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# EKUKHANYENI Graduation Ceremonies

*Dear James & IIR,*

The Pre-School Graduation Ceremonies took place on 9 & 10 December 2006. What an experience it was! From speeches, to contests, to Little Ones singing their hearts out, and of course, to the proud moments of handing out certificates to very excited and gorgeous looking graduates in their blue and green gowns.

86 children were scheduled to graduate. Only 70 showed. Apparently this is a normal happening, when parents lack the drive or motivation to bring their children to the ceremonies. We also received very sad news on the day prior to the ceremony. One of our precious Little One's, Prince (5 years) from Stardom Creche, who was set to graduate, passed away from a chronic illness. May he rest in peace.

Ekukhanyeni would like to extend a big thank you to IIR for sponsoring the costs of sewing the graduation gowns, the design of the certificates by Aku Art and for the chips and cool-drinks – all part of the Zimisele Creche Programme. A local community member, Grace Makwakwa, was tasked as seamstress for this purpose. The gowns were rotated amongst the crèches which saved the Principals the expense of hiring them. African Bank donated the material for the gowns, and was responsible for the sponsorship of the printing and lamination costs of the certificates.

Principal Wendy of Ikwezi Day Care Centre and Pre-School will be the Keeper of the gowns for future graduation ceremonies. The certificates will also be used for future ceremonies.

Enjoy the photos below. All the decorations were made by the children from Ikwezi and Stardom Creches, made possible by the stationery and paper sponsored by IIR and other corporates, as part of Ekukhanyeni's Zimisele Creche Programme.

Your continued support and encouragement is so appreciated.

With heartfelt gratitude,  
The Ekukhanyeni Team





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