



Communities and Justice Programme

PROTEA GLEN AND REASOMA
SECONDARY SCHOOLS
JOHANNESBURG CENTRAL, GAUTENG

REPORT 2015

August - October 2015



SAFER SOUTH AFRICA
— FOUNDATION —



SAFER SOUTH AFRICA

FOUNDATION

The Safer South Africa Foundation exists to mobilise under-resourced communities to build awareness and ability to work together in the 'fight against crime'. The foundation fosters a better understanding of community safety issues and improve relationships between the community and the law enforcement agencies. In addition to its work with communities, the foundation seeks to actively contribute to the national discourse on crime and community safety matters by undertaking research, advocacy and campaigns.

Vision

'South Africa – a safer place to work, rest and play'

Mission

'To help build safe, confident and empowered communities'

Values

- We acknowledge and honour the fundamental value and dignity of all individuals.
- We act with honesty and integrity, not compromising the truth.
- We are committed to creating and maintaining an environment that respects diverse traditions, heritages and experiences.
- We will not accept funding from or work with any organisation that demands we compromise our values in any way.
- We are committed to effective partnerships and we seek opportunities to form alliances with local community and voluntary organisations.

Strategic Aims of Safer South Africa Foundation:

- To mobilize and empower local communities to join hands in the fight against crime in order to contribute to the improvement of their community.
- To promote an enhanced level of security in South Africa's communities by providing an independent perspective on community policing, road safety and successful reintegration of offenders to curb reoffending.
- To work in partnership with all community based formations and others to help improve safety in communities.
- To educate the public about the criminal justice system, encourage and support research to inform community based crime prevention strategies.



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ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The collaboration, commitment and cooperation of different organisations and individuals have contributed tremendously to the success of the implementation of the Safer South Africa Foundation's Communities and Justice Programme.

Appreciation goes to the Gauteng Department of Education for endorsing this community based crime prevention initiative and for identifying the schools in Sebokeng, Ekurhuleni, Johannesburg Central and Tshwane North for the implementation of the programme in the Gauteng province.

Thank you to the school principals, Mr Joseph Mabaso of Protea Glen Secondary School, and Ms Joyce Mashele of Reasoma Secondary School, and their teams for welcoming the Safer South Africa Foundation and for supporting the implementation of the Programme in their schools.

Safer South Africa Foundation is indebted to all role players in the Criminal Justice System, (The South African Police Service, Johannesburg Metropolitan Police and the Department of Justice and Correctional Services) for their invaluable contribution to the Programme and for opening their facilities to the learners and taking them under their wings, empowering them with relevant information on the functioning of the criminal justice system and the roles of the practitioners in the law enforcement agencies.

The programme owes its success to the dedicated lecturers, who took time from their busy schedules to address crime prevention and to nurture patriotism amongst the learners.

The Safer South Africa Foundation is grateful to the parents who granted permission for the learners to participate in the programme and the community members and all stakeholders for their unwavering support.

Our heartfelt gratitude goes to the learners who demonstrated a keen interest in the programme and participated actively in the discussions during the sessions.

Workerslife has been a strong supporter of the implementation of the programme and continues to make generous donations to ensure the success of the programme.

The Safer South Africa Foundation Board's unwavering support and guidance is highly appreciated. Thank you for ensuring that the Safer South African Foundation realises its vision of making South Africa 'a safer place to work, rest and play.'



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SUMMARY

The positive feedback from all stakeholders who have been exposed to the Safer South Africa Foundation's Communities and Justice Programme continues to corroborate the need for the community's better understanding of the functioning of the Criminal Justice System.

The requests for the implementation of the programme are increasing as more and more people consider it as one of the important vehicles that promote access to justice and a potential to build bridges between the community and law enforcement agencies and officials.

The Safer South Africa Foundation (SSAF) is a registered Non-Profit Company (NPC) and a Public Benefit Organization (PBO) aimed at mobilizing and empowering local communities to join hands in the fight against crime in order to contribute to the improvement of safety and protection of their communities.

