Communities and Justice Programme

REPORT 2017

January - May

GEORGE KHOSA & IKUSASALETHU SECONDARY SCHOOLS: JOHANNESBURG WEST, GAUTENG PROVINCE

MASWIE & TSHIEMUEMU SECONDARY SCHOOLS: TSHAKHUMA VILLAGE, LIMPOPO PROVINCE

SAFER SOUTH AFRICA
FOUNDATION

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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

Six years after inception, the Safer South Africa Foundation: Communities and Justice Programme is growing from strength to strength; thanks to partnerships forged with various stakeholders in the local communities. Indeed, many institutions and individuals took a leap of faith in supporting this exciting community based crime prevention initiative.

Gratitude goes to our two board members, who were instrumental in ushering the programme for the first time in Limpopo Province. They played a pivotal role in identifying the two schools in Tshakhuma village as they are well versed with the dynamics of the area.

The two school principals, Mr Makondelela of Maswie and Mr Davhula of Tshiemuemu Secondary Schools and their teams are commended for their contribution in the success of the implementation of the programme.

The implementation in Limpopo followed shortly after the Foundation had been to George Khosa and Ikusasalethu Secondary Schools in Johannesburg West, Gauteng Province. Gratitude is extended to the school principals, Ms Molefhe and Ms Ginya and their teams for embracing the programme.

Appreciation is extended to all role players in the Criminal Justice system in both provinces: The South African Police Service, Makhado Traffic Department, Johannesburg Metropolitan Police Department, and the Department of Justice and Correctional Services (National Prosecuting Authority and the Department of Correctional Services) for their valuable contribution to the Programme and for opening and exposing the learners to their facilities and internal processes for experiential learning.

The Safer South Africa Foundation is appreciative to all the lecturers who made a commitment and took time from their busy schedules to empower learners.

Appreciation goes to parents who believed in the programme and granted permission for learners to participate, and to community members and all stakeholders for their unwavering support.

The Foundation is indebted to learners who embraced the programme wholeheartedly and dedicated time after school hours to participate; engaging in lively debates during sessions and demonstrated unreserved excitement during the Certificate Award Ceremony.

The continued material and financial support from Workerslife is commended. The role that Workerslife plays in advancing the programme's objectives is unmatched.

Without the Safer South Africa Foundation Board's unwavering guidance, the programme would not have made the gains achieved to date, for such the Foundation is forever grateful.

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SUMMARY

Encouraged by the resounding positive feedback from all stakeholders in three provinces that have been exposed to the Safer South Africa Foundation: Communities and Justice Programme, the Foundation ventured into Limpopo province for the first time.

The reception was warm and the programme was received with enthusiasm; with school principals committing to partnership and cooperation.

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 Communities and Justice Programme is a flagship programme initiated by the SSAF in 2012. It is a community based programme aimed at empowering communities to have a better understanding of the functioning of the Criminal Justice System and to promote a better relationship between the law enforcement agents and the communities they serve. The programme was successfully piloted in the North West Province in 2013.

The positive reviews resulted in the rollout in Gauteng in the second school term in 2013. This was soon followed by implementation in other schools during the first school term of 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 South.

The implementation of the programme at the first two of the eight identified schools, in the Sedibeng District Municipality was concluded in October 2014. In 2015, the programme was implemented in Ekurhuleni North and Johannesburg Central. In 2016, it was rolled out to Tshwane South and West and Kwa-Zulu Natal.

The readiness to collaborate and support from the community and the various law enforcement agencies in the Criminal Justice System is humbling.

The Certificate Award Ceremony of the Communities and Justice Programme in all provinces, has remained a pinnacle of the implementation, a jovial occasion and a source of pride for the schools, parents, the community, invited speakers and dignitaries.

INTRODUCTION

This report intends to inform policy makers, academics, researchers and practitioners in the crime prevention field of the implementation of the Communities and Justice Programme and to give feedback to schools, parents, all stakeholders and departments who seconded lecturers for the programme's implementation.

Every targeted area yields unique experiences, lessons, achievements and challenges in the implementation of the programme.

The unique lessons learned, particularly in a rural areas, the achievements and challenges in the implementation of the programme in the four schools, George Khosa and Ikusasalethu in Johannesburg West, Gauteng and Maswie and Tshiemuemu in Tshakhuma Village, in Limpopo will be outlined in this report.

BACKGROUND

This report covers the rollout of the Safer South Africa Foundation: Communities and Justice Programme in four schools, two in the Gauteng province and the other in the Limpopo province.

Growing from strength to strength, the Communities and Justice Programme, the SSAF flagship programme - now in its sixth year since its inception in 2012 - continues to receive support and endorsement from many quarters.

The Foundation started preparing for the implementation in November for schools in Gauteng province and December 2016 for schoools in Limpopo. The first preparatory meeting was with the two school principals.

This took place following the introduction of the programme in writing to the relevant Members of the Executive Council and the heads of the various law-enforcement agencies.

It was during these meetings that the decision was taken to proceed with the implementation of the programme in the four schools identified in Johannesburg West and Tshakhuma Village, respectively.

In Limpopo province, the Programme was implemented in two schools that are situated in Tshakhuma, about 17 kilometres west of Thohoyandou on the road to Makhado. The area is known for its fruit market that opens for 24 hours and was established more than 40 years ago.

To ensure further cooperation and commitment, presentations were made to allow in depth discussions with various stakeholders, including the Levubu South African Police Service, Makhado Traffic Department, Thohoyandou Magistrate Court and the Department of Justice and Correctional Services [Thohoyandou (Matashe) Correctional Centre] took place.

All parties agreed that the implementation of the programme should be scheduled for the month of March 2017.

All logistical arrangements were undertaken during January and February 2017. SSAF had gained experience and mastered the implementation of the programme, in KwaZulu-Natal, a province that is about five hours away from its offices in Pretoria.

An interesting dimension was raised by the SSAF board member who was born and bred in Tshakhuma and studied in one of the schools, he pointed out the importance of involving the chiefs and ward councillors right at the beginning of the process, this paid dividends.

In Gauteng province, the task was aided by the fact that all law enforcement agencies had previously been involved in the programme. However, it was the first time that the Dobsonville South African Police Service was involved. It was agreed that the implementation would commence in January 2017.

