

Western Cape teams unite in donating a new BMX bike track and a multi-purpose sports facility to Masimbambane School.

Mercedes-Benz Super Group Passenger and Commercial dealers in the Western Cape partnered with long-time customer Umzali Civils, the Western Cape Government's Red Tape Reduction Unit, Ward Counsellor Siyabonga Duka, Qhubeka, Mercedes-Benz South Africa and the community to build the new Qhubeka BMX Track and multisport facility at the Masimbambane School.



Bloekombos/Wallacedene is a community in the Western Cape near Kraaifontein where Masimbambane School is located. Sadly, the community is one of many that are affected by gang violence.

Masimbambane School strives to ensure that the children of the Bloekombos/Wallacedene community receive a good education and that they have a safe place to learn and play. A pass rate of 82% has been achieved by the school's matric class over the past 15 years. Their netball teams have won provincial titles, and they have a chess programme that allows their students to travel across the country.

Cornél Oelofse, Franchise Executive for Orbit Commercial Vehicles Western Cape, says "The Bloekombos informal settlement is located directly behind our newest Mercedes-Benz Commercial facility, and it was apparent that we could help make significant changes within the community we share."





Orbit Commercial Vehicles' long-time customer Stan Mitchell, the director of Umzali Civics, approached Cornél about collaborating on the project. Umzali is committed to community upliftment and donated a multipurpose sports surface to the project right away.

"We believe it is our responsibility – and indeed our privilege – to assist previously disadvantaged schools," says Mitchell. "We were happy to handle the construction of both exciting new ventures for Masimbambane."

The bicycles for this project came from Qhubeka, a charity supported nationally by The Laureus Sports for Good Foundation, a global affiliate of Mercedes-Benz AG. Brett Rowlands, Franchise Executive for Mercedes-Benz Western Cape, is a firm believer in the charity of the human spirit. *"We put this theory to the test at our Annual*



Mercedes-Benz Trophy Day and through the generosity of our customers, we managed to purchase 30 BMX and 10 commuter bicycles," he says. "Mercedes-Benz South Africa then added to our project with a converted container for an outdoor podium, a storage unit and an additional nine commuter bicycles."

The idea to create a BMX track is to offer learners an alternative sport to soccer, netball and rugby. It is important to the Masimbambane School that learners are occupied by extramural activities for their safety and well-being.

Ms Zel-René Fourie-September, the spokesperson for the Masimbambane School, says *"The new facility will not only enable more learners to take part in more extra-mural activities, but will also teach learners important*

"Yes, they will fall and bruise. But that in itself is a huge life lesson"

life skills. To ride a bicycle is a skill that must be mastered. Not only must our learners learn how to ride a bicycle, but also the skill of navigation."

The track is designed with different angles and slopes. *"They will have to learn some balancing skills," she says. "Yes, they will fall and bruise. But that in itself is a huge life lesson. In life, they will fall many times, but they must learn to dust themselves off and try again," she explains.*

On the 19th of May 2021, all partners came together to initiate the handover of the BMX Track and the multi-purpose sports ground to the Masimbambane School.

"The launch is only the beginning," notes Cornél. "The Mercedes-Benz Super Group Dealerships' team in the Western Cape will be monitoring the school's progress and we will continue to provide them with long-term support."

