

VISIT to EC Schools (PE and East London): Tuesday 26 & Friday 29 October 2010

by Mpumi Williams
& Nobbi Rululu

Tuesday 26th October 2010

Douglas Mbopa High School, PE

Principal: Mrs Zotwana

Bursary Representative: Mrs Mguca

Tel: 041 469 1135

Enrolment No.: 1000

Teachers: 26



Beautiful, clean entrance and building, no children were wondering around. Teachers in the staff room were busy marking papers. School was in progress when we arrived at 9:30. We were warmly received by the Bursary Rep. Mrs Mguca. Learners were already organized at the library which did not have any books or shelving.



We have 47 learners, 9 did not join us as they were writing exams. We started with introductions, and spoke about career choices, life style etc. Most of them had a very clear picture of what they wanted to do when they leave school.

Mrs Mguca who is also the LO teacher says that they are trying their best to give them as much guidance as they can. Learners were very excited to actually see people from the office.

Mrs Kwatsha, a primary school teacher accompanied us to all schools, she was surprised to find a lot of children she taught at Empumalanga Primary in Motherwell.



SPECIAL CASE:

Walisi Asisipho: A grade 9 learner who never received her money [R800] for the year because she did not tell us where she will be attending in 2010. She only notified the office in June that she is at Douglas Mbopa. We took her money with and she was so excited to get the full award.



A bursar, giving a vote of thanks on behalf of the learners and the school

Tuesday 26th October 2010
Ndyebo High School, PE
Principal: Mr Simon
Bursary Representative: Mr Simon
Tel: 041 462 2588

Enrolment No: 800
Teachers: 23



We arrived here at 11:30; Mr Simon, the Principal, Mrs Thanda, HOD and Ms Manengele were waiting for us with big hugs and smiles. We discussed the challenges they face with discipline, teenage pregnancy and drug problems were the top of the list. Grade 12 passrate was also discussed and we congratulated them for good results and wished them good luck for this year. We were then accompanied by the L.O teacher and H.O.D to a venue where some of our learners were already waiting, the Principal joined us later for coffee.



School building is not properly maintained. Leaking toilets and litter on school grounds. They only have 1 phone/fax line, which is in the principal's office. Computer lab has 3 working computers and 15 monitors. They have been trying to get assistance but have been unsuccessful.

We have 62 learners and saw 50, grade 12's were not at school as they are busy with final exams.

Learners were confident and most of the grade 11's had already know what to do at the end of 2011.

SPECIAL CASE:

Kanana Thembeke did not tell us where she was going to attend school, wrote to her in June to send report so that we can send both payments at the same time. She received the letter but asked someone to post it for her, did not reach us. Ms Manengele went to print it but the only printer was not working. Report still not received.





Tuesday 26th October 2010

S.E K Mqhayi High School, PE

Bursary Representative: Mrs V Mankonti

Tel: 041 485 1022/1252

Enrolment No: 250

Teachers: 12

Beautiful school building, sewerage water overflowing in front of the administration block. We arrived here at 12:30, the secretary was not there. The Principal, Mr Mateta was also not there, he went to buy the paper for the exams.

We looked around and saw someone and asked for the bursary rep, Mrs Mankonti who happened to be she, who was not happy to see us. When the appointment was made, she confirmed the date and time. After chatting about ASF and why we were there, her face completely changed and went to fetch the learners.

We have 13 learners at this school, however we only saw 12 of them. 1 learner [Higa Zintle], a grade 8 learner left this school before the June exams, and did not notify us as to where she was going to attend school. No one at the school knew where she was attending.

We then started with introductions, and had in-depth discussions with learners about career choices, life style etc. Learners at this school seem to have a very clear picture about career choices.



The learners at this school are not motivated at all. We do not think that there is much guidance given to them.

The school is surrounded by a lot of shacks. The only telephone they have is two public phones in the reception area.



Mrs Mankonti and ASF learners singing

Friday 29th October 2010

Vulamazibuko High School, EL

Principal: Mrs Kwinana

Bursary Representative: Mrs Mpondo

Tel: 043 760 2640

Enrolment No: 985

Teachers: 30

The entrance is beautiful but the school buildings are really looking shabby, needs proper maintenance (paint, roof, windows etc.). As we arrived, police were at the school premises because one of the boys had stolen shoes.



We were warmly received by the Principal, Mrs Kwinana and Bursary Rep, Mrs Mpondo. Out of 16 learners, only 8 were present at school because it was the last official school day.



We then started with introductions, and our discussion with learners. ASF bursars are the exemplar for the whole school and were all in full uniform and proud to be the pioneers of the fund. Vote of thanks was given by this learner on behalf of school and learners – she spoke very well.

Mrs Mpondo is also their L.O teacher who seems very passionate about it and said that she is also trying her best to give them guidance. She also thanked ASF for financial support and guidance given to their learners.

Principal is trying her best to run the school, and keep the learners motivated. The school has not been allocated enough funding so the Principal was out asking local businesses to donate printing paper in preparation for the exams. There was not enough material and resources for all the learners.

The issue about the R50 bank charges was resolved.



Friday 29th October 2010

Eric Mntonga High School, EL

Bursary Representative: Mr Mbam

Tel: 043 762 5223

Enrolment No: 350

Teachers: 23

Beautiful school grounds and buildings from the outside however, the classrooms are a different scene. The school is continuously vandalized, windows are broken, equipment stolen etc.



This used to be best built school in Mdantsane in 1995 with science laboratory, home economics etc. There are only signs at the doors to show what the rooms were supposed to be. We were received the Bursary Rep, Mr Mbam. We proceeded to the Principal's office, Mrs Sili who welcomed and shared sad news about the surrounding community.

We have 1 learner at this school [Mhlophe Thobela, grade 11]. We could not see her - writing exams.



We found out that the bursary rep keeps all the information about ASF and application forms. None of the teachers know about us. He is filing every letter that comes therefore nobody knows anything about bursaries. He also did not know our criteria as he just files everything away.

The only good thing about it is the School Library that works. It is in a shabby condition but full of books and computers. Learners at the school are using often and the Librarian seems to be the person whom ASF could liaise with at the school [bursary rep].





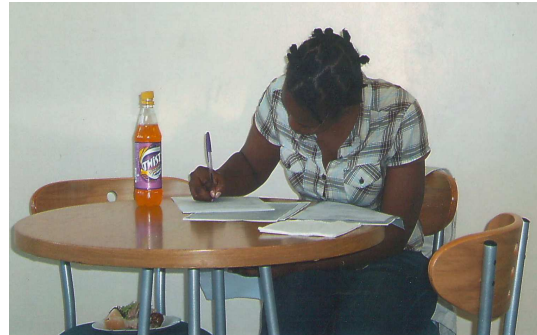
Ex Student from East London

Tukela is giving back to her community, FNB student - 2008

Tukela Bekwa (ASF & FET bursar) invited us to an orphanage in Mdantsane where she is giving back by volunteering her time to the youth. Some of the learners had applied for awards for next year. We were welcomed by the Social and other staff members. We had time to speak to the learners.

She is passionate about her community, hoping to uplift and encourage the youth. She has gathered a group of friends to form a group called Nikilitha eMdantsane (meaning Give hope to Mdantsane).

She says, you are where you are because someone helped you at some point along the way, so it is vital to give back to those who have not yet stepped up the ladder of success. It is a duty that should come from within. Thank you FNB and African Scholars' Fund.



Tukela attended our student support workshop in October 2008.