It is important to note that the entry into Limpopo province was made easier by the Chairperson of the SSAF board, a well-known and revered community leader in the province. Mentioning his name guaranteed the SSAF team entry and a warm reception.

Not many outreach programmes are introduced in rural areas, thus it was no surprise that many people expressed a wish for all schools to be exposed to the programme.

It was heart-warming to note the enthusiasm and cooperation from the school principals and the departments who had made a commitment to second skilled officials to impart knowledge to learners during the programme.

The Communities and Justice Programme is in line with one of the five priorities set out in the country's National Development Plan for the achievement of its goals, which is: "Building Community Participation in Safety."

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 learners with regard to their individual rights and responsibilities 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 AT A GLANCE

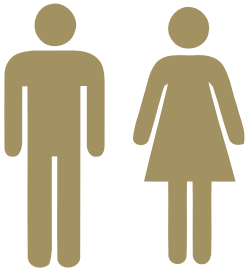
+850 LEARNERS HAVE PARTICIPATED IN THE COMMUNITIES & JUSTICE PROGRAMME

The Communities and Justice Programme is in line with Vision 2030 as set out in the National Development Plan (NDP) to build safer communities and a just society.

The NDP paints a picture of a country where everyone feels safe at home, at school and at work and enjoys a community life free of fear.

MORE THAN 60% OF THE PARTICIPATING LEARNERS IN THE PROGRAMME ARE FEMALES.

GENDER MATTERS



The Safer South Africa Foundation is committed to effective partnerships and to continually seek opportunities to form alliances with local communities and other voluntary organisations.

THUS FAR, 21 SCHOOLS (AND COUNTING) REACHED IN 4 PROVINCES

PREPARATORY PHASE

Before implementing the Communities and Justice Programme in schools, the Safer South Africa Foundation has a mammoth task to introduce and outline its aims as a Foundation; the objectives of the programme; gauge expectations from all parties and develop crucial documentation to ensure smooth implementation.

In both provinces, Gauteng and Limpopo, eagerness demonstrated by all the relevant stakeholders during the preparatory briefing meetings was highly appreciated owing to frank discussions that assisted the Foundation to have a better understanding of the highlighted local issues. The participation of lecturers who live and work in the local communities and who had previously handled burning issues in their areas, paid dividends. All teams were meticulous in their preparation for implementation and went to great lengths to empower the learners.

The precision with which the requisite administration was done helped to allay any misgivings about the programme. The school principals had to agree on dates and times to ensure that the school programme was not disrupted. The end product, the lecture schedule, had to receive buy-in and commitment of the departments within the Criminal Justice System seconding lecturers.

The school principals were required to sign the service agreement on behalf of the schools while SSAF was represented by its Chief Executive Officer. The agreement outlined the roles and responsibilities of each role-player. The parents' consent in writing was crucial seeking their permission for their children, to participate in a programme scheduled after school hours.

All participating schools in both provinces were required to assign a teacher to coordinate the programme and liaise closely with the SSAF facilitator.

PROGRAMME EXECUTION

The Communities and Justice Programme sessions have increased from eight to nine since the Foundation have seen value in the pre-programme briefing session that include all teachers and the selected learners to garner support.

As per the programme model, two sessions were allocated to the South African Police Service; one session to the local Metro Police/Traffic Department; two sessions to National Prosecution Authority (NPA) including a visit to the court; two sessions to the department of Correctional Services including a visit to the correctional facility; and the final session allocated for a Human Rights presentation and Evaluation session.

All sessions were held at each school with the exception of the experiential learning in the form of a mock trial at the Magistrate court and the visit to the Correctional Centre.

The methodology followed was in the form of lectures, a combination of presentations, discussions and response to questions, including role-play.

During the presentations, learners seized the moment and raised countless questions; articulating what they had observed in their communities. It was encouraging to observe the robust debate, the lecturers did not shy away from addressing tough questions, the hunger

for information and knowledge to foster a better understanding of the roles of the various law enforcement practitioners became apparent.

The South African Police Service took learners through their role in maintaining law and order; and elaborated on the use of fingerprints likening them to a curriculum vitae; the arrest process and the rights and obligations of the accused.

They encouraged learners to join their local community police forums and used practical issues to emphasize their points. They cited fights in school as a breeding ground for crime, making the session more meaningful.

Metropolitan Police/Traffic Departments took learners through their mandate; the processes followed in the execution of their tasks and addressed road safety challenges facing young people; and made practical examples of the role the learners could play in promoting road safety in the community; giving a stern warning to those who drive without licences, fail to observe the rules of the road; and abuse liquor while driving or walking.

The NPA teams from the respective Magistrate Courts empowered the learners on their mandate, the different levels of courts and their role; the role of the prosecutors and challenges they face. They elaborated on the process of preparation for prosecution and the rights and obligations of the victim and the accused.

The discussion that ensued clearly indicated that the learners were beginning to understand and appreciate the various roles and the court processes including aspects that inform the granting of bail.

The learners were exposed to a well prepared mock-trial and were fascinated by the court process. The mock trial clearly demonstrated the court processes and included role-players such as the magistrate, the prosecutor, the police, the interpreters, and other relevant officials.

The team from Correctional Services did not hold back, they sent a strong message that crime does not pay. They explained the process from admission to release; the rehabilitation programmes available and the impact of incarceration on the individual and the family.

The messages conveyed by the lecturers did not prepare the learners for the reality they were exposed to during their visits to the correctional centres.

Some learners were emotional when they listened to the frank testimonies of the offenders. One learner addressing the audience at the certificate award ceremony said: *"Prison is not good, it is like hell, there is no privacy".*

The message from the offenders was loud and clear, they warned the learners to stay clear of crime and emphasized that crime does not pay.

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

The essay competition remains a useful tool to measure the learners' understanding of the shared information. It has become a standard feature of the programme - since in 2013 - initiated by SSAF in partnership with the South African Police Service.

The learners were invited to write an essay entitled: "What can the learners do to prevent crime in their school and community?"

Both in Gauteng and Limpopo, the adjudicators were selected from the Magistrate Court (NPA), and the results were announced during the certificate award ceremony.

