



BE THE
INSPIRATION

The Rotary Club of Bothaville (17446)

Dear fellow Rotarians.

My name is Hercules Grobler and I am the current President of a very small Rotary Club (currently only 8 members) in a small rural town called Bothaville in the Free State Province of South Africa.

We, as the Rotary Club of Bothaville, have been busy with a couple of community projects during previous years, but we have run one permanent project for a very long time.

It is called **Rotaria**, which is a community housing project with 8 small houses where we provide housing to low income elderly persons. All residents are encouraged and assisted in establishing and maintaining self-sufficient vegetable gardens, the fruits of which enhance their lives.

There are currently 9 elderly persons living in these houses for a very modest rent. Our club is footing the bills for water, sanitation, refuse, garden services, etc. as well as the maintenance of the buildings.

Thanks to our previous members, this housing complex was built in 1982 by our Club. There are only two of the original Rotarians that built this complex still alive.

As a small club, we do our best to hold fund raisers annually to get the necessary funds to pay the municipal bills and maintenance bills etc. (Please see Rotary Showcase for our Projects:

(Ghost Tour, Sheep's Head Dinner) Also check out our Facebook page at <https://www.facebook.com/Bothaville-Rotari%C3%ABrs-164991560736383/> or our web page at <https://rotarybothaville.webnode.com/>

As this housing complex is around 37 years old, the buildings are in dire need of a major refurbishment.

Our club struggles financially to raise money for the daily needs of these people and to raise enough funds to renovate these houses will be an impossible task for our small club in this small community.

The renovating costs that we will incur amount to approximately **\$5 000** per house.

That gives a total of **\$40 000** required. (About R550 000 ZAR)

In the future we would also like to build 3 smaller bachelor flats inside an existing store to accommodate a further 3 elderly persons.

These alterations will also cost around **\$14 500** (R200 000 ZAR / unit x 3 = **\$43 000** (approx R600 000 ZAR in total)

The security fence needs to be replaced as it is rusted and run down.

The cost to replace the fence with a good palisade fence will be approximately **\$10 000** (R140 000 ZAR)

This raises the funds required to a total of approximately **\$100 000 (R1.4M ZAR)** This will ensure that the Rotaria Centre will be able to run for a further 40 years!

As you can see, it will be almost impossible for our small club to raise such a huge amount of funds on our own!

The bigger clubs in first world countries in Europe, America, Canada, Australia, etc. usually have larger memberships and are able to generate much larger funds for projects than our small club in a 3rd world country. Typically, our fund raisers bring in between \$2000 and \$4000, excellent in our little community, but not enough for such a large project.

As fellow Rotarians in dire need for finances to refurbish these homes and to give these elderly persons dignity, respect and above all a safe environment to live in, we humbly ask if it will be possible to consider donating finances for this just cause.

We will of course update you as the refurbishment project progresses with photos, invoices / accountant's reports etc.



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As Rotary is a known humanitarian organization, I am also running an experiment with this letter to see if it is really true that Rotarians care.... and if the theme of "**Be the Inspiration**" is truly and well deserved! I will be sending this letter to as many Rotary Clubs around the world as I possibly can, to see how many will react and I will also report on the outcome of this experiment within 3 months of sending this letter out.

I am challenging every Rotary Club that receives this letter to "BE THE INSPIRATION" and help a fellow struggling Rotary Club to become what Rotary is supposed to be:

- a) *Serve the community and society.*
- b) *Advancement of goodwill and peace through fellowship within the Community.*
- c) *Improve the quality of live and dignity of people in the community by Promoting peace, Fighting Disease, Providing Clean water, Growing local economies.*
- d) *Encourage and foster the idea of doing good and that the opportunity to serve is the best and most satisfying feeling that you will ever have in your life.*

If your club is up to this challenge and consider donating funds for our cause, our club banking details are as follows: **Remember all donations from \$1 to \$1 Mil will be welcome! (But we don't need the Million just \$100,000 and many hands, in this case Clubs, will make the light work!) Big or small - all contributions will be gratefully received, acknowledged and faithfully applied.**

Account name: Bothaville Rotary Club
Bank: First National Bank
Branch code: 230136
Account Number: 622 326 88781
Swift Code: FIRNZAJJXXXX
Ref: Your Club Name + Rotaria

Attached please find a PDF Presentation with all the details of our club members, previous projects, fund raisers and photos of the housing complex with the faults that need to be repaired, as well as future development of this complex.