The SSAF's Communities and Justice Programme is a flagship programme initiated by the SSAF in 2012. It is a community based programme aimed at empowering communities and promoting a better relationship between the practitioners within the Criminal Justice System and the community they serve. The programme was successfully piloted at the Dirang ka Natla Secondary School in Khuma Township in the Northwest province from February to April 2013.

The positive reviews resulted in the rollout in Gauteng starting with the response to the invitation from Lancea Vale High School in Eldorado Park, where the programme was implemented from September to November 2013. This was soon followed by implementation at the S.G Mafaesa High School, in Kagiso, Krugersdorp, from February to April 2014.

During the same year the milestones celebrated included the addition of the eighth session dedicated to evaluation; the birth of the alumnus titled *youth4safersouthafrica* and the signing of the memorandum of understanding with the Gauteng Department of Education culminating in the identification of eight schools for implementation of the programme, in the districts of Sedibeng, Ekurhuleni North, Johannesburg Central and Tshwane North.

The implementation of the programme at the first two of the eight identified schools, Residencia and Katleho-Impumelelo Secondary Schools in Sebokeng in the Sedibeng District Municipality commenced in August and concluded in October 2014.

In 2015, the programme was implemented in following schools: Ephes Mamkeli Secondary and Wordsworth High School, in Benoni, Ekurhuleni North, from April to June 2015 and Protea Glen and Reasoma Secondary Schools in Soweto, Central Johannesburg, from August to October 2015. The cooperation and support from the community and the various law enforcement agencies in the Criminal Justice System was inspiring throughout the process.

The final event, the certificate award ceremony of the Communities and Justice Programme was a jubilant occasion and a source of pride for the schools, the community and the invited speakers and dignitaries.



INTRODUCTION

The report is envisioned to inform policy makers and practitioners in the crime prevention field and to give feedback to the schools, the parents, stakeholders and departments who participated in the implementation of the Communities and Justice Programme.

The lessons learned, achievements and challenges in the implementation of the programme in the two schools, Protea Glen and Reasoma Secondary Schools, in Soweto, Johannesburg Central, Gauteng, will be outlined in this report.





BACKGROUND

The two schools that participated in the Safer South Africa Foundation's Communities and Justice Programme, Protea Glen and Reasoma Secondary Schools, are situated in Protea Glen, Soweto. Protea Glen is in the Johannesburg Metro, Gauteng Province, and is located in the western part of Soweto and north of Lenasia.

The schools are part of the Johannesburg Central, one of the fifteen Gauteng Department of Education districts.

The preparatory meetings with all relevant stakeholders began in earnest in July 2015. It was during these meetings that the decision was taken to proceed with the implementation of the programme in the two identified schools in the Johannesburg Central district.

To further the objectives of the programme, numerous written communication, presentations, and in depth discussions with various stakeholders, including the Protea South African Police Service, Johannesburg Metropolitan Police Department, Soweto-Protea Magistrate Court and the Department of Justice and Correctional Services (Johannesburg Correctional Centre) took place.



During the same month, the process of mapping out the logistics and concluding agreements on the dates was embarked upon. SSAF had gained experience in addressing the challenges of simultaneously implementing the programme in two schools. Notwithstanding the fact that each school is unique, the lessons learned in the Sedibeng and Ekurhuleni districts were useful.

There was an added advantage in the Johannesburg Central district as the Johannesburg Metropolitan Police Department and the Johannesburg Correctional Centre had experience in the process gained in the implementation of the programme in Lancea Vale Secondary School in 2014.

It was heartening to note the enthusiasm and co-operation from the two school principals and the departments who had made a commitment to second skilled officials to impart information to learners during the programme.

All role players agreed that the implementation of the eight week Communities and Justice Programme in the two schools should commence in August and conclude in October 2015.

COMMUNITIES & JUSTICE PROGRAMME



In a quest to fulfil its goal to empower and mobilise communities in the ‘fight against crime’, the Safer South Africa Foundation (SSAF) engages schools; government; civil-society organisations; and members of society to foster a safe and confident nation that is aware of its civil rights and responsibilities.

This engagement has led the Foundation into developing the Communities and Justice Programme, which at its heart seeks to improve the service relationship of the South African Criminal Justice System and the community.