The essays inspired the learners to think creatively and afforded them the opportunity to use the knowledge gained in the programme to map out crime prevention from their own perspective. The Foundation is encouraged by the ideas generated through the essay competition. Below are excerpts from the essays:

- *"As the saying goes: 'Unity is strength'. Learners should protect one another. This involves informing teachers or parents about crime which is being committed or about to be committed by fellow learners as a way of protecting them from themselves."*
- *"It is important that learners talk to each other about how crime can destroy their future, since they can end up with a criminal record and this can be an impediment to getting jobs and the life of their dreams."*
- *"Traffic officers have a right to arrest and charge a person driving without a licence. Learners must follow the law and know the rules and road signs to prevent crime."*
- *"Creating a safe place where children can grow and learn depends on partnerships among students, parents, teachers and other institutions in the community. To prevent school violence each partner has to take action, such as settling arguments using words not fists or weapons. Report to a school official immediately. Always evaluate your school safety objectives and set targets for improvement."*
- *"In my community, I will invite the law enforcement agencies to educate people about the negative impact of crime."*
- *"From the knowledge, I have accumulated through the Communities and Justice Programme, I am going to create posters to educate people and start an anti-crime movement to prevent crime, because it is said that: Prevention is better than cure."*

WELCOME TO
KRUGERSDORP
CORRECTIONAL SERVICES
"A PLACE OF NEW BEGINNINGS"
PARKING AT
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- *"As a learner, I will contribute to the safety of my community and school by getting involved in my area and join neighbourhood programmes and the community police forum to prevent crime".*
- *"Need to establish school crime watch programmes that will address crime and violence in schools and make our schools and communities safe from crime and violence, encourage learners not do to crime and report crimes, run anti-crime campaigns (posters, contests, anti-drug rallies, counselling services) and encourage learners to get involved in community anti-crime activities."*
- *"Learners should be free to attend school and be taught without fear of falling victim to crime."*
- *"Provide anger management, stress relief and conflict resolution programmes."*
- *"Mentor young people who need positive support through programmes like big brother and big sister."*
- *"Learners should also educate each other about crime and hold small community motivational days to motivate other youth."*
- *"Get youth involved in positive activities that will keep them away from crime."*
- *"Form anti-crime groups at school that will motivate others against crime and conduct activities that will help to keep learners away from crime including visits to correctional centres. School counsellors and psychologists could help as well."*
- *"Learners should not do crime such as bringing weapons to school".*
- *"Learners, to get involved in anti-crime initiatives that will focus on reducing and preventing crime especially the usage of drug-with dagga being the most used drug in schools sold to learners. Learners must also be helped to appreciate that crime has consequences".*
- *"Learners can join community anti-crime patrol units and work together with their communities to form organisations to will provide anger management classes to reduce the level of violence in communities."*

The learners' ideas and proposals, if put to practice will go a long way to contribute to the reduction of crime in their communities. The essays demonstrated that the learners have grasped their lessons and that the discussions have enriched their understanding of community based crime prevention strategies.

LECTURE SCHEDULE:

Gauteng: George Khosa and Ikusasalethu Secondary Schools: January – February 2017

Limpopo: Maswie and Tshiemuemu Secondary Schools: March -May 2017

The nine sessions in the four schools followed the agreed upon schedule:

First Session:
Briefing session to selected learners and teachers

- **Safer South Africa Foundation**

session 1

Second and Fourth Sessions:
Lectures conducted by local police officials

- **South African Police Service**

sessions 2 & 4

Third Session:
This session is devoted to a lecture on road and traffic safety

- **Metropolitan Police / Traffic Department**

session 3

Fifth Session and Sixth Sessions:
These sessions are devoted to a lecture by the NPA and experiential learning for the learners.

- **National Prosecuting Authority**

sessions 5 & 6

Seventh and Eighth Sessions:
These sessions are devoted to a lecture and experiential learning for learners:

- **Department of Correctional Service**

sessions 7 & 8

Ninth Session:
The last two sessions are devoted to a lecture on Human Rights and evaluation of programme.

- **Safer South Africa Foundation**

session 9

CERTIFICATE AWARD CEREMONY

In line with the strategic aim of the Safer South Africa Foundation (SSAF) Communities and Justice Programme to focus on the local community, the SSAF team held the Certificate Award Ceremonies for the four schools separately - in different times and provinces - to afford community members, particularly the parents, the opportunity to participate.

GEORGE KHOSA AND IKUSASALETHU SECONDARY SCHOOLS JOHANNESBURG WEST: GAUTENG PROVINCE

On 24 February 2017, the Nomzamo Madikizela-Mandela Primary School Hall in Braamfischerville was a hive of activity in preparation for the Certificate Award Ceremony for the learners from George Khosa and Ikusasalethu Secondary Schools, who had successfully completed the Communities and Justice Programme.

Mr More, the School Safety Official and his team joined the SSAF team early to prepare for the proceedings. The occasion was attended by teachers, parents, invited dignitaries, lecturers and their principals from the departments of the South African Police Service, Johannesburg Metropolitan Police, National Prosecuting Authority (Roodepoort Magistrate Court), the Krugersdorp Correctional Centre, the Gauteng Department of Education and the respective school governing bodies.

The learners from George Khosa arrived by bus and were accompanied by the coordinator Mr. Thobejane, the Deputy Principal, Ms Ledwaba and other assigned teachers. The learners were briefed by the Programme Director of the proceedings before being seated according to the prepared lists.

The Ikusasalethu learners followed thereafter, accompanied by the coordinator Mr Nyembe, who also organised them accordingly.

"Building Safer, Shared and Confident Communities"
Certificate of Achievement

The Programme Director to the approval of all present, captured the interest of the audience with his light banter and prompts directed to the learners, to which they responded in unison.

The deputy principal, Ms Ledwaba from George Khosa extended a warm welcome to all the distinguished guests, the guest speaker Mr. Muendane, the lecturers from SAPS led by Constable Xazi, JMPD led by Officer Monareng, NPA led by the Chief Prosecutor Van der Schyff and DCS led by Correctional Officer Mr. Phalalo, the Gauteng Department of Education led by Mr Mpofu, parents, teachers and the main celebrants, the learners. She applauded the learners for joining in the fight against crime. She also acknowledged and was appreciative of the Safer South Africa Foundation for the Programme.

