—but still, the vision held. Khule listened to our dreams, worked around every limitation, and respected our request to protect the vegetable garden that feeds our children. He found creative solutions, placing rubble elsewhere so that our kitchen could continue serving meals.

The Ribbon Cutting Ceremony

And then came the day that will live forever in Mlambo's memory.

Children stood waiting outside the new toilets, their excitement bubbling over. For weeks they had dreamed of turning that key—the key to privacy, hygiene, dignity. The key to being seen. As the celebrations began, Khule from Gift of the Givers danced down the aisle with our children, leading them toward the newly built ablution block. Laughter, singing, and joy rose like a song into the sky. When the ribbon was finally cut, the valley seemed to breathe in celebration.

A tiled floor.
 Toddler-sized toilet.
 A teacher toilet.
 Running water.
 A clean, safe space for little ones.
 It is hard to put into words the impact of this moment.



Our Deepest Gratitude

To Albaraka Bank and Gift of the Givers—thank you. Thank you for trusting us, for treating us with such kindness, and for giving our children the immeasurable gift of dignity. Your partnership has brought change that will echo for generations.

From the bottom of our hearts,

Siyabonga kakhulu.

We hope this is just the beginning of a long, meaningful partnership as we continue serving the children of The Valley of 1000 Hills, together.

**With love,
 The Project Hope Team**