The Communities and Justice Programme is a flagship programme of the SSAF, initiated in 2012. It is a community based programme aimed at strengthening partnerships for crime prevention.

The programme initiates dialogue and creates an interactive “getting-to-know-each other” platform for communities and law enforcement practitioners.

OBJECTIVES OF THE PROGRAMME

- To empower the learners by exposing them to the roles of various law enforcement agents (police, traffic, court and correctional services officials).
- To create a platform for learners to interact face to face with law enforcement agents in order to enhance trust and confidence in the criminal justice system.
- To empower the learners with regard to their individual rights in their interaction with law enforcement agents.
- To encourage participation in community based crime prevention initiatives.

SCOPE

The programme is envisaged to assist the participants to:

- Acquire knowledge on basic information on the functioning of the South African criminal justice system;
- Understand the policies that regulate the various law enforcement agents in the execution of their duties;
- Know their rights and responsibilities as citizens in their interaction with the law enforcement agents; and
- Equip participants with skills to enable them to engage meaningfully; hold the service providers accountable; and to participate optimally in community based crime prevention initiatives.

The programme seeks to dispel myths communities may hold about the criminal justice system by exposing participants to facilities such as police stations, courts and correctional facilities for experiential learning.



PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION

The preparatory briefing meetings were met with enthusiasm and assisted the Foundation to put the targeted schools in context with regard to achievements and current challenges facing the youth in the Protea Community.

The SSAF is increasingly beginning to appreciate the value of implementing the programme utilising lecturers who live and work in the local community and who understand the particular burning issues in that community.

The enthusiasm and the keen interest, in empowering the learners, by community members from the various departments in the Criminal Justice System were encouraging.

Once more the requisite administration had to be done concurrently in the two schools; the two principals had to agree on dates and times while the departments seconding lecturers had to be persuaded to accommodate the two schools and set aside two days per week, allowing one day per school.

Subsequent to the endorsement of the Communities and Justice Programme by all relevant stakeholders and role players, communication announcing the implementation of the programme in the two schools, Protea Glen and Reasoma Secondary Schools in Johannesburg Central, was sent out.



The two school principals were required to sign the service agreement on behalf of the schools while the Chief Executive Officer represented SSAF.

The agreement outlined the roles and responsibilities of each role-player. The programme was introduced to the parents in writing by the schools to seek their approval for the participation of the learners, particularly because the programme is conducted after school.

Having dealt with the administrative part, the discussions with the schools focussed on setting the dates, selecting the learners and agreeing on the times for implementation.

Both schools assigned a teacher to play the role of the coordinator within the school. An implementation schedule was drawn as per agreement with the school principals and then presented to the seconded lecturers in the Criminal Justice System.

The sessions were held once a week at each school for eight weeks with the exception of the experiential learning in the form of a mock trial at the Protea Glen Magistrate court and the visit to the Johannesburg Correctional Centre.

Two weeks were allocated to the South African Police Service; one week to the Johannesburg Metropolitan Police Department, two weeks to the National Prosecuting Authority's prosecutors from the Protea Magistrate court, and two weeks to Correctional Services.



The final week was utilised for presentation on Human Rights and the final evaluation in addition to the ongoing evaluation process that required learners to complete evaluation forms after each session.

The presentations invited a myriad of questions followed by robust debates, demonstrating a quest for information and knowledge to foster a better understanding of the roles of the various law enforcement practitioners.

The methodology followed was in the form of lectures, a combination of presentations, discussions and response to questions, role play and experiential learning through the visit to facilities such as the magistrate court and the correctional service centre.

The commencement of the Programme had a special touch due to the presence of representatives from the South African National Council of Alcoholism and Drug Dependency (SANCA); the Faith Based Organizations; and the Health Promotion School Programme, who communicated a strong message of support.

The learners received first-hand information from the police on the role of the police in maintaining law and order, the arrest process and the rights and obligations of the accused. The questions raised were issues observed within the Protea Glen community, making the session more meaningful.