In outlining the purpose of the event, and the importance of partnerships in community based crime prevention initiatives, Advocate Thipanyane, the SSAF Chief Executive Officer made reference to increases in crime in the last past three years, which, according to him, "*has and continues to deprive the people of their fundamental rights and a sense of security*".

He went on to say that "*much of this increase in crime is fuelled by increasing high levels of drug abuse and addiction that continue to wreak havoc in communities and families*".

Advocate Thipanyane said that the objectives of the programme, in pursuit of the spirit and values of Ubuntu are to:

- Empower learners by exposing them to roles of the various law enforcement agencies.

"Building Safer, Shared and Confident Communities"
Certificate of Achievement

CONFIDENT COMMUNI

- 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.
- Empower learners with regard to their individual rights and responsibility in their interaction with law enforcement agents.
- Encourage participation of learners in community based crime prevention initiatives.

He concluded by thanking the leadership of the two schools, learners, their parents and guardians for giving the Foundation the opportunity to implement the programme and also thanked the Foundation's partners, the various law enforcement agents, the Gauteng Department of Education and funders of the Foundation for making the programme possible and a success.

The message of support was delivered by the NPA Chief Prosecutor, Mrs Van der Schyff. She explained that social crime prevention strives towards the prevention of crime through addressing social issues and empowering the community in order to eliminate the opportunities and causes of crime.

She pointed out that the Safer South Africa Foundation and its programme in the two schools has made an important contribution in this regard.

She concluded by congratulating the learners that participated in the programme and wished them well in their efforts to be ambassadors of crime prevention in their respective communities.

A message of motivation was delivered by Mr Shabangu, who is in his opening statement quoted Wayne Dyer: *"Change the way you look at things and the things you look at change".*

The essence was that individuals need to use their roles and purposes in life in order to enable them find a drive towards their journey. He said that learners need to know that they are on the right track by virtue of staying in school and securing their future: *"The difference between where you are and where you should be, is what you need to do."*

In his message of encouragement on behalf of George Khosa Secondary School, the student representative, Lunga Dlamini, started by mentioning that joining the Safer South Africa programme was the best decision he made as it gave him the opportunity to learn about the criminal justice system.

He shared what he learned from various criminal justice system departments. He mentioned that his favourite day of the programme was the NPA lecture as he plans to pursue the law career in future.

Sharing his experience of the visit to Krugersdorp Correctional Centre, he said it was an emotional and a life changing experience. He went on to thank all the presenters for their support in the programme and the Safer South Africa Foundation for giving him and fellow learners the opportunity to participate in the programme.

CONFIDENT COMMUN
Certificate of Achievement

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In her opening remarks, Kelebogile Nkabinde, a student representative from Ikusasalethu Secondary School said that for the past month, she and her fellow learners have been recruited, taught and influenced by the Safer South Africa foundation.

This has enabled her to "graduate" with knowledge and sense of direction for her life. She continued to say that she lives in Braamfischerville, "*a community often forgotten in the map as not many people are able to reach for their dreams and be successful*" and a community where "*there are very few well qualified professionals*" leading to community members resorting to substance abuse and crime.

She said she was happy that the Safer South Africa Foundation noticed that crime was part of their school environment as there were daily fights and gambling and that the police were constant visitors to her school where many learners walked with '*mphako*' (township slang for knives), drugs and other things learners were not supposed to carry to school.

However, she indicated that the "the school has improved for the better because of the Safer South Africa Foundation programme." She said that now *"all learners are not only afraid of being caught doing crime but also afraid of catching themselves in the wrong."*

She said that the learners that participated in the programme have found good career guidance and have been given practical experience on life choices that can shape their future. *"We have observed and learned as learners, we will apply every lesson to all corners across and lend a helping hand on stopping and preventing crime."*

In closing, she thanked and praised the programme, all the organisers of the programme and the people *"who took their time to come and tell them more about their jobs."*

She stated: *"You gave us knowledge that by dedication we can make our lives better and that we will strive to ensure that your efforts do not become a futility exercise. Thank you".*

The pinnacle of the programme is the Certificate Award Ceremony which was conducted amidst great excitement and a sense of accomplishment for both the learners and the lecturers. The relationship between the law enforcement practitioners and the learners was visible.

The learners took the occasion seriously and walked tall as they received their certificates , pens and key holders while their photographs were being taken. The Foundation was supported by representatives from the Department of Correctional Services, the National Prosecuting Authority, the South African Police Service and Johannesburg Metro Police Department in the presentation of certificates.

The audience cheered them on with some parents calling their children by name.

As is now customary, the learners in the two schools had 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 NPA team from the Roodepoort Magistrate Court.

When the long awaited moment arrived, the announcement of the winners, the hall was filled with loud cheers from teachers, parents and fellow learners. The recipients were overjoyed as they were congratulated by the assigned dignitaries who handed them their gifts

Winners of the essay competition:

George Khosa Secondary School

- Lwande Ncapai
- Yamkela Hlongwana
- Lukhangela Mnukwa

Ikusasalethu Secondary School

- Kelebogile Nkabinde
- Relebogile Nkola
- Thamsanqa Ngwenya

Key Note Address

The keynote address was delivered by the guest speaker from Soultalk, Mr Michael Muendane. After expressing his happiness and pride in being associated with the programme, he made the following observations in relation to crime, young people and community involvement in crime prevention:

"How to Deal with Crime Effectively in the Community: Psychological studies have established that people with a high self-esteem are more creative, independent-spirited, and enterprising. People like these are an asset to the economy and can never hurt another human being.

This has a direct bearing on levels of employment and crime, as it means that a person with a high self-esteem is positively purposeful and can also not be a criminal because a criminal, by definition, hurts other people by stealing from them or molesting them.

We should focus on strategies that are directed especially at South African young people, taking into account the historical factors that have impacted on their self-image and, therefore, their self-esteem.

The results envisaged are, inter alia, the development of proactive individuals who can therefore contribute to higher production, the creation of a stable, peaceful and tolerant multi-cultural society. This will ensure that progress and prosperity become the order of the day.

