



From left to right: Messrs Stephen Blakeman (Tapologo General Manager), Simon Hartley (Tapologo Physical Infrastructure Manager), Martin Harvey (Construction Manager), and Bishop Kevin Dowling (Chairperson) hold the Mail and Guardian Merit Award.

At a gala dinner recently held in Sandton, Tapologo was honoured with the Mail and Guardian Merit Award in the category: Environmental Best Practice for a Non-profit Organisation. This honour was bestowed on Tapologo for its innovative design, construction and operation of the Tapologo Centre situated in Phokeng near Rustenburg in the North West Province.

Combining ancient building skills and knowledge with modern day needs has created facilities that have a much reduced impact on the environment. The Tapologo Centre in Phokeng comprises a 32 bed In-patient Unit, Administration unit, Health and Information Services, a laboratory, a crèche, Home Based Care unit, Operations and Maintenance unit and an organic vegetable garden. The buildings were constructed with adobe (mud) bricks that were made on site. A subterranean ventilation system supplies fresh air to the inner spaces and skylights provide daytime lighting. Water is heated using solar energy. Tapologo is the largest community based HIV and AIDS programme in the North West Province and provides care, support and treatment to thousands in the poor communities of Rustenburg.

We as Tapologo and on behalf of all our patients, would like to thank all those who have assisted and contributed to our vision in this regard and to all those who have encouraged us along the way.

The main buildings were designed by Henning Holm, MD of Omnibus Engineering. “The integration of energy efficiency, environmental sound material and methods, renewable energies and an all over sustainable approach is an early strategic decision” says Holm. “Initial stages of design need to acknowledge these issues in order to achieve a successful project”. The project features some of the most innovative passive design strategies, solar water heaters, photovoltaic system, energy efficient equipment, own material production, local labour, rain water harvesting, local food production, preservation of bio diversity to name but a few of the many green successes of this development.

Omnibus Engineering, an active corporate member of [SESSA](#) since 1999, congratulates the Tapologo team with the realisation of their vision and the well deserved award!

Reference: the “Greening the Future” project by the Mail and Guardian.

Contact: Omnibus Engineering, Henning Holm, www.omnibussolar.com