

# Career Exhibition targeting learners in rural schools

On the 19 April 2012 a Career Information and Exhibition were held at Wakkerstroom Community Hall. The Career Exhibition aimed at bringing career information to the learners. It also aimed at exposing the learners to various career fields and to distribute information brochures from Universities, Universities of Technology and FET colleges also contributed.

This career exhibition was also responding to the plight of many unemployed matriculants or funds To do tertiary education.

The Wakkerstroom circuit office put it upon its shoulders not to fold hands but expose the youth to avenues to get ahead in life instead of staying at home.

According to Mr. Alfred Msimango the Circuit Manager in the Dept. of Education, "the exhibition is held in April which is the right time for learners to be empowered with this kind of information which is brought to them so they can make informed decisions and start applying for admissions to tertiary institutions and also apply in time for bursaries'.

The learners were motivated by Dr. I Vilakazi, who made his presentation encouraging learners to be the architects of

their own destination. He urged learners to strive to be self-regulated learners, who according to him are not pushed by anyone to study but motivated to study at any given time by the desire to reach their destination.

He also outlined characteristics of self-regulated learning, and unpacked each characteristic for the benefit of the learners and educators in attendance.

After motivating learners, there was a tour to view various exhibition stalls outside the hall, by various stakeholders.

Among the stakeholders who were present were Government Communications (GCIS), A dept. of Economic Development, Environment and Tourism (DEDET)-Bird Life, Department of Education (HRD-Skills development), Standard Bank (Student Finance Division), Gert Sibande FET College, Department of Health.

UNISA and Tshwane University of Technology could not be available but forwarded their information brochures which were distributed to all learners and surplus to be distributed further to schools.

The Dept. of Education issued bursary application forms to all the

learners, whilst the Gert Sibande FET College presented to learners with various fields of study one can register at GS College.

+/-500 learners from Ezakheni Combined Boarding School, Sinthemba Boys Boarding School, Siyathemba Girls Boarding School, Seme Secondary School, Nalithuba Secondary School, Qedela Secondary School, Uthaka Secondary School, Siphokuhle Secondary School, and Injabulo Secondary School.

Most of these schools are from the deep rural areas of Driefontein, Dirkiesdorp, Wakkerstroom and Daggakraal, of which more often do not access this kind of information.

Motivational Speech from Dr. I Vilakazi got learners and educators to pay attention. They appreciated this rare opportunity to be empowered with information.

Mr. Mshololo from the Dept. of Education and his colleague were explaining the requirements for accessing bursaries through the Dept. of Education, while Mr. Kubheka was explaining various fields available and encouraging learners to register with the Gert Sibande FET College. Mr. Bongani Mazibuko from GCIS also encouraged learners to pursue careers in communication.

## MORE THAN SEVENTY PERCENT OF YOUTHS ATTEND SCHOOL

Over 70% of people aged between seven and 24 are attending educational institutions within South Africa, a slightly lower figure than in previous years, said Statistics South Africa (Stats SA).

"Nationally, 73.6% of persons aged 7-24 were attending educational institutions. This is slightly lower than in 2002 when the attendance rate was 73.9%," Statistics SA said as it released the General Household Survey (GHS) 2011.

According to the report, a lack of money for fees remained the primary reason for many people in this age group that were not studying.

"More than two-thirds (35.9%) of premature school leavers in this age group blamed a lack of money for not studying. The comparable figure is as high as 41.6% in North West," Stats SA said in the report released on Thursday.

The report found that government's "no fee school" system as well as other funding mechanisms were beginning to show effect. The "no fee school" system was implemented in 2007.

"The percentage of learners who reported that they paid no tuition fees increased from 0.7% in 2002 to 55.6% in 2011," said the GHS. A high proportion of non-payers were in Limpopo (89.7%) and the Eastern Cape (71.8%).