People who have a high self-esteem are independent thinkers and when more than one independent thinker comes together, they relate through interdependence. This means they place value on one another; when one places value on another person, there is no possibility of either hurting the other and crime can therefore not happen in that kind of environment.

"Building Safer, Shared and

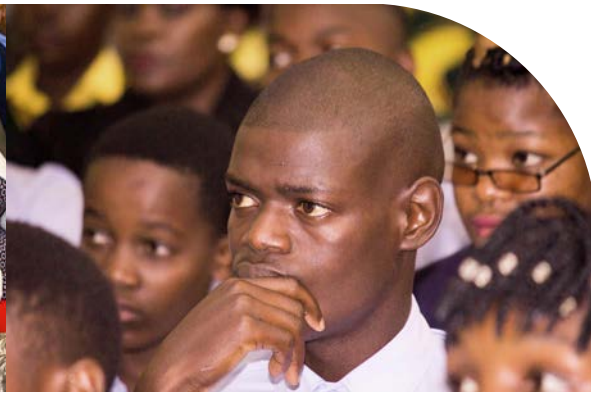
Parenting is also very important in developing people who are independent thinkers. When we deal with crime, to the end of eliminating it, we need to take into account that South Africa's youth require guidance, vision and a sense of meaning in their lives. Parenting can give them all these and can teach them how to generate within themselves a sense of personal guidance thus preparing them to be effective parents, leaders and contributors to the economy and environmental health. The bonus is a reduction in crime levels.

We need to increase self-awareness, self-worth and self-direction so that the young people can take full responsibility for and make empowering choices in every area of their lives. The youth in South Africa often lack meaningful role models, so the design of the programmes, in taking this into consideration substitutes techniques that would help them in their proactive quest for excellence."

Vote of Thanks

The vote of thanks was given by the Deputy Principal, Mr Morudu, from Ikusasalethu Secondary School, who said it is a privilege and great honour to extend a vote of thanks to all who have participated and contributed in one way or the other to make this programme and award ceremony event a success. They all worked smilingly shoulder to shoulder to make this programme and certificate award ceremony successful.

He thanked the parents, learners, teachers, speakers, the Criminal Justice System officials/ lecturers and the Safer South Africa Foundation and congratulated all the recipients of certificates and the winners of the essay competition.



CERTIFICATE AWARD CEREMONY

MASWIE AND TSHIEMUEMU SECONDARY SCHOOLS TSHAKHUMA VILLAGE, LIMPOPO PROVINCE

*"Today, I cried, watching young people in this hall reaping the rewards of hard work, becoming solutions in the community and striving to defeat all negativity," s*aid an emotional Dr Farisani, chairperson of the Safer South Africa Foundation, an ardent and revered community leader, in his keynote address at the Communities and Justice Programme Certificate Award Ceremony.

The ceremony was held on 12 May 2017 at Levubu Primary School hall, in Tshakhuma, Limpopo province. The hall was filled to capacity, the parents attended in great numbers, some had travelled long distances to be there on time.

The ceremony was scheduled to commence at 10h00 but at 09h00 scores of parents who braved the cold morning and light drizzle, were eagerly lining up outside the hall and chatting happily.

The chiefs, law enforcement agencies, ward councillors, community leaders and teachers took their seats joining the celebrants, the learners, who came in earlier with their coordinators and teachers to participate in the preparation of the hall.

The learners from both schools looking beautiful, adorned in their uniform were accompanied by their coordinator Mr Mufamadi, Principal Davhula and teacher Mrs Likhanya from Tshiemuemu and coordinator Mr Matovheke and Principal Makondelela from Maswie.

The excitement was palpable, it was a true celebration for Tshakhuma village with its hills and picturesque lush green vegetation.

The vibrant Programme Director, in his opening set the tone, putting everyone at ease communicating with the learners by clapping their hands to a rehearsed beat and acknowledging the lecturers from the Criminal Justice System, in loud voices saying *"Halala"* to each law enforcement division, raising their hands high waving from side to side.

We congratulate the learners and encourage them to become crime-prevention ambassadors in their communities.

The welcome address was delivered by Maswie Principal Mr Makondelela after acknowledging *MaHosi,* the chiefs, chanting their praises and gesticulating appropriately. The whole hall reverberated as young and old responded accordingly in unison with hands joined body bending and heads bowed tilting to the side.

He extended a warm welcome to Dr Farisani, all the traditional leaders, the ward councillors, representatives from POPCRU and PGC Group, representatives from the South African Police Service led by Station Commander Mashamba, Makhado Traffic led by Traffic Manager Mokiri, National Prosecuting Authority led by Chief Prosecutor Weideman, Correctional Services led by Area Commissioner Mashamba, parents, teachers and learners. He commended the learners for joining in the fight to promote safer schools and communities.

Advocate Thipanyane, the SSAF Chief Executive Officer, greeted MaHosi in Tshivenda, to the delight of the audience, before presenting the purpose of the Programme.

In his opening, he said: *"You cannot build a prosperous country without peace".* He took all present through the journey that the learners had travelled in the Communities and Justice Programme under the guidance of the law enforcement agencies in the Criminal Justice System.

Then he outlined the objectives of the Programme and the contents of the nine sessions and concluded by thanking all the partners, the school principals and their teams, the law enforcement agencies and the parents.

The message of support was delivered by the Makhado Chief Traffic Officer J. Zitha who exuded experience in his field. The learners gave him a warm welcome recognising his contribution as a lecturer in the session on road safety.

Mr Zitha reiterated the lessons he had imparted during the sessions on the promotion of road safety, placing particular emphasis on the role the community and the learners could play to prevent mishaps. He also gave guidance on the correct approach to transporting people, goods and livestock.

Mr Zitha received a roaring applause of approval when he informed the learners that to sustain the relationship that had begun, his department would be supportive to the learners who participated in the Communities and Justice Programme by facilitating their registration for learners licence at the requisite age and time and even consider waving the fees applicable.

All this would be done in consultation with the school because they have the list of all learners who participated and completed the Programme. He congratulated the learners for their achievement.