The Johannesburg Metropolitan Police took them through their mandate, the processes followed in the execution of their tasks and addressed road safety challenges facing youth, making proposals of possible collaboration and the role of the community in road safety.



The NPA team from the Protea Magistrate Court empowered the learners on their mandate, the role of the prosecutors, the challenges they face, and also elaborated on the different levels of the courts and their roles.

During discussion time the learners began to show appreciation for the roles and responsibilities of the prosecutors and the various courts.

The learners were fascinated by the court process during the mock trial; there was a surprise address by the sitting magistrate and acting judge who welcomed them.

One learner wrote that seeing the magistrate was a cheery on top, stating: *"I have never met a magistrate or a judge before"*.

The mock trial clearly demonstrated the court processes and included role-players such as the magistrate, the prosecutor, the police, the interpreters, and others, such as representatives from the Independent Police investigative division, the Teddy Bear Clinic and the victim preparation officer, participated actively during the discussion period.

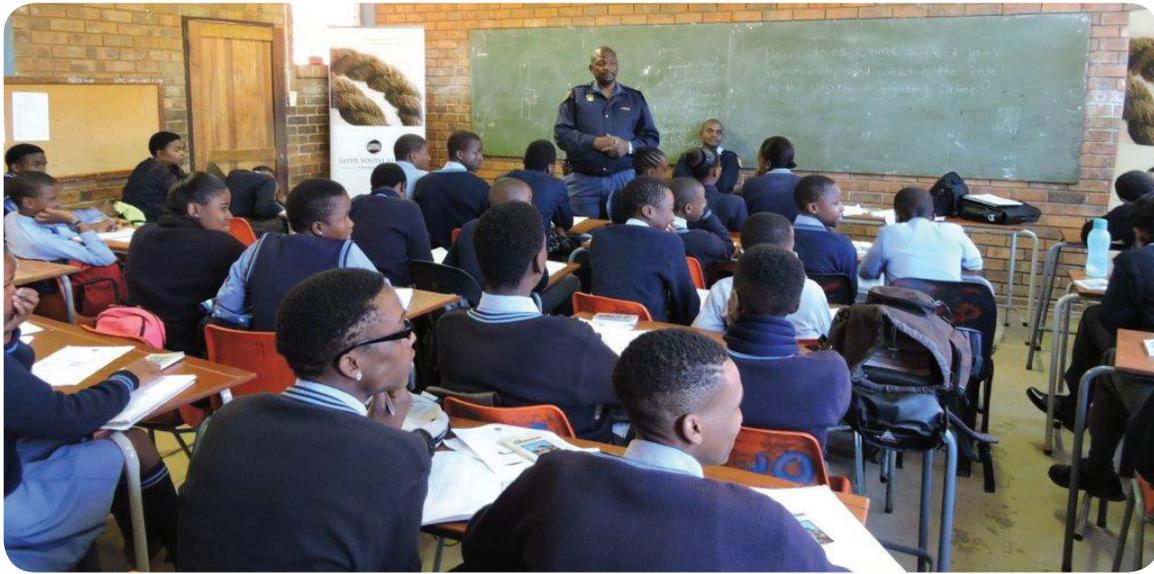
All the role-players present did an excellent job to empower the learners about the different roles during the proceedings in court.

The team from Johannesburg Correctional Centre imparted information that sent a strong message that crime does not pay. They explained the impact of incarceration on the individual and the family.



The presence of a trained facilitator added value and assisted to stimulate debate, to keep discussions focused on the South African Criminal Justice System. The learners displayed a keen interest on the role of the various law enforcement practitioners, and on their individual rights, applied in every day life.





The message conveyed by the lecturer was reiterated by the young offenders the learners met during the visit to the youth centre at the Johannesburg Correctional Facility.

Some learners were moved to tears when they listened to the candid testimonies of the offenders. The offenders warned the learners and emphasized that crime does not pay.

A different aspect was introduced to the correctional centre visit; the female learners visited the female offenders. This was an eye opener for most learners.

They learned that justice is applied equally without fear or favour to any particular gender. They were sad to observe that mothers are incarcerated with their babies who must then be removed at the age of two (2 years). The mothers shared their pain but acknowledged that the correctional facility is not a conducive environment for the children's early childhood development.

