



Communities and Justice Programme

EERSTERUST SECONDARY SCHOOL,
EERSTERUST & J. KEKANA SECONDARY
SCHOOL, MAMELODI
TSHWANE SOUTH, GAUTENG



REPORT 2016

May - June 2016



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 Safer South Africa Foundation commends dedicated individuals and organisations for having worked tirelessly to make the implementation of the Communities and Justice Programme, in Tshwane South, a success.

Appreciation goes to the Gauteng Department of Education for identifying the two schools in Tshwane South and introducing the Foundation to the school principals.

The school principals, Dr William Louw of Eersterust Secondary and Mr D.W. Tsipa of J. Kekana Secondary Schools are lauded for their enthusiasm and co-operating with the Safer South Africa Foundation.

The inestimable contribution made by the various departments in the Criminal Justice System, the South African Police Service, the Tshwane Metro Police, Justice and Correctional Services (the National Prosecuting Authority and DCS teams) is highly appreciated.

The critical input and commitment of the lecturers seconded from the various law enforcement agencies has left an indelible mark in the lives of the learners who participated in the programme.

Heartfelt gratitude is extended to the parents. Without their support and permission for the learners to participate after school and to undertake the planned excursions, the programme would not have been able to achieve its goal.

The Foundation is indebted to the learners for their ardent participation during the sessions, their contribution in the essay competition and the testimony they gave during the Certificate Award Ceremony.

Recognition goes to the community at large for the support and to the Tshwane Local Municipality management for availing the Eersterust Civic Hall for the Certificate Award Ceremony.

The unwavering support from PGC Group, for the Communities and Justice Programme, is appreciated. PGC Group has been the pillar to the success of the programme and to the Foundation.

Gratitude goes to the Safer South Africa Foundation Board which remains in the forefront in the provision of guidance and advice, ensuring that the Foundation meets its strategic objectives.

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SUMMARY

Speaking at the Certificate Award Ceremony in Eersterust, Pretoria, one learner's sentiment was that "there should be a second round" of the Safer South Africa Foundation's (SSAF) Communities and Justice Programme.

Feedback indicates that the Communities and Justice Programme has begun to translate the SSAF's strategic objectives into practice; to work in partnerships to mobilise and empower communities to join hands in the fight against crime. Undoubtedly, an empowered and informed citizenry is better placed to be part of the solution in the fight against crime.

The Safer South Africa Foundation is a registered Non Profit Company (NPC) and a Public Benefit Organisation (PBO) aimed at contributing to the improvement of safety and the protection of communities.

The 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 communities they serve. The programme was successfully piloted in the North-West province, South Africa in 2013.

The rollout in Gauteng province was a response to the invitation from Lancea Vale High School in Eldorado Park, where the programme was implemented and concluded in November 2013. This was soon followed by the programme's implementation 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 alumni titled *Youth4SaferSouthAfrica* and the signing of the memorandum of understanding with the Gauteng Department of Education. This culminated in the identification of eight schools for the implementation of the programme in the districts of Sedibeng, Ekurhuleni North, Johannesburg Central, and Tshwane South.

The programme now boasts nine sessions which include pre-programme briefing, human rights and an evaluation session. The Foundation, encouraged by the increasing interest in the programme, changed its pace and focused on two schools simultaneously. Implementation of the programme at the first two schools in the Sedibeng District concluded in October 2014. Ekurhuleni North and Johannesburg Central followed in 2015.

In 2016, the Foundation ventured into KwaZulu-Natal for the implementation of the programme in Hlamvana Secondary School in Esikhawini and Ubambiswano High School in Eshowe, this was finalised in March 2016.

The introduction of the programme in Tshwane South, in Eersterust Secondary and J. Kekana Secondary Schools, was met with enthusiasm and co-operation, a trend in all schools where the programme has been implemented. The Certificate Award Ceremony was attended by parents in great numbers to support their children.

INTRODUCTION



The report is a vehicle to account to all stakeholders who formed part of the team in the implementation of the Communities and Justice programme in Tshwane South. It seeks to inform and engage policy makers, academics, interest groups and practitioners in the crime prevention field.