Feel free to distribute this letter to all clubs in your district!

Thank you in advance.

Best Regards
Hercules Grobler
President: Rotary Club of Bothaville
Phone: +27 84 206 5793
E-mail: rotarybothaville@gmail.com

Background:

The Rotary Club of Bothaville was chartered on 9 November 1973.

It is a small club with currently only 8 members. We inducted 2 new members in January 2019.

The town of Bothaville is a small rural town in the Northern Free State province of South Africa.

It is a farming community and is known as the maize capital of South Africa, due to the large maize crops being produced here.

It is also the town where the world-renowned agricultural show, NAMPO is held on an annual basis. Then visitors from around the world flock in their thousands to visit this, the **“Largest Agricultural Show in the Southern Hemisphere”**.

Current Rotary Club Members



Current President:

Hercules Grobler

Contact +2784 206 57 93

E-Mail: groblerhercules@gmail.com



President-Elect:

Albe Mouton

Contact +2782 677 8555

E-Mail: albmoton@gmail.com



Treasurer:

Willie Coetzer

Contact +2783 305 1853

E-Mail: williecoetzer123@gmail.com



Secretary:

Gerdie Visser

Contact +2779 866 1390

E-Mail: gerdie66@ymail.com



Member:

Pierre Wessels

Contact +2783 460 9206

E-Mail: pierre05@ymail.com



Member:

Nico Lehman

Contact +2782 572 0496

E-Mail: nicolehman@hotmail.com

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Current Rotary Club Members



Member:

Marie Smit

Contact +2783 359 0397

E-Mail: 4850msjd@gmail.com



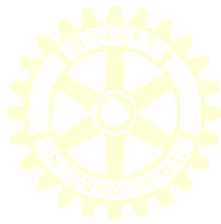
Member:

Leon Friedenham

Contact +2782 416 2184

E-Mail: bothavilleinfo@championtyres.co.za

Rotary
District 9370



**BE THE
INSPIRATION**

Previous Projects, Fundraisers and Services to the Community

Youth Centres

**Donations of instant porridge to Nala Re-Thabile Youth Centre in Bothaville:
(Children without parents as well as abused children taken from their homes)**

Our club received instant porridge from an anonymous donor.

We decided to donate this to Nala Re-Thabile Youth Centre, as they are situated in a previously disadvantaged area and are struggling without any funding.



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Eikelaan Youth Centre for abused children - Pizza and milkshake evening

Our club held a pizza and milkshake evening for the kids at the Local Youth Centre.

We had a nice evening where we shared fellowship with the kids while they enjoyed milkshakes and pizzas.

We also spoiled each and every one of them with gifts to take home.

What an enjoyable evening it was spending time with them.



Water Delivery Project

We, as the Rotary Club of Bothaville in conjunction with some of our community members had an opportunity to send some much-needed drinking water to the drought stricken Western Cape.

Our club called on our community to donate clean filtered bottles of drinking water and deliver them to a central point in town.

The vehicle and trailer that transported the water could handle a maximum of 300 x 5 liter bottles only.

Within 3 days, our quota was met! Unbelievable that a whole Community can stand together and help others in need if correctly motivated.

This water was ultimately given to a nursery school in a previously disadvantaged community in Bellville in the Western Cape.