In 2011, 94% of the surveyed pupils were attending public schools with 74.2% of the learners that attended public schools benefitting from feeding schemes. "This percentage has increased from 66.2% in 2009," noted the report.

Learners in Limpopo (94.7%),

Northern Cape (86.7%) and Eastern Cape (84.6%) were the most likely to benefit from this programme. Officially known as the National School Nutrition Programme, the programme came into effect in 2002.

Meanwhile, the number of learners indicating that they experienced corporal punishment at school increased from 16.8% in 2009 to 17.2% in 2011. "Very large increases are evident in Northern Cape (25.5% to 30.2%) and Limpopo (14.6% to 19.3%). This form of punishment was most commonly experienced in Eastern Cape (30.2%) and KwaZulu-Natal (22.5%)."

Approximately 652 869 students were enrolled at higher educational institutions during 2011. Almost 65.4% of these students were black. "However, proportionally this group is still underrepresented. Only 3.5% of Africans aged 18 to 29 years were studying as opposed to 14.9% of Indian/Asian individuals and 20% of the white population in this age group. Only 3.8% of the coloured population was studying during 2011," noted the report.

The study also found that more than 91.9% of South Africans are able to read and write. The adult literacy rate, however, lags behind the average in provinces such as Mpumalanga and Limpopo where respectively 86.8% and 87% of populations were literate.

The GHS has been performed annually by Stats SA since 2002. It was introduced to address a need identified by government to determine the level of development in the country. - BuaNews

# MPUMALANGA NON-PROFIT ORGANISATION MAKES THE GRADE

**National enterprise development initiative selects local organisation for 2012 programme**

The Bushbuckridge Youth Development Organisation (bbrydo) has been selected to be part of the 2012 legends programme, an award-winning national business development initiative funded by the old mutual foundation. Seventy five organisations nationally were selected from over 500 applications.

"The quality of the applicants nationally was extremely high this year, but we all agreed that bbrydo, who was part of legends last year, deserved to be included in the 2012 programme again," says Catherine Winberg, programme founder and MD of the programme.

**Focused on growth**

Operating as an incubator for promising black-owned businesses, social enterprises and community-based projects, legends has delivered some exceptional results, including a 290% increase in participant sales between 2007 and 2010. The programme has been a finalist twice for best enterprise development programme in South Africa, and was the winner of the 2011 Africa smme awards.

Last year, 60 organizations participated in the programme. This figure has been increased to 75 organizations in 2012, due to an increase in the funding commitment from old mutual and a desire to broaden impact and reaching out.

Clarence Tshitereke, head of the Old Mutual Foundation explains: "we recognize that the success and growth of the smme sector is absolutely crucial in terms of job creation and the fight against unemployment, which is why we support initiatives such as legends. The programme teaches leaders 'the business of business', so that they are empowered to create their own futures, leading to stronger organizations, sustainable job creation and healthier, happier communities."

**Holistic offering**

Legends supports a diverse range of small businesses, ngo's and community-based projects nationally. Applicants are assessed according to their suitability for the

3-year programme, with preference given to black-owned and bee-compliant organizations and social enterprises with a track record of at least 2-3 years in operation. Support is needs-based and includes workshops, e-learning, mentoring, brand development, media and marketing assistance and access to a large network of like-minded peers.

**Bbrydo**

The team at bbrydo were recognized for their achievements in the field of youth development by receiving two separate awards in 2011, from the department of corporate governance and traditional affairs and the department of women, children and people with disabilities, the latter in recognition of efforts made by

institutions whose services cater for people living with disabilities.

Vusi Vilakazi of (bbrydo) had this to say of their inclusion in the legends programme for a second year running: "we would like to extend our gratitude to the legends team for the capacity building programmes they took us through last year.

We are quite certain that these have contributed enormously to our growth and development.

**SEE PICTURES BELOW**

**1. Cathrine Winberg of Legends assesses an applicant**  
**2. Legends 2012 applicants**



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