The unique and rich experiences; lessons learnt; achievements and challenges in the implementation of the programme in the schools - Eersterust Secondary in Eersterust, and J. Kekana Secondary in Mamelodi, Tshwane South - will be outlined in this report.

The demand for the report has been remarkable. It remains a powerful tool used to promote dialogue on crime prevention and community safety.

The report is key in opening new avenues for the Foundation's work within South African communities and the expansion of its strategic agenda.

BACKGROUND



The two schools - Eersterust Secondary School, in Eersterust, and J. Kekana Secondary School in Mamelodi West - are situated in the Tshwane Metropolitan Municipality, just about fifteen kilometres east of Pretoria.

As is now customary, the implementation of the programme was preceded by a meeting between the Safer South Africa Foundation, the two schools' principals, and the representatives from the Gauteng Department of Education.

The aim of the meeting was to introduce and outline the aim of the Foundation; the objectives of the Communities and Justice Programme; expectations from all parties; and to avail crucial documentation regarding the programme.

Following a warm reception and fruitful discussions, the school principals signed a service agreement, providing guidance regarding the schedule for programme lectures to ensure that the school examination period was not unfavourably affected.

After receiving approval from the schools, the Foundation approached the prospective partners with concrete information. Thereafter, written communication was sent out containing a three-phased strategy; introducing the programme; requesting meetings; which was later followed by telephonic engagement to finalise dates. Once more the response to the programme was well received.

The subsequent meetings with the South African Police Service, both in Eersterust and Mamelodi West, the Tshwane Metro Police, the Justice and Correctional Services (the National Prosecuting



Authority and DCS) were also met with fervour and all the agencies were ready to collaborate.

The implementation of the programme was scheduled to be rolled out in the months of May and June 2016. All parties agreed that the two schools would jointly visit the Mamelodi West Magistrate Court for a mock trial and the Baviaanspoort Correctional Centre for experiential learning.

The programme lecture schedule had to be planned with precision to accommodate all the sessions adequately.

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 in 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, metro 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
- Acquire 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 pre-programme implementation briefing meetings go a long way in assisting the Safer South Africa Foundation to make informed decisions regarding the challenges facing learners within the school system and the communities they live in.

Again, the information provided by various law enforcement agencies on their successes and challenges in their line of work assisted the Foundation in its preparatory work.

The readiness to collaborate by all role-players was reassuring. Many acknowledged the need for proactive crime prevention initiatives. Undertakings to co-operate and to further the goals of the Foundation's Communities and Justice Programme were made by all parties. The endorsement of the programme paved the way for the intense administrative processes that followed.

The school principals identified their respective school coordinators, Mr Hykes in Eersterust Secondary School and Mr Mokgesi in J. Kekana Secondary School, who collaborated and facilitated the school internal processes with great care and liaised with the Foundation when in doubt.

The programme is conducted after school hours and involves field trips, thus it was imperative to obtain parental concern. All parents were sent a detailed letter introducing the Foundation and the programme, and all consented and gave their blessing.

An implementation schedule was drawn as per agreement with the school principals and then presented to the programme lecturers seconded from all agencies of the Criminal Justice System.



The nine sessions were spread over a one-month period to cover the two schools. For experiential learning, the learners visited the local Magistrate Court and the nearest Correctional Centre.

The Foundation allocated a day to the programme briefing session. Then two days were set aside for the South African Police Service engagement at Eersterust Secondary School, Eersterust and two days for the J. Kekana Secondary School in Mamelodi.

One day was allocated to the briefing session; two days were allocated to the Eersterust South African Police Service in Eersterust; two days to the Mamelodi South African Police Service in J. Kekana; one day per school to the Tshwane Metro Police; one day per school to the National Prosecuting Authority (NPA) with the two schools visited the Mamelodi Magistrate court jointly one day per school to Correctional Services with the visit to the Baviaanspoort Correctional facility as a joint venture by the two schools.



In addition to the evaluation of each session that the learners were required to do, the final day was utilised for presentations on Human Rights and the final evaluation of the entire programme.