The offenders admitted to having wronged society but added that it was important for them to use the second chance and turn their lives around.

The programme continued to incorporate the competition initiated in 2013 by SSAF in partnership with the South African Police Service. The learners were invited to write an essay entitled: *"How does crime affect your community - what can the youth do to prevent crime?"*

The adjudicators were selected from the Protea Magistrate Court (NPA), and the results were announced during the certificate award ceremony.

The essay competition has become a useful tool to measure the learners' understanding of the information imparted during the sessions. Learners from both schools participated in the competition.





The Foundation is encouraged by the performance and presentation of those who participated in the essay competition. The essays illustrated that crime instils fear and has a negative impact on victims and communities.

Below are excerpts from the essays:

"Crime affects the economy and the wellbeing of the entire society. Crime is a career choice, and the youth must at all costs not embrace it. The youth must avoid and reject places, friends and lifestyles bordering on crime".

"The community must create programmes to rehabilitate the perpetrators of crime and to give them opportunities to discover their real purpose in life".

"Crime prevention is the responsibility of every person in society, not only of the police service. Society and police both have a duty to prevent crime by removing the opportunity and desire to commit crime. The schools must create platforms where learners are informed about criminal activities and its effects particularly on the youth".

"Crime also affects and disadvantages the perpetrator, because long after the crime has been committed, a criminal record stands against the perpetrator's employment opportunities".

"Youth involvement in programmes and activities intended to reduce crime must be promoted. An enabling environment must be created where youth report crime to the relevant authorities".

"The most serious aspects of crime is its ability to destroy relationships. The perpetrator of crime not only end up serving time in prison, but loose his dignity and respect from those who love him. There is nothing more painful than being rejected by the family, the community and society at large"

"The most devastating effect of crime is to be rejected by your own people as a misfit, a murderer, a rapist, thief, drug addict, and smuggler. There is no life when you are not accepted as a normal human being in society".

LECTURE SCHEDULE

DATE	INSTITUTION	VENUE	PRESENTERS
04 August 2015	South African Police Service	Protea Glen Secondary School	Warrant Officer Makhumbene
05 August 2015		Reasoma Secondary School	Constable Mashiteng
11 August 2015	Traffic Department	Protea Glen Secondary School	Officer Tshidiso Monareng
12 August 2015		Reasoma Secondary School	
18 August 2015	South African Police Service	Protea Glen Secondary School	Warrant Officer Makhumbene
19 August 2015		Reasoma Secondary School	
25 August 2015	Department of Justice and Correctional Services (NPA) Protea Magistrate Court	Protea Glen Secondary School	Prosecutor Denzel Martin
26 August 2015		Reasoma Secondary School	
08 September 2015	Department of Justice and Correctional Services (NPA)	Protea Magistrate Court	Protea Magistrate Court Team
15 September 2015	Department of Justice and Correctional Services (DCS)	Protea Glen Secondary School	Ms Samantha Ramsewaki Mr Aubrey Macheke
16 September 2015		Reasoma Secondary School	
23 September 2015	Department of Justice and Correctional Services (DCS)	Johannesburg Correctional Centre	Various Correctional Officials at the Centre
29 September 2015	Human Rights and Evaluation of Programme	Protea Glen Secondary School	Safer South Africa Foundation Team
30 September 2015		Reasoma Secondary School	
21 October 2015	Certificate Awards	Protea South Multipurpose Hall	Safer South Africa Foundation



CERTIFICATE AWARD CEREMONY



The Certificate Award Ceremony was held on 21 October 2015 at the Protea South Multipurpose Hall for both Protea Glen and Reasoma Secondary Schools.

The occasion was graced by the invited dignitaries, the lecturers and their principals from the departments of the South African Police Service, Johannesburg Metropolitan Police, National Prosecuting Authority, Protea Magistrate Court, the Johannesburg Correctional Centre, the Gauteng Department of Education, the PGC Group, parents, teachers and School Governing Body representatives from the two schools.

