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New learning centre for Girls and Boys Town to benefit all

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THE launch of a second Learning Support Centre at Girls & Boys Town in Magaliesburg will provide the pupils and surrounding communities with access to the latest education methods.

Learning Support Centre Coordinator Cromwell Mteto yesterday said the computer-based intervention evaluated and enhanced pupils' educational needs in literacy and mathematics.

"These have consistently been identified as core challenges facing South African pupils but are the building blocks for all other learning areas," said Mteto.

He said the assessment process helped identify learning difficulties, such as attention deficit disorder, and recommended remedial

actions to address problems that the children experience.

Mteto said the centre consisted of four services: assessment and counselling; library; computer lab and facilities; and teacher training.

"The children we have in our centres come from different backgrounds with different problems, such as poverty, discipline problems and abuse," said Mteto.

The first Learning Support Centre was launched in October at the Girls & Boys Town Campus and it has already benefited more than 250 pupils.

Mteto said the learning centre was a donation from the National Lotteries Board (NLB) who were happy with the proposal brought forward by Girls and Boys Town. "We are grateful for the help we have received and our pupils will

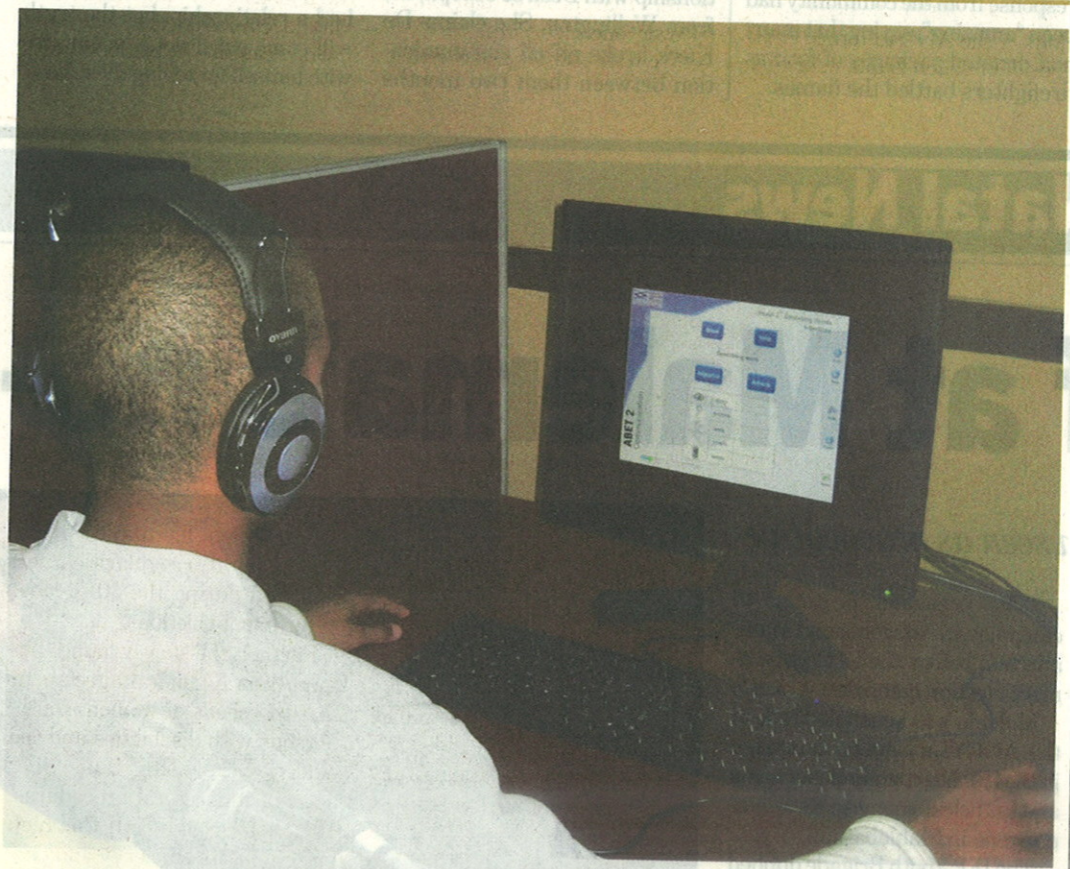
benefit from this," said Mteto.

NLB spokesman Sershan Naidoo said yesterday, "The fact that the learning centres will be a facility both for children residing at Girls & Boys Town and in surrounding communities was an important aspect for the NLB when considering the funding application."

He said it was positive that the benefits of this intervention would be shared beyond the walls of the organisation.

Other than in Magaliesburg, Girls & Boys Town campuses are located in Gauteng, KwaZulu-Natal and Western Cape.

Other than residential care, the 53-year-old, non-profit organisation also trains teachers and facilitators who work with parents and teachers to provide love for the children at the facility.



LEARNING ASSESSMENT: Girls & Boys Town have launched the second of four centres that evaluate literacy and mathematics needs. Picture: GIRLS & BOYS TOWN