The methodology followed was in the form of lectures, a combination of presentations, discussions and response to questions, role play and experiential learning through visits to facilities such as the Magistrate Court and the Correctional Centre.

A learner, during programme implementation, wrote that “the Communities and Justice Programme must not be a once off project, it must be done on a regular basis,” this is amongst the many statements that bear testimony for a need for dialogue between law enforcement agencies and the communities they serve.

Though each school and each community is unique, the quest for a programme such as this one has remained the same. To date, all communities reached since 2013 have given the same positive feedback, rating the programme as one of the best proactive initiatives in crime prevention.

In both schools, the learners received first-hand information from the South African Police Service on its role in maintaining law and order; the correct arrest process; the rights and obligations of the accused; and the role of the community policing forum.

The SAPS team went a step further and outlined the various components of specialisation and employment opportunities and requirements within the SAPS. The SAPS team responded to questions honestly and welcomed any debates from the learners.



The Tshwane Metro Police took learners through their mandate, the processes followed in the execution of their tasks, addressed road safety challenges facing young people, and provided guidance on the role of the community and learners in contributing to road safety.

The discussion that ensued covered issues of driving without a licence; driving at high speed; driving under the influence of alcohol; drug problems and failure to obey the law by pedestrians.

The NPA from the Mamelodi Magistrate Court, well versed in cases involving young people in the area, in outlining their mandate emphasised the importance of adhering to the rule of law, the role of prosecutors and the challenges they face, and elaborated on the different levels of courts and their roles.

The learners' rights and obligations as both perpetrators and victims of crime were highlighted. During discussion time, issues such as domestic violence were thoroughly discussed.

The court process and the roles of the different role players were clearly demonstrated and explained during the mock trial. The learners were in awe and expressed their appreciation for the exposure and information given to them.

The team from the Correctional Services outlined the role of their agency in the Criminal Justice System, the role of correctional officials and that of the different divisions within the department, the types of correctional facilities and the role the community plays to support their work.



The visit to Baviaanspoort Correctional Centre offered a unique experience. The learners were taken through the journey of the offender, from admission to release. This was an experience that they were not prepared for, however, it was life-changing for them.

The visit evoked different emotions where some learners approached the experiential learning with excitement, others were visibly traumatised, when they saw the real incarceration conditions.

Learners also listened to a straight-forward testimony of an offender, their age mate, who sent a strong message that crime does not pay. The offender shared his experiences of being removed from his family and friends and also told the learners of the impact of rehabilitation programmes on his attitude and behaviour. Most learners concluded and wrote on their evaluation forms that incarceration is not an option for them, thus they will stay clear of criminal activities.

The essay competition remains a feature of the Communities and Justice Programme since it was first introduced in 2013 by SSAF in partnership with the South African Police Service. The learners in both schools were invited and encouraged to participate in the essay competition entitled: *“What can the learners do to prevent crime in their school and community?”*

The adjudication was done by the South African Police Service and the Tshwane Metro Police. The adjudicators gave positive feedback that the essays were impressive. The results were announced during the Certificate Award Ceremony held on 22 June 2016. Below are some of the excerpts from the essays on crime prevention:

- *“I come from a community and school that has a high crime rate, because of this, I have vowed*



The learners were exposed to experiential learning by various law enforcement practitioners, and they displayed keen interest on the South African Criminal Justice System and their individual rights, applied in every day life.





to stay away from criminal activities. Through this programme I have learnt that creating a safe place where children can learn and grow, depends on good partnerships between, learners, parents, teachers and other institutions in the community”.

- *“Crime has a lasting negative impact. Once you have a criminal record its not easy to get employed. Crime prevention starts with communities and learners.”*
- *“Though it may seem overwhelming, there are things I can do to manage crime in my community. I should take action to make positive changes in my neighbourhood and not feel powerless to report crime.”*
- *“Learners should keep away from smoking, bunking classes and disrespecting teachers and parents because these actions may lead to crime.”*
- *“As learners we should host crime awareness campaigns so that young people can be aware of different types of crime. We should start by respecting the police and report crime.”*
- *“We must respect our parents and teachers and comply with the laws of the country and participate in community policing forums and prevent crime.”*
- *“For crime prevention both at school and in the community it is important to offer educational programmes about the Criminal Justice System and create neighbourhood watch groups.”*
- *“Learners can prevent crime by staying away from activities that will get them into trouble and keep friends that will have their best interests at heart.”*
- *“The community can also help by not burning down their children’s schools or stealing from their children’s schools because the material they steal is needed for education.”*



To dispel myths young people may hold about the South African Criminal Justice System, learners were exposed to law enforcement facilities, such as courts and correctional facilities for experiential learning and information sharing.