The learners from both schools arrived in their full school uniform accompanied by their teachers and school principals. The hall was abuzz and the joyous mood was palpable in anticipation of the big moment.

It was heartening to see the learners helping SSAF to set up the PA system and cooperating fully with the programme director, Mr Mashiya, during the briefing session on the proceedings during the ceremony.

The vibrant rendition of a song "*Qhubeka*" led by a Protea Glen learner set the stage for a jubilant occasion. All the learners and guests joined in the singing, joyfully swaying to the beat. The programme director sustained the mood in his opening remarks, sharing jokes and captivating the attention of all attendees.







All speakers congratulated the learners on their achievements and commended the Safer South Africa Foundation for introducing a necessary community based crime prevention initiative. Ms Joyce Mashele, Reasoma School principal extended a warm welcome to all present.

Advocate Thipanyane, SSAF CEO, in outlining the purpose of the occasion, shared the vision of SSAF of a safe South Africa free of crime; where all people will feel safe in their homes, their streets, their places of work, their school, and places of recreation and cultural and religious activities.

He went on to describe the programme its aims and processes and expressed gratitude to all the partners for their continued support.

Mr Wayne Minnaar, Chief Superintendent, Johannesburg Metropolitan Police delivered the message of support to the learners. He cited the horrific accidents on the South African roads that injure and maim scores of people and prematurely end the lives of many.

He drew attention to the recent three car collision on the 19 October 2015 in Mpumalanga. He warned against exceeding the legal speed limit, driver fatigue, drunk driving and driving cars that are not road worthy.



Emphasizing the importance of road safety and compliance at all times; he encouraged the learners as the future of South Africa to aspire to be leaders and ensure that there is less substance abuse, less road accidents and deaths, and less convictions.

He heartily congratulated all the recipients of the certificates.

Acting Judge Audrey Mpofu delivered the keynote address. She lamented that crime will kill our democracy. She cited the recent senseless chilling killing of people walking in the Rhodes Park, in Kensington, east of Johannesburg on 17 October 2015.

She shared her pain in sentencing the youth as was the case in a recent incident where a youth was convicted for stabbing a promising grade 11 youth at a "Pens-Down Party". She pleaded with the learners to refrain from participating in this new phenomenon where under-age drinking and sexual activities take place.

She encouraged the learners to emulate positive role model such as Prosecutor Denzel Martin who will be relocating after an outstanding service to the Protea Glen Community; to choose positive activities; mix with the right groups and help family and community members. She called upon them to bring back *Ubuntu*.

Judge Mpofu acknowledged that parents and adults in the community have a vital role to play in shaping the lives of the youth. She implored them to desist from accepting stolen goods and from corrupting the youth by encouraging criminal activities such as drug peddling.

She encouraged the adults that as good leaders, they should mentor the youth.



She encouraged the learners to be the best they can be and not to listen to anyone who says they cannot follow their dreams.

Citing a variety of choices in professions and trades at their disposal; she encouraged them not to look at poverty as a barrier to reaching their potential.

She used the law to illustrate her point, stating that they do not have to aspire to be judges but they could specialize in various aspects of the law, such as environmental law or corporate law.

She concluded her address by congratulating the learners, acknowledging the learners' talents, calling upon them to appreciate themselves and asked them to remember the quotation: *"Nobody said the journey was easy, live it with grit and gratitude."*



Before leaving the podium, Judge Mpofu recognized Ms Jabulile Sishuba of the SSAF with whom she previously served in the National Council of Correctional Services.

She acknowledged her meticulous planning, hard work behind the scenes and valuable contribution to the programme.

She added her voice to the appreciation expressed by the SSAF CEO and the programme director.





The representatives from both schools delivered powerful messages of encouragement amidst the cheers from their peers.

Lehlohonolo Tshabangu representing Protea Glen Secondary School thanked the Safer South Africa Foundation for giving them an opportunity to participate in an empowering crime prevention programme.

She thanked the various law enforcement practitioners for equipping them with knowledge on the functioning of the Criminal Justice System.

She concluded by thanking Mr. Mashiya of the Safer South Africa Foundation for taking them through a session on “PIES” depicting a person’s *Physical, Intellectual, Emotional* and *Spiritual* maturity preparing them for leadership in all spheres of their lives.

