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STEPPING STONE SPECIAL EDUCATION SCHOOL SWAKOPMUND TAKES ANOTHER BIG STEP

Stepping Stone Special Education School Begins Construction on New Site A major milestone for Namibia's first registered private school for neurodivergent children

Stepping Stone Special Education School in Swakopmund, Namibia's first registered private school for neurodivergent children, is taking a major step forward in its mission to support children facing severe challenges in life.

Founded in 2015 by Almarie Mostert and her husband, Divan, Stepping Stone has become a vital part of the community, offering specialized education in a nurturing, inclusive environment. Over the years, the school has primarily sustained itself through school fees and generous support from donors such as Orano Mining, the German Embassy and Namibia Facilities Management, to name just a few.

With more than 50 children with neurodiverse challenges currently enrolled and a growing waiting list of parents seeking help for their children, the school has outgrown its current premises, which they have been renting from the Deutsches Schülerheim Swakopmund.

Stepping Stone's founders have long hoped to secure major sponsorship to build a new, larger school on land provided by the Swakopmund Municipality several years ago.

Today, it is with great pride that Stepping Stone announces that Southern Energy Company, a Namibian supplier of aviation fuel, has committed to fully funding the construction of the new school building in Ocean View, Swakopmund. The construction is being managed by K Neumayer, a local company that is further supporting the school by building at reduced rates and donating a classroom.

A crucial condition of the Southern Energy sponsorship is that the new school must also cater to visually impaired children. Consequently, a separate section of the facility will be dedicated to blind and visually impaired learners, ensuring that they too have access to quality education.

This is a landmark project for inclusive education in Namibia.

The addition of a department for visually impaired children is deeply personal for Stepping Stone's founder, Almarie Mostert, who comes from a family with a history of visual impairment.

Both she and her sister are visually impaired, and their younger brother, who has since passed away, was completely blind. This unique background has instilled in her a profound empathy for children with visual challenges and fuelled her commitment to creating this new division at Stepping Stone.

The first blind and visually impaired children are expected to be enrolled when the new building is opened in January 2026.

This marks an exciting new chapter for our community and the many families who have been waiting for years to see this dream come to life.

For enquiries or further information, please contact:

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