- *“The learners can help others by teaching them the importance of safe driving, carrying one’s driver’s licence, obeying the rules of the road and not drive recklessly by going through a red light”.*
- *“As learners, we can report young people who smoke Nyaope and bullies because those small things can grow into big things like robbery.”*
- *“Learners can develop and share a phone list of local organisations that can provide counselling, job training, and other services that can help the neighbours.”*
- *“It is only when the parents, learners , teachers and the community at large work together in organising neighbourhood patrols that crime prevention can be successful.”*

It is encouraging to note that the seeds planted through the Communities and Justice Programme land on fertile ground, nurturing them will be essential to ensure that growth is realised.

The learners used the essay competition to demonstrate that they have grasped the knowledge imparted to them.

The performance of those who participate in the essay competition is encouraging; it clearly reveals the quality of the lectures and discussions.

Perhaps for the first time, assisted by local law enforcement practitioners, the learners were able to engage in a frank discussions about the crime situation in the communities they live in.

LECTURE SCHEDULE: EERSTERUST AND J. KEKANA SECONDARY SCHOOLS

All sessions (1 to 9) were conducted during the month of May 2016.

First session was devoted to a briefing session to the selected learners and the teachers by **SSAF**

session 1

Second and Fourth Sessions:
South Africa Police Service

- Captain Maheso
- Captain Betty Chauke
- Major A Tshishonga

sessions 2 & 4

Third Session:
Tshwane Metro Police Department

- Superintendent E. Letlape
- Inspector Levi Mokoena

session 3

Fifth and Sixth Sessions:
**National Prosecuting Authority:
Mamelodi Magistrate Court**

- Senior Prosecutor Anne-Marie Bendeman
- Mamelodi Magistrate Team for mock trial

sessions 5 & 6

Seventh and Eight Sessions:
**Department of Justice and
Correctional Services (DCS)**

- Mr H.S. Kgarodi
- Ms F.E. Mochesane
- Mr. L Leotlela

sessions 7 & 8

Ninth Session:
Safer South Africa Foundation

- Mr W. Mashiya

session 9

CERTIFICATE AWARD CEREMONY



The two schools agreed to hold the Certificate Award Ceremony at the Eersterust Civic Centre on 22 June 2016, two days before the end of the Gauteng Schools Second Calendar Term. All preparations went according to plan.

The parents, community leaders, members of the school governing bodies, lecturers and senior management from all the law enforcement agencies were invited to the event.

On the eve of the Award Ceremony, panic gripped all role-players and stakeholders as both the print and electronic media reported that “*Tshwane was on fire*” referring to the violent protests that erupted in the townships, including Mamelodi, where some of the learners reside.

The Safer South Africa Foundation’s phone lines rang incessantly with prospective invitees needing assurance that the event will be held according to schedule and that there will be no interruptions.

The South African Police Service in Mamelodi West and Eersterust did a sterling job in assuring the Foundation, stakeholders and all role-players that the event would proceed as planned. The presence of South African police and Tshwane Metro police was welcome and felt by all attendees at the event.

The learners from J. Kekana Secondary School arrived by bus - clad in their school uniform - accompanied by the coordinator Mr Mokgesi, teachers and their parents. The learners were







briefed by the Programme Director of the proceedings before being seated accordingly.

The Eersterust Secondary School learners, who were a walking distance away and in uniform, arrived and were accompanied by the coordinator Mr Hykes who organised them as per the prepared list, guiding the sitting arrangement after their briefing.