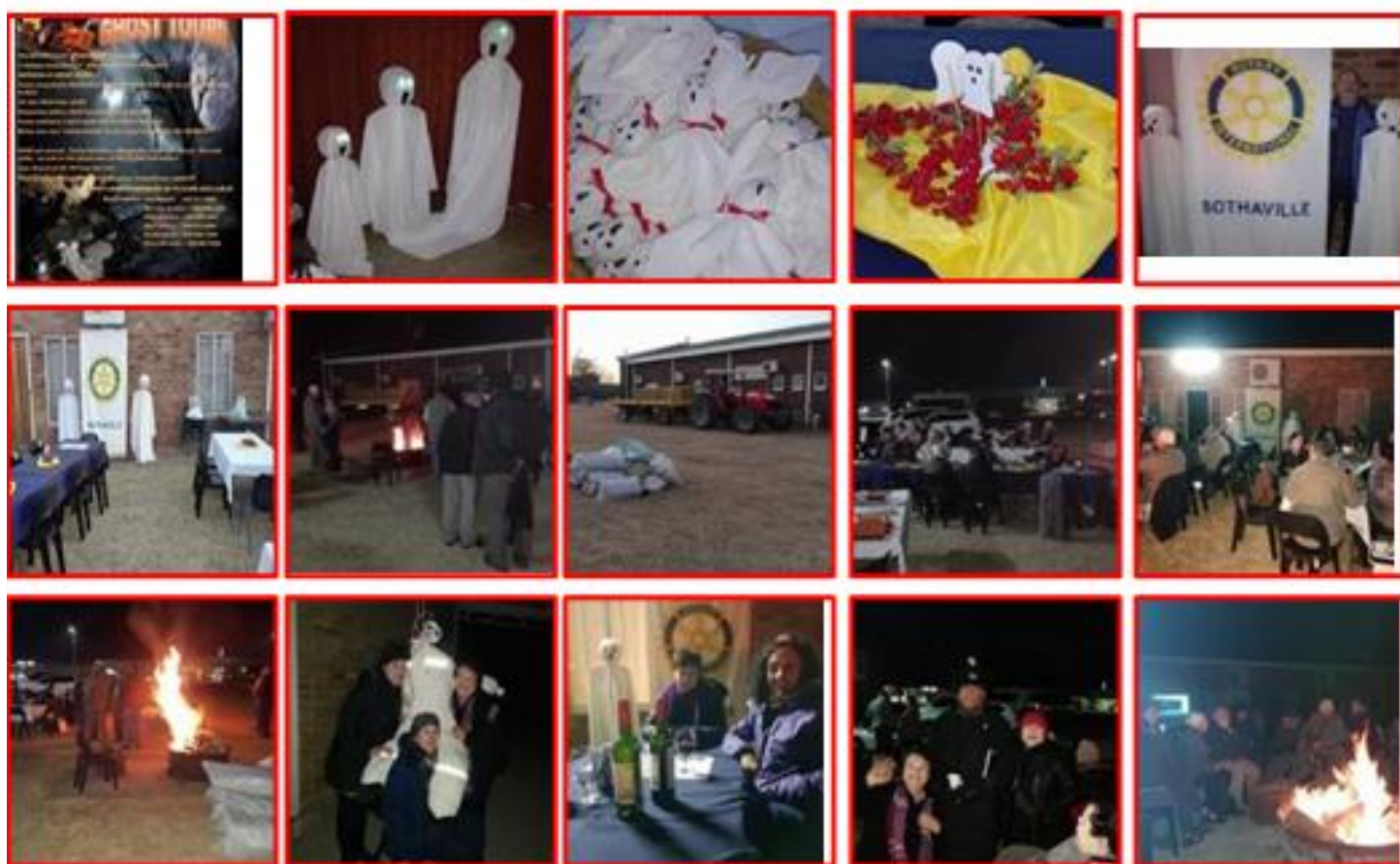
Fund Raising Projects

GHOST TOUR!!

Our club held a Ghost Tour fundraising event in June 2018 (Middle of the winter in South Africa). It was a huge success!!

We entertained our guests with ghost stories, scary video's, good food, huge bonfires, laughter, excellent fellowship and a ghost tour around the town on a tractor and trailer.

We had a tour leader that entertained the guests with the history of paranormal activities in some of the homes in Bothaville and other stories.