Reasoma was represented by Ms Ntombikayise Dhlamini; she thanked her school and the Chief Executive Officer of Safer South Africa Foundation, Adv. T. Thipanyane for exposing them to an educational and life changing experience.

She admitted that at the beginning, being part of the programme was intimidating, but they had to challenge themselves and change their approach and adopt positive ways of doing things, to ensure that down the road they will be happy with their choices and decisions.







She thanked all the law-enforcement practitioners and court officials for taking them through the court processes.

She indicated that some of the experiences, such as the visit to the Johannesburg Correctional Centre, were traumatizing but with the support of the lecturers and the SSAF team they were able to work through their feelings.

Finally she shared with the audience her experiences in the programme with regard to the presentation on the "PIES" and thanked Mr Mashiya for an eye opening and life changing experience, saying: *"Words cannot even explain how much he changed our lives, not only our lives but those of our parents."*

"He gave us the courage and ambition to touch the lives of our school mates and the community. I believe that God sent him to us to release our greatness and the potential we were hiding, for that we are truly blessed."

Both learner representatives expressed a wish for all learners to be exposed to the programme.

The parents were touched by the speeches and began to understand the empowerment process their children had undergone.



The following poem was composed and recited by Ms Petunia Makhathini from Reasoma Secondary School during the certificate award ceremony:

Ubuntu - Let Us Heal The World With Love And Unity

*Ubuntu (I am what I am, because of who we all are)
Under Ubuntu we can create for ourselves a new earth.
Where all beings are honoured for their individual worth.
Become once again a planet of equal sharing.
With abundance for all and compassionate caring.
United we will evolve into a species at peace.
Set free from suffering.
Triggering enslavement release.
No longer controlled by the vice-grip of banks.
Without money there will be no more missiles, guns and tanks.
Treating each other with pure love and respect, will have the
Enlightening, transforming effect,
Unity between nations.
All races and tribes will ensure that
our beautiful blue planet survives.*





Excitement filled the hall during the presentation of the certificates. Before announcing the names, the programme director prompted the learners reminding them of the information imparted during the sessions.

The response was deafening preceded by “yes professor” a title they had affectionately bestowed to Mr Mashiya.

As the learners’ names were called they proudly ascended the stage gesticulating to acknowledge the applause and recognition from their fellow learners, guests, proud parents and teachers.

The foundation was supported in presenting the certificates by dignitaries from the Protea Magistrate Court (NPA); the South African Police Service, the Gauteng Department of Education, the Department of Justice and Correctional Services, the Johannesburg Metropolitan Police, and the PGC Group.

There was no doubt during the presentation of certificates that a bond had been formed between the law enforcement practitioners and the learners because when the lecturers were called up to the stage the learners went wild cheering in jubilation while the lecturers beamed with pride.

As is now customary, the learners in the two schools had participated in the essay competition on the topic, “How does crime affect the community and what can the youth do to prevent crime?”

The adjudication was conducted by the NPA Protea Magistrate Court and six best essays were selected. Three winners from Protea Glen Secondary School and three from Reasoma Secondary School were announced during the Certificate Awards Ceremony.



The announcement of the winners drew a deafening applause from the audience; the successful learners could not contain their jubilation as they ascended the stage to be congratulated and receive their prizes from the Acting Judge Mpofu, Protea Magistrate Court, and the Chief Superintendent Johannesburg Metropolitan Police, Mr Wayne Minnaar

Their fellow learners were cheerfully calling out their names while the parents and teachers were beaming with pride.



Protea Glen Secondary School winners:

- Makungu Mabasa
- Katlego Maduane
- Vivian Phehla

Reasoma Secondary School winners:

- Siphon Dube
- Anna Masuku
- Tshepiso Thabane





Mr Mabaso, the Protea Glen Secondary School principal, delivered the vote of thanks and expressed appreciation to the Safer South Africa Foundation and all role players for giving the learners an opportunity to participate in the programme. He also extended a word of gratitude to the speakers for their words of wisdom.