The speakers, presenters of certificates and guests entered the hall occupying their designated seats. At the start of the official programme, the programme director, Mr Mashiya, prompted the learners to chant in praise of the lecturers from the South African Police Service, the Tshwane Metro Police Department, the National Prosecuting Authority and Correctional Services, to the delight of all who were present.

The first speaker on the programme was the Eersterust principal, Dr. Louw. He warmly welcomed all the distinguished guests and the lecturers: The SAPS, led by brigadier Tshayana; TMPD led by Director Mabunda; NPA led by Advocate Bendeman; and DCS led by Commissioner Somaru; parents; teachers and the main celebrants, the learners.

He commended the learners for joining in the fight against crime. He also acknowledged and was appreciative of the Tshwane Municipality management for their contribution in opening the Eersterust Civic Hall for the event.

The SSAF Chief Executive Officer, Advocate Tseliso Thipanyane, in outlining the purpose of the event and the importance of partnerships in community-based crime prevention initiatives, reminded the audience of a quotation by the first democratic president of the Republic of South



Africa, on the occasion of the launch of the Reintegration Employment Concerns programme at the Baygen/Nicro Factory in Cape Town in 1998, when he said:

"The deep concern that we all feel about crime - and particularly about violent crime - calls for creative strategies of many kinds to rebuild the nation's soul. Such strategies can only be devised when all South Africans join hands to create the kind of society where people feel safe to roam the streets freely; where they do not lack basic human needs like food or employment; and where they treat fellow human beings with respect and dignity".

In her message of support, SAPS Brigadier Tshayana, the station Commander at Mamelodi West, lauded the learners for their participation in crime prevention to promote safety in line with one of the government's 2030 vision outcomes, that is: *"All people in South Africa are and feel safe"*.

She shared with the audience her belief that there is hope for the youth and encouraged the learners that during this year's youth month, commemorating 40 years of the 1976 uprisings, they should bear in mind that the brave youth of 1976 believed that *"there is nothing about us without us"*.

Brigadier Tshayana told the learners that they should not forget how fortunate they are to be in the Communities and Justice Programme. She said that the Safer South Africa Foundation has provided them with a rare opportunity to learn about the value of the collective responsibility of the police, the community, the parents and learners in the prevention of crime. She pointed out that safety in their communities will be informed by their actions and attitudes.





The learners, she said, have gained valuable information about the roles of the SA police, metro police, the courts and correctional services; they were also taught about personal safety and that every decision taken goes with responsibility.

She emphasised that the protection of children is the priority for all role players in the Criminal Justice System and congratulated the learners on their achievements.

The message of encouragement was delivered by the selected representatives from both schools. Shaida Julies, from Eersterust Secondary School shared with the audience lessons on how to be confident and not to buckle under peer pressure.

She said emphasis was placed on setting priorities and putting education first, stating that they learnt that *"the end product in one's life is dependent on the effort one puts in,"* and were taught to fend off criminal activities and to say: "No to drugs!"

The second speaker focused on the lessons learnt from the dimensions of well-being, the importance of physical, intellectual, emotional and spiritual maturity in the decisions they make.

J. Kekana Secondary School was represented by Ms Londeka Majozi who thanked the Safer South Africa Foundation for exposing them to the Communities and Justice Programme. She shared their understanding of the goals of the Foundation and the objectives of the programme as outlined in the reports.

She went through the various sessions and thanked Captain Maheso for the excellent presentation







on the role of the South African Police Service. She indicated that they were empowered and now they better understand the role of various departments within the police service such as legal, logistics and human resources.

Her excitement was contagious, as she continued to share the learners' experiences during the sessions. She commended the Tshwane Metro Police, Inspector Levi Mokoena, for a detailed presentation of their role; the entry requisites within Metro Police; practical challenges within the community and how the community can support their work.

She acknowledged Advocate Bendeman for patiently taking them through the role of the court, the different courts and the cases they handle. The mock trial, she said, was very impressive and was an eye opener and they learned about the court processes.

Ms Majozi informed the audience that Mr Kgarodi and Ms Mochesane took them through the role of the Department of Correctional Services; the social issues and the journey of the offender during incarceration.