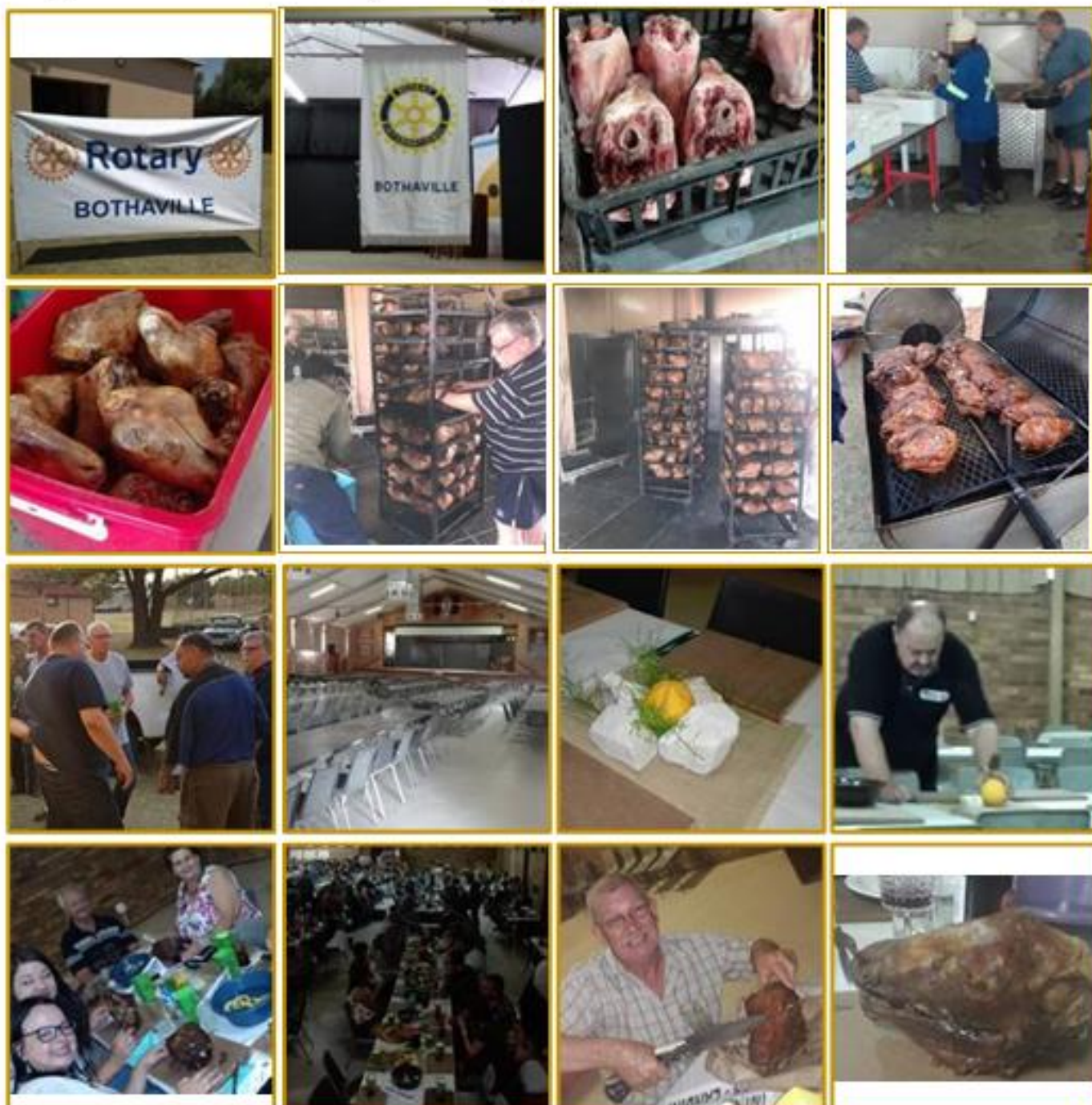


Sheep's Head Dinner

Our club have an annual Sheep's Head Dinner in October.

This year we had a record breaking 320 guests.