The programme Director before closing, invited the audience to give another round of applause to all the lecturers who did a sterling job, the parents who supported their children, the community for their unwavering support and most of all, to the celebrants, the learners.

The invitation elicited whistling, clapping of hands to the beat and joyful screams.

During refreshments the guests were serenaded by Sanaa Rhythms, a local group from Soweto.

The mood was jolly and the learners were proudly mingling and receiving congratulations and commendation by many, particularly their parents and teachers.

The representative from the two schools' and the poet were beaming with pride as guests congratulated them.

The winners of the essay competition were delighted by their achievement and the prizes they received. All the recipients of the certificate were appreciative of the gifts of T-shirts they received.

The lecturers, speakers and the presenters of certificates also expressed gratitude to SSAF for the gifts given to them as a token of appreciation for their valuable contribution to the success of the implementation of the programme.



EVALUATION

The implementation of the Communities and Justice Programme continues to elicit positive feedback. Every school is unique and yields new lessons to learn from and the Foundation will continue applying the lessons learned to ensure improvements in the implementation of the programme.

In both schools, evaluation forms were distributed to give the opportunity to learners to evaluate the programme after each session and at the end of the eight week programme. The majority of the learners found the programme to be informative and empowering.

Some learners added their own comments on the evaluation form. The following are some of the comments:

"The community must cooperate with JMPD and must report crime. The JMPD must also deal with the perception that they are accepting bribes."

"We now understand the court processes and the role of the NPA better. We enjoyed the visit to the court and the mock trial!"

"The programme must be rolled out to other schools so that the other children can understand the outcomes of criminal activities and be discouraged from such activities."



"I have learned a lot about road safety: such as the advice that one has to wear bright clothes at night when walking in the street; use sidewalks because the road is for cars; that it is illegal to drive when you are under age or when you do not have a licence"

"The prison tour was an eye opener. The outcomes of criminal activities were laid bare. The prison conditions are bad and traumatising to the young ones."

"The programme must be introduced in all schools, so that those who are on the wrong side of the law must change their behaviour for good."

"I have learned that prison is not a five star hotel, and we were overwhelmed by the visit. Every youngster must be afforded the opportunity to visit prison."

The Foundation realises that the utilization of law enforcement practitioners who live and work in the community has many positive effects. They have a good understanding of local issues and are able to share and guide the learners.

The presentations by the lecturers allow the learners to view them in a positive manner and to develop rapport that lays a firm foundation for improved opportunities for working together. The learners are also able to identify career opportunities within the Criminal Justice System.

The parents and guests who attended the Certificate Award Ceremony commended Safer South Africa Foundation for a proactive programme. Parents were in awe as they listened to the testimony of the learners.





They began to appreciate the experience the learners had gone through and realized that the programme had planted a fertile seed. One retired teacher approached SSAF and offered her services indicating that she would grow personally with the exposure in such a programme.

The visit to the court and the correctional facility continue to be the highlight of the eight week programme. The learners were mesmerized when the acting Judge addressed them prior to the mock-trial at the Protea Magistrate Court.

The visit to the correctional facility never fails to evoke painful emotions. The female learners this time were exposed to the female offenders. Some learners and the community member accompanying them ended up in tears. The experiential learning is paying dividends, the learners are receiving basics on access to justice and an understanding of law enforcement agencies.

The session conducted with the teachers in Protea Glen Secondary School at the end of the programme was fruitful; a lesson learned is that it should be held at the beginning to introduce the programme and at the end of the programme to solicit their experiences, observations and impressions of the impact of the programme to the participating learners.

The team continues to learn that the success of the implementation of the programme rests on commitment and cooperation from all role players.



CONCLUSION

Community involvement has become an essential component of crime prevention calling for law enforcement agencies to partner with the community and civil society organizations.

The Communities and Justice Programme of the Safer South Africa Foundation has a great potential to improve relationships between the law enforcement practitioners and the community through dialogue; enhance the understanding of the functioning of the Criminal Justice System; and address early intervention strategies that prevent the young person to engage in future offending.

Empowered and knowledgeable youth will be in a better position to make informed choices.



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