She pointed out that the visit to the Baviaanspoort Correctional Centre was emotive and they realised that it was a once in a life time learning opportunity for many. She said the visit brought excitement; to some curiosity was heightened, while it traumatised others and brought sadness. The learners, she said, were touched by the testimony of a young offender who addressed them.

She concluded by saying that the SSAF's Communities and Justice Programme is one of the best programmes they have come across and they hope there will be a second round.





The keynote address was delivered by Advocate Anne-Marie Bendeman, Senior Prosecutor at the Mamelodi Magistrate Court. In her address, she indicated that the day was very special for the learners and expressed her gratitude to the Foundation for affording her the opportunity to participate in their journey of getting to know the Criminal Justice System, she added that because of the programme, the learners know the rules of the Criminal Justice System, their rights and obligations.

She impressed upon the audience that education is the cornerstone of building a better South Africa for all. She alluded to the public violence that had erupted two days ago, in the Tshwane Metro areas, that is; Mamelodi, Pretoria CBD, Atteridgeville, Hammanskraal, and Soshanguve townships. She indicated that the actions taken and captured by the media symbolised a total disregard for the law and maybe a total ignorance of the law.

She directed a pertinent question to the learners when she said: *"If the community members had attended the SSAF's Communities and Justice Programme, would they have participated: Possibly Yes. Would they have engaged in violent acts? Possibly no. Why not? Because they would have been educated on the rule of law and inter alia the role of SAPS and Metro Police, the reason why there are rules and why one should obey rules, everything you have been educated about during this programme. This is the value of education"*

She continued to say: *"I told you when I presented my lecture to you. That you are a few steps ahead of your fellow classmates. You are even further ahead concerning your education. You have been sensitised about why it is necessary for rules to exist. You can ignore the information or decide to*



make a difference in our country, South Africa. After attending this programme, you have basic knowledge of the workings of the Criminal Justice System. But this is not enough.

"For you to make a valuable contribution in our country, you also have to look after yourself and not get involved in activities that could ruin your future; getting involved in drugs, wrong friends, peer pressure, and unplanned pregnancy."

She expressed her wish when she said: *"There should be thousands of programmes like this one"*

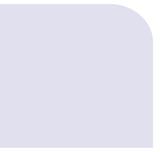
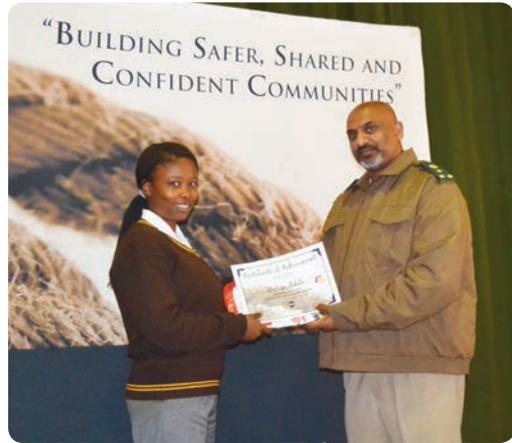
"I want you to go out there and make a difference. If one person can influence five or ten people, it can go a long way in spreading the message."

Her parting words were: *"Knowledge is power, where there is a will there is a way."*

The presentation of the certificates to learners never fails to evoke jubilation. The learners, their lecturers, teachers and proud parents shared the joyous moment. The hall was abuzz, with the school coordinators preparing the learners to stand in line to receive the certificates; the photographers ready to capture the moment and the SSAF ready to hand the certificates to the presenters.

The programme director announced the name of the presenter for each group and called out the names of the learners one by one. They ascended the stage with pride amidst loud cheers and clapping of hands, a sign of acknowledgement from the guests, teachers, parents and peers.

They posed for photographs displaying their certificates, some lingering a little longer to relish the moment and to make sure that their parents capture the moment using mobile phones







and tablets. Some learners' popularity became apparent when the cheers grew louder and their names were called out by peers as they came forward.