Maswie Secondary School's learner representative was Ms N. Mutshidzi, she thanked Safer South Africa Foundation for exposing them to the Programme and to the law enforcement agencies for empowering them with information on the strategies on Crime Prevention.

NFIDENT COMMUNITIES

CONFIDENT COMMUNITIES"
Certificate of Achievement
POLICE

She shared with the audience the lessons they had learned namely that: they must know the contact numbers of structures such as the Community Police Forums; not to receive stolen goods; to behave like children and not encourage or commit crime.

Recalling the visit to the Correctional Centre she warned and said: *"Prison is not good, it is like hell, there is no privacy"*. She concluded by inviting everyone when she said: *"Let us be united and help one another: #CrimeMustFall"*.

As the Programme Director called upon the learner representative from Tshiemuemu, Mr Razwinani to come to the podium, his fellow learners rose in song entitled: "Tshiemuemu ndi tshikolo tshashu" (Tshiemuemu is our school), swaying in harmony to the admiration of all present. The composer Mpho Mphidi, a fellow learner beamed with pride:

Tshiemuemu ndi tshikolo tshashu
Tshiemuemu Ndi tshashu
Ri ya tenda
Tshi do dzula tshi hone
Ri ya tenda
Nangwe zwithu zwi tshi konda
Ri ya tenda Hallelujah, Hallelujah
Riya tenda

Safer South Africa Foundation ndi yashu
Riya tenda
I do dzula vha hone
Riya tenda
Nangwe zwithu zwi tshi konda
Riya tenda Hallelujah, Hallelujah
Riya tenda

The song translated: Tshiemuemu is ours, it always shall be ours, Hallelujah, Hallelujah we agree; no matter how difficult things may be. Safer South Africa Foundation is ours; It will always be there for us; no matter how difficult things may be; Hallelujah, Hallelujah; we agree.

The song continued to honour Mr Mashiya the SSAF facilitator, Mr Davhula the Principal, Mr Mufamadi the coordinator and Ms Likhanya the teacher.

Mr Razwinani after thanking and acknowledging all present said: *"It is an honour to be here with you today. Our school year started in an excellent way, because in March this year we were privileged to be among the few schools that were selected to be taught about how our Criminal Justice System works."*

He shared what they learned in the nine sessions from SAPS, Traffic Department, NPA and Correctional Services. *"We were taken to court and learned how a trial is conducted and the roles of the different people during the trial. Our final visit was to the Correctional Services. That is where we realized that life behind bars is not easy. All the above departments work together to bring about justice to all the people of South Africa. When we achieve, we do so because there are others who help us to do so. The Safer South Africa Foundation has truly taught us a lot about how the South African Justice System operates".*

Expressing gratitude, he said: *"On behalf of all the students who took part in this programme and the teachers of Tshiemuemu and Maswie, I would like to say that we appreciate the role Safer South Africa Foundation has played in making us responsible learners. We will practice this at our school and community at large. One day we will make South Africa a better place to live in. Rome was not built in one day."*

"I took it upon myself to be responsible and provide recreational, charity and sporting activities such as; netball, basketball, and boxing to take teenagers out of streets. The sessions taught me that young people can do great things. I am willing to create my own project to develop young people to stand up tall and take a stand to fight crime.

I will need support from you Safer South Africa Foundation in order to achieve my goal which is creating a new generation of zero criminality. I am sure with your help I will equip, promote and enlighten young people through a project committed to fight crime. Thank you. Halala, Safer South Africa Foundation, Halala!".

The long-awaited moment of awarding the certificates finally arrived there was jubilation in the packed hall. The programme director added to the celebratory mood with jokes and prompting the learners to chant happily. The presenters of certificates were selected from the lectures seconded the Criminal Justice System, the learners called out their names in recognition of the role they played in the implementation of the programme.

The learners ascended the stage with great joy and pride to be congratulated by the presenter, receive their certificates and pose for the photo. The presenters stood tall as their own community members acknowledged them with loud cheers.

The overjoyed parents ululated as their children's names were called, some sang clan praises while some stood up to be counted. Some learners gesticulated and took a specific pose on the stage inviting loud cheers and whistling from their fellow learners and proud teachers.

The two school principals sitting with the speakers on the stage could not contain their excitement and a sense of accomplishment as their learners were honoured. It was a beautiful sight to watch lecturers, principals, learners and parents share the special moment. All eighty-five (85) learners were awarded the certificates.

Before announcing the winners of the essay competition, the programme director teased and kept the audience in suspense dragging the announcement, the learners' anxiety was written all over their faces. Finally, he invited the presenters of the gifts: Advocate Thipanyane, Dr Farisani,

Mr Zitha, Mr Davhula and Mr Makondelela.

The six successful learners three from Maswie and three from Tshiemuemu Secondary Schools, were announced. The audience went wild with applause, ululation, praise singing and whistling, fellow learners were up on their feet to acknowledge the winners.

The winners jumped with joy as their names were called, some clearly overwhelmed by the honour and response from the audience. After being congratulated and receiving their gifts they descended the stage and went to the chiefs who graced the occasion, to receive their blessings. It was an emotional moment as all six used the traditional greeting reserved for royalty.

Winners of the essay competition:
Maswie Secondary School

- Tshilidzi Nedzamba
- Mulalo Nemutanzhela
- Muano Matovheke

Tshiemuemu Secondary School

- Reginald Makondelela Razwinani
- Fulufhelo Tshauambea
- Kuthadzo Masikhwa

CONFIDENT COMMUNITIES

The programme director called for music in celebration to which learners from both schools displayed their prowess in the latest dance challenging the programme director who matched their style, some parents came forward and joined in the festivity, setting the entire hall on a party mood.

There was a special feature, a motivational message, not reflected on the programme it was meant to be a surprise for all, particularly the learners. Mr Azwihangwisi Nesengani, born and bred in Tshakhuma Village, and matriculated from Maswie Secondary School addressed the audience. In his opening remarks after all protocol was observed addressing himself to the learners he said: *"If you are involved in crime, you have closed your gate to success".*

He gave an emotional account of his childhood which was characterised by abject poverty. He described a sad time during which he left school; thinking he could work and make ends meet, but came to a stark realisation that only education would liberate his family from poverty.