We served 250 Sheep's heads and 75 steaks for the guests. (Some guests could face a sheep's head!) A great fun filled evening!!



Cupcakes for World Polio Day

Our club decided to bake cupcakes for World Polio Day and some of our members and spouses distributed them between the Youth Centers, Old Age Homes and our own Rotaria Housing Complex residents. This is all to remember and be thankful that Polio is nearly 99.9% eradicated in the world.



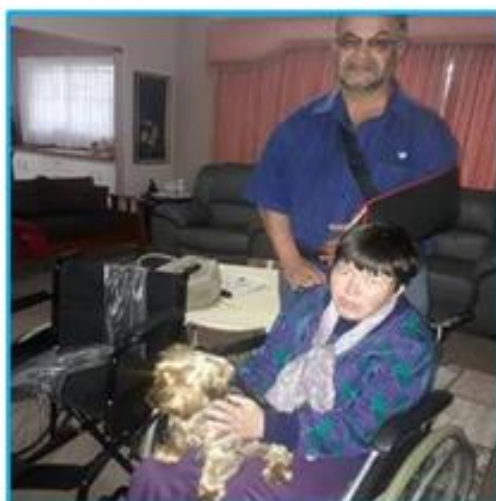
Wheelchairs for the disabled!

Our club had a request from a community member for a wheelchair to a disabled person that was in dire need of one, after her old one broke down.

After discussion with our current AG, Nuno Calvet, he arranged for a wheelchair to be sponsored by the Rotary Club of Klerksdorp.

We delivered the wheelchair to the disabled person, thus ensuring that she will sustain her dignity and quality of life.

Another person in need helped due to the efforts of Rotary.



ROTARIA - Community Housing Project

- ♦ Complex was built in 1982.
- ♦ Situated in the rural town of Bothaville in South Africa.
- ♦ 8 of 1-2 bedroom units.
- ♦ Currently 9 elderly persons of low income are occupying the units.
- ♦ Rotary Club of Bothaville is paying the municipal levy's such as water, sanitation, refuse removal, garden services etc.
- ♦ All maintenance to the buildings are for Rotary Club of Bothaville's account.



Planting Trees at Rotaria—National Arbor Day



Building a platform for a water tank and installing a Borehole system



The supply of a pressure pump system for a vegetable garden is in the pipeline.

FUTURE PLANNING

Security Fence:

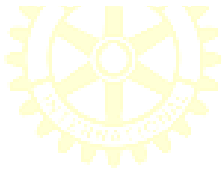
The diamond mesh security fence for the complex is in disarray.

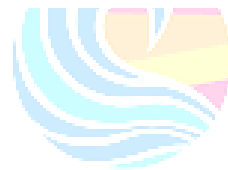
Some sections are rusted through and broken, giving access to trouble makers, stray animals etc., making it an unsafe environment for the elderly residents.