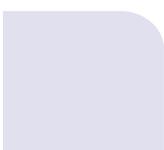
The Foundation is humbled by the positive response it receives from those requested to present the certificates. On this occasion it was supported presenters from the Department of Justice and Correctional Services, South African Police Service, Tshwane Metro Police, Bokatuma Group and the Eersterust Secondary School Principal.

The Foundation has, through time, observed that the lecturers never really grasp the immense contribution and the impact on the learners until they observe the euphoria and listen to the testimonies during the Certificate Award Ceremony. It is on this day that the Foundation begins to see the rapport between the lecturers and the learners.

The climax of the day remains the announcement of the outcome of the essay competition. As is now customary in the Communities and Justice Programme, the learners in the two schools participated in the essay competition on the topic: *"What can the learners do to prevent crime in their school and community?"*

The adjudication was conducted by the Mamelodi South African Police Service and the Tshwane Metro Police.

The announcement was eagerly awaited by all present, in particular, the learners. The anticipation was palpable in the hall. The programme director requested the SSAF CEO, Tseliso Thipanyane;







Brigadier Tshayana; Advocate Bendeman; Commissioner Somaru and the two school principals to present the prizes.

The successful learners were visibly ecstatic as they came forward to be congratulated by the presenters, and turned - gift in hand - to face the cheering audience.

Judging by the response of their fellow learners, it appeared that the names of the winning learners announced did not come as a surprise, as there was a resounding approval from both teachers and learners, there were loud cheers with some learners rising to their feet and clapping hands in unison.

Winners of the essay competition:

Eersterust Secondary School

- Charne' Lottering
- Christine Mvula
- Jeandrea Human

J. Kekana Secondary School

- Lungile Malaza
- Masenoke Kgaditsi
- Bhekumuzi Maseko

EVALUATION



The evaluation by the learners after each session and at the end of the programme has become a source of encouragement to the Foundation. Both school principals and all the lecturers and teachers gave positive feedback.

At the end of the programme a wish is always expressed that the programme should be extended to more learners. Some of the feedback assists the Foundation to improve its implementation strategies.

The teachers who attended the briefing session and some of the sessions delivered by the law enforcement agencies were of the view that such a programme would benefit them as teachers and the youth in the community that has dropped out of school and/or is unemployed.

The champions in the Communities and Justice Programme are the learners, their participation in all aspects of the programme has been remarkable. The programme is conducted after school, after a hard day's work, perhaps with assignments due for submission.

The learners approached the programme as if it was part of the credits for their school term; they attended all sessions; participated actively during discussions, posing probing questions; participated in the essay competition and cooperated optimally with all role players.

In both schools, evaluation forms were distributed to give the learners opportunity to evaluate the programme after each session and at the end of the eight session programme. The majority of the learners, particularly during the final evaluation session rated the programme as excellent.

They indicated that the knowledge gained during the sessions will help them to make informed decisions. Some learners added their own comments on the evaluation forms. The following are some of the learners' comments:

- *I did not know that police men and women are educated and their qualifications determine how they work in various areas of specialisation. There are many career opportunities in the South African Police Service.*
- *I will always support the work of SAPS because the police are protectors of the community.*
- *It was a life time experience to witness the arrest process.*
- *The South African Police Service must get rid of corrupt officials, for they are the ones who magnify corruption in the community.*
- *The Communities and Justice Programme must not be a once off project; it must be implemented on a regular basis.*
- *I acquired a deeper understanding of the roles of the SAPS in the Criminal Justice System.*
- *The work of Tshwane Metro Police will be easy if community members respect the rules and laws governing the use of roads.*
- *Tshwane Metro Police are doing a good job because they put the lives of others first.*
- *I acquired knowledge of the role of the National Prosecuting Authority, I am interested in studying law.*
- *I understand the different types of courts, the importance and the roles of the defence lawyers and prosecutors.*
- *The programme must be rolled out to many schools.*
- *My eyes have been open, I will not commit crime because I will end up in jail.*
- *Thanks to the government for the initiative of correcting offending behaviour.*
- *I have learned that prison is not a good place for a person to be.*
- *I hope that other learners will take what they have learned in prison and teach others to avoid criminal activity that may lend them to prison.*
- *The prison visit was traumatising as we were able to see prisoners who are the same age as us inside. We have seen with our own eyes that life in prison is not good at all.*
- *I have to change my behaviour, because I do not want to end up in jail too.*





On the day of the Certificate Award Ceremony the Foundation realised that the involvement of law enforcement practitioners who live and work in the community was beneficial; the Mamelodi South African Police Service was requested to escort the bus transporting J. Kekana Secondary School learners due to the violent protests in the Tshwane Metro.