He thanked his former teachers Mr Makondelela and Mr Matovheke for encouraging him to soldier on, and thanked Mr Davhula who was one of the people who supported them as young people in their fight for justice. His personal story brought tears to parents who could relate to his experiences of poverty, but gave hope to learners listening to him describing their current situation.

Today, he informed the audience, that he is a director in the national office of the Department of Correctional Service because many people contributed, he was not only raised by his family but by the community.

He emphasised the importance of respecting tradition at all times and gave a stern warning to those who believe that prison is a five-star hotel saying either they have never been in a five-star hotel or they have never been in prison.

He called upon the audience to continue supporting one another as he was supported as a child in the village and said: *"Help your neighbours child".*

The keynote address was delivered by the Dr Tshenuwani Farisani, Chairperson of the Safer South Africa Foundation, an activist during the liberation struggle, a devoted community leader who commands respect in his province of birth Limpopo, and member of the first Democratic Parliament in 1994.

It was impressive to note that even though he boasts an illustrious personal journey and accomplishments, he never lost touch with his roots and tradition. He moved away from the podium sang the traditional praises reserved for royalty, "MaHosi" the chiefs, gesticulating and going down to demonstrate respect. The entire audience, young and old, male and female responded appropriately, with the women ululating. It was a truly moving scene to watch every single individual in the room moving in harmony.

He drew loud applause from the audience when he extended an invitation to all the recipients of certificates to his farm, where he would slaughter livestock to celebrate their achievement. He invited ideas with regard to the agenda that would inform the weekend programme festivities.

CONFIDENT COMMU
Certificate of Achievement

He continued to relate his personal experiences and said: *"I recently cried in Shoprite when an old man approached me and thanked me for my contributions during the liberation struggle. People I do not know stop me because they recognise me. Today, I cried, watching young people in this hall reaping the rewards of hard work, becoming solutions in the community and striving to defeat negativity. You are the change: 'Tshanduko!'"*

He gave the learners a fatherly advice and assured them that prison is not the place to be. He related his own painful experiences in fourteen prisons he was detained in as a political prisoner.

He shared information indicating that many people died to build schools. He expressed sadness when he related stories of people burning schools and turning to the learners he said: *"In anger do not destroy, when you destroy my school you destroy my future. Never grow bigger than your parents. Respect your parents".*

Turning to parents he thanked them for being the guiding light to children. He thanked MaHosi for the role they played, standing for justice, during the apartheid era. He shared with the learners that he had great respect for his parents and his primary school teachers who instilled important values which guided him throughout his life.

He concluded by saying that in his life journey he was assisted by many people and said: *"God has put people to help others".*

Finally, he requested the Safer South Africa Foundation Team to stand and he introduced them to the audience: CEO: Advocate Thipanyane, Programme Manager: Jabu Sishuba, Facilitator:

Walter Mashiya and Board Member: Azwihangwisi Nesengani and thanked them for the work well done.

Presentation to the two schools

The Programme Director invited the two school principals, Mr Davhula and Mr Makondelela, to the stage to receive a gift on behalf of their schools. They were presented with a box containing Safer South Africa Foundation T-shirts for the learners who participated and successfully completed the programme. The learners cheered incessantly in appreciation of the gifts. The schools have since handed over the T-shirts and sent photographs of learners showing off their new acquisition.

Vote of Thanks

The vote of thanks was delivered by Mr Davhula, Principal from Tshiemuemu, he observed protocol and demonstrated the appropriate praises accompanied by the relevant gestures when he acknowledged Dr Farisani and MaHosi .

At that point a learner from Tshiemuemu, Mpho Mphidi, ascended the stage and recited a poem she had written to show appreciation, entitled: Safer South Africa Foundation:

Safer South Africa Foundation
Indeed, you've built a solid foundation for crime prevention
Not just a foundation but a huge inspiration
That by dedication we can reach our destination,
In this peaceful, motherland of ours.

It is speculated that;
A race like a correction, corrected correctly by correctors,
Shining in the fertilized deltas,
Breaking out the hereditary bondages.

We as the candidates of Tshiemuemu
Our head and tails, Mr Davhula and our teachers,
We humbly thank you!

The hall echoed with loud cheers, whistling and ululating from the audience with learners on their feet to acknowledge a fellow learner.

Mr Davhula thanked the host, Mr P.D. du Toit, the Levubu Laerskool Principal for availing the hall for the event; all the chiefs, ward councillors, parents and the community at large for their cooperation and support; the learners for their fervour, cooperation and participation; the Maswie principal for welcoming the guests; the lecturers from the various departments for doing a sterling job in empowering the learners (SAPS, Makhado Traffic, NPA Thohoyandou Magistrate Court and Correctional Centre).

Mr Matovheke and Mr Mufamadi for the excellent coordination of the implementation of the programme; all the speakers for their support, inspiration and words of wisdom; all the dignitaries who put time aside to support such a crime prevention initiative; PGC Group for their continued financial and material support; all the service providers and the programme director for a job well done.

He concluded by urging the learners to follow Dr Farisani footsteps and work hard with the aim of one day giving back to the community.

EVALUATION

The Safer South Africa Foundation continues to seek feedback on the Communities and Justice Programme from the learners through distribution of the evaluation forms which are completed after each session and have helped receive first-hand information while the session is fresh in the learners' minds.