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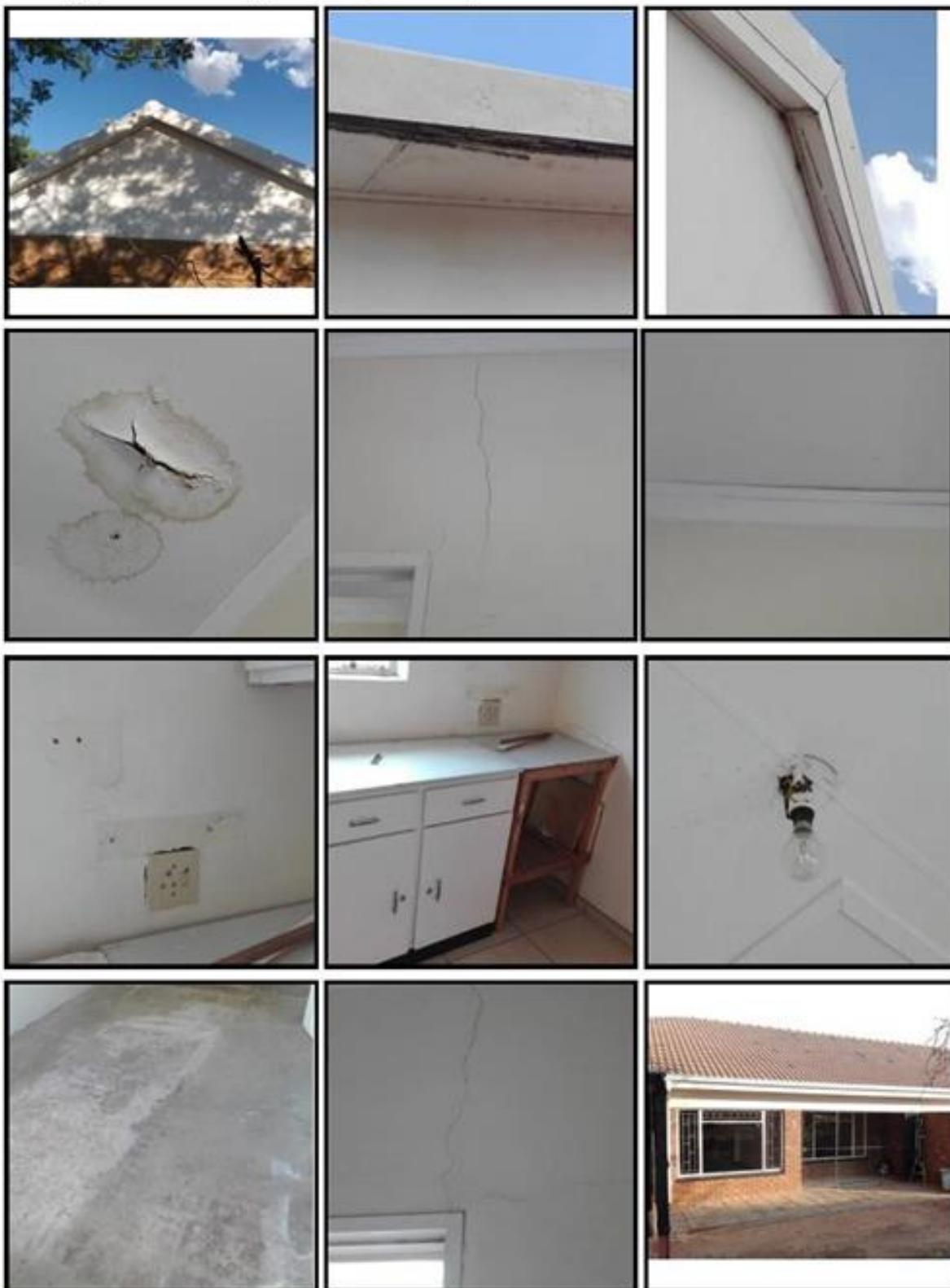


Rotary 
Districk 9370

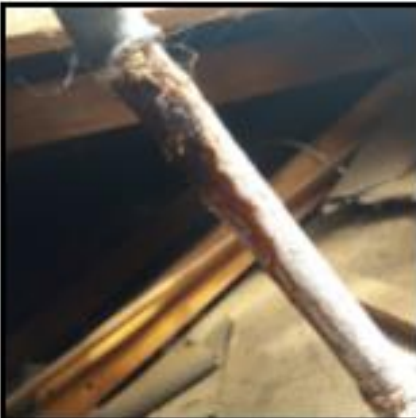
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Refurbishment of the homes:

All of the 8 units in the complex have to be refurbished due to aging and age break downs of items such as water pipes, hot water systems, electrical wiring, and old ceilings, weatherdamaged wood, leaking roofs etc.



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Proposed 3 x new bachelor units inside the existing store.

Our club would like to convert a portion of the existing store on the property into 3 x bachelor units.

The idea is to divide a portion of the store into 3 sections by building walls inside the store, installing ceilings, installing doors in front and then equip the partitions with a bathroom, bedroom and an open plan kitchen and lounge as well as erecting a porch in front of each unit. This would be ideal for single retired low income persons.



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