The response was expeditious, cementing the foundation of the relationships that were formed during programme implementation.

The selection of lecturers originating from the community allows the Foundation to facilitate the planting of a seed for bonding between the learners and the law enforcement agencies and opens a channel for future dialogue. That alone is a recipe for improved relationships and future partnerships.

The learners also continue to identify career opportunities within the Criminal Justice System as stated in their evaluation forms and in their address during the Certificate Award Ceremony.

One area that perhaps has not been emphasised enough is the commitment and dedication demonstrated by the seconded lecturers from the different agencies of our Criminal Justice System. They are employed full-time in various capacities, but their response to the call to contribute to the shaping of the lives of youth is inspirational.

They become involved to an extent that when they are given an additional responsibility of adjudicating the learner's essays, they do it whole-heartedly. That is what giving back to the community is all about.



The speakers during the Certificate Award Ceremony spoke highly of the Communities and Justice Programme as an innovative crime prevention programme. They joined the learners in calling for the expansion of the programme to reach more schools and to involve all young people in the community.

It was heartening to note that parents readily consented to their children's participation in the programme and in the planned excursions. It was even more encouraging to observe that they attended the Certificate Award Ceremony in large numbers.

Parents listened to the testimony of the learners with pride. They began to appreciate the experience that the learners had gone through and realised that the programme had a positive influence on their children.

The experiential learning through the visit to the Court for the mock trial and to the Correctional Centre is an added advantage; the learners are exposed to areas that are not easily accessible to all citizens. Access to justice begins with the information and knowledge of the functioning of the Criminal Justice System and a better understanding of individual rights and obligations.

The keen interest and cooperation from both teachers and the learners can be attributed to the briefing session at the beginning of the programme because it helped to promote a better understanding of the goals and objectives of the programme.

The feedback and lessons learnt during each the implementation process continues to be the barometer that informs the Foundation's future planning.



CONCLUSION

The benefactors and beneficiaries of the Safer South Africa Foundation Communities and Justice Programme continue to applaud the initiative and call for casting the net wider to reach more young people in the country.

The programme continues to enjoy support from all role-players and is lauded as a proactive crime prevention initiative. Feedback indicates that the Foundation's work is impactful in the fact that every learner reached can become an ambassador and possibly reach ten others.

The Foundation's Communities and Justice Programme promises to make a contribution to the development of our children - the future of our society - and to a safer and secure South Africa.

Dorothy Law Nolte's poem, *Children Learn What They Live*, written in 1954 is a reminder that our all our actions communicate a loud message to children about themselves.

CHILDREN LEARN WHAT THEY LIVE

Dorothy Law Nolte

If a child lives with criticism,
he learns to condemn.

If a child lives with hostility,
he learns to fight.

If a child lives with fear,
he learns to be apprehensive.

If a child lives with pity,
he learns to feel sorry for himself.

If a child lives with ridicule,
he learns to be shy.

If a child lives with jealousy,
he learns what envy is.

If a child lives with shame,
he learns to feel guilty.

If a child lives with encouragement,
he learns to be confident.

If a child lives with tolerance,
he learns to be patient.

If a child lives with praise,
he learns to be appreciative.

If a child lives with acceptance,
he learns to love.

If a child lives with approval,
he learns to like himself.

If a child lives with recognition,
he learns that it is good to have a goal.

If a child lives with sharing,
he learns about generosity.

If a child lives with honesty and fairness,
he learns what truth and justice are.

If a child lives with security,
he learns to have faith in himself and in those about him.

If a child lives with friendliness,
he learns that the world is a nice place in which to live.

If you live with serenity,
your child will live with peace of mind.

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