The last and ninth session is also used to gather the overall impression of the entire programme and its impact. While most learners answer the questions posed in the questionnaire, some take time to add their own personal impression. Below is a summary of the additional information from the learners in Gauteng and Limpopo provinces:

- *"Safer South Africa Foundation has changed my negative attitude toward the law-enforcement officers. Now I have a better understanding of crime and the four elements of crime".*
- *"I have been conscientised about the consequences of crime and I will as far as possible stay away from crime related activities".*
- *"On road safety I have learned lifelong lessons. I am going to empower my father to also respect road safety rules".*
- *"Government must do something about those individuals who bribe traffic officers".*
- *"I have learned that drinking and driving is dangerous. It not only poses a danger to others, but to the one who is drinking".*

- *"I have acquired a better understanding of the roles of the prosecutors, magistrates and other officials. I am interested in pursuing a career in the Justice Department".*
- *"I appreciate the knowledge I gained about the different roles played by the different courts such as the Magistrate court, the High court and the Constitutional court".*
- *"A prison visit was a wake-up call for us to understand the consequences of crime".*
- *"Prison life is traumatizing and it is a place where young people should not go".*
- *"Presentation was good and helped us learners to want to be lawyers and some want to be prosecutors".*
- *"We now better understand our rights and obligations, and limitation of rights"*
- *"Happy about the content and want to be a lawyer and motivated to work hard and be responsible".*
- *"Enjoyed the lesson and wants another session".*
- *"Learned that offenders can change their lives".*
- *"Learned a lot about the police and will pass the learning in the community".*
- *"Learnt new things about JMPD".*
- *"Happy with the presenters and presentations."*
- *"Thankful for the impact the Safer South Africa Foundation is making through the programme and wish that the programme is implemented every year at our school".*
- *"Appreciate the programme and hope that it should not stop as it has changed many lives".*
- *"The programme is great and educational".*
- *"We need a programme like this in order to change the mind-set of the youth".*

What is pleasing to the Safer South Africa Foundation is that the learners who represented their schools in both provinces indicated that participating in the programme was the best decision because it afforded them the opportunity to learn about the Criminal Justice System; it exposed them to different career opportunities; it assisted to improve the learners' conduct in the school premises; exposed them to professional role models in their own communities; the visit to the correctional centre was a life changing emotional experience that motivated them to participate in crime prevention initiatives in their own communities.

The Foundation was gratified to observe, confident and proud learners take to the podium and address the respective audiences, sharing their unique experiences and exposure to facilities such as courts and correctional facilities, a privilege not enjoyed by many South African citizens.

To the Safer South Africa Foundation, it means the seeds have been planted, when nurtured they will yield healthy fruit, young people who are responsible and are law-abiding citizens. Their speeches, songs and poems bear testimony to the impact the programme had on them.

The parents were in awe, some commented that they had never attended an event where all law enforcement agencies, chiefs, ward councillors, learners, parents, community members, school governing bodies and teachers converged under one roof with the aim of in fighting crime.

The rapport that was observed during the certificate award ceremony between the learners and the law enforcement agencies both in Johannesburg West and Tshakhuma village give hope to future partnerships and improved relationships that will enable the learners to report criminal activities and be part of community based crime prevention initiatives. The possibility of the law enforcement agencies becoming friends of the schools becomes stronger.

The Foundation is always encouraged by the feedback from the schools, parents and the community at large. One principal in Tshakhuma complemented the Foundation on the excellent organization and precision of the entire implementation process and the Certificate Award Ceremony in particular.

The greatest complement comes from the learners themselves and the pride and dedication demonstrated by the lecturers from the Criminal Justice System.

One learner approached the SSAF team after the ceremony and said "I was inspired and motivated by the two speakers from my village, they have achieved against all odds, I have hope that with hard work and the support from my community I will reach my goals."

The community spirit was brought into sharp focus in Tshakhuma village during the award ceremony, it came through vividly in the speeches of all the speakers. It became apparent that the belief that a child is raised by a village resonated with all community members.

#Youth4SaferSouthAfrica

Learners participating in the Communities and Justice Programme are encouraged to engage other young people in their communities as ambassadors in the fight against crime in their local communities.

They can make the idea of a 'safer South Africa' a reality by actively contributing to the national discourse on crime, community development and community safety on social media under the banner: *#Youth4SaferSouthAfrica*.

Visit the Safer South Africa Foundation on the following social media platforms:

SaferSAFoundation

@SaferSA_

Safer South Africa Foundation

SaferSA Foundation

Through *#Youth4SaferSouthAfrica*, the Safer South Africa Foundation seeks to establish a positive youth movement where ideas and experiences are shared and young people are involved in advocacy campaigns on crime prevention.

CONCLUSION

Six years since inception, the Safer South Africa Foundation: Communities and Justice Programme has played a key role in bringing law-enforcement agencies, schools, parents and the community at large under one roof to address a joint fight against crime.

The commitment from all stakeholders participating in the programme, gives hope; cementing strong partnerships to enable young people to become part of the solution in their communities and emissaries in crime prevention.

Looking at what learners in both provinces, Gauteng and Limpopo, said about the Communities and Justice Programme, it is evident that: *"As we let our own light shine, we unconsciously give other people permission to do the same"* (as put by Marianne Williamson, in the book *Return to Love*).

It is the Safer South Africa Foundation's fervent hope that this Programme becomes a dynamic catalyst in contributing to the removal of walls between law enforcement agencies and the communities they serve in order to make *"building safer, shared and confident communities"* a reality.

LET THE CHILDREN BRING PEACE

Frederick Douglas Harper

The purpose of life is to create life,
The purpose of life is to nourish life,
The purpose of life is to respect the
Sacredness of life,
The purpose of life is the perpetuity
Of us—of the human species;
So let us shun violence, shame war, and
Disdain human destruction;
Let our young foretell a future of love
And peace through their innocence
And precious hopes as our future;
Let countries and cultures exchange their
Children's smiles, talents, and love
Through their tiny voices and bright
Faces, and through their joys of
Word and song;
Let the children bring peace to our minds,
Our hearts, and our world;
Let the children bring peace to their
Future by our efforts with them.

Safer SA Foundation Bid Farewell To CEO

The Safer South Africa Foundation (SSAF) and its partners, join the SSAF Board, shareholders and staff members in bidding Advocate Tseliso Thipanyane farewell at the end of his office term as Chief Executive Officer.

The Foundation expresses its unreserved gratitude and appreciation to Advocate Thipanyane for his contribution, particularly on issues of human rights.

His contribution in furthering the goals of the Foundation and its flagship Communities and Justice Programme through research is evident and invaluable.

Advocate Thipanyane will remain a friend of the Foundation and will continue to support future endeavours.

We wish him prosperity as he embarks on his new path as the CEO of the South African Human Rights Commission.

Khotso! Pula! Nala!

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273 Paul Kruger Street, Pretoria, 0001 | Email: info@safersouthafrica.org | www.safersouthafrica.org