

TRUSTNEWS

2ND QUARTER ISSUE - 2021 NEWS YOU CAN TRUST

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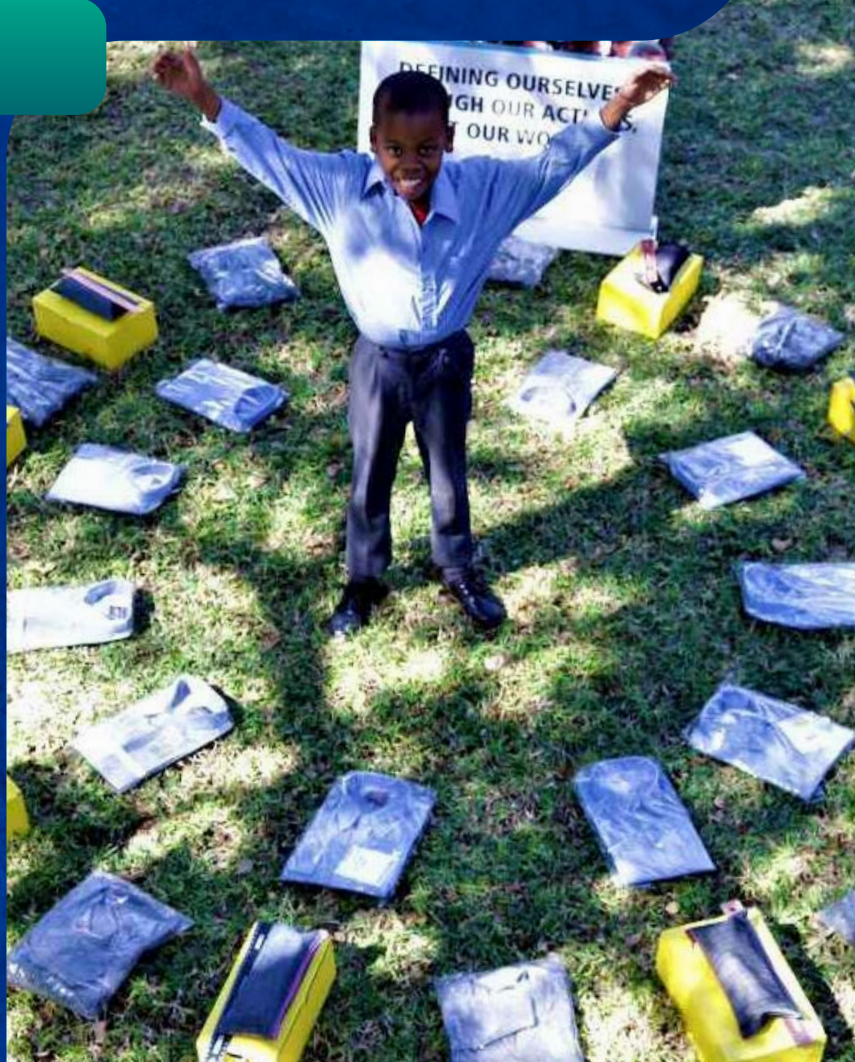
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 **SIOC
COMMUNITY
DEVELOPMENT
TRUST**





SIOC-CDT EXTENDS ITS SCHOOL SHOE PROGRAMME

In May 2021, a handover of no fewer than 273 sets of school uniforms took place across 15 schools in the Northern Cape and Limpopo provinces. This project forms part of SIOC Community Development Trust's Kanako Social Responsibility programme.

"Our goal is to provide assistance and care to as many young learners across our beneficiary communities as possible," says Vusani Malie, CEO of SIOC-CDT. "By providing these school uniforms, SIOC-CDT aims to not only minimise the number of days learners are absent from school as a result of a lack of uniforms but, in so doing, to encourage and enable higher educative performance and motivate young learners."

The schools were identified with assistance from the Department of Education at district level as well as by working directly with the beneficiary schools in each area to identify learners that were most in need.

The school uniform project, an extension of the annual school shoe project, forms part of a much bigger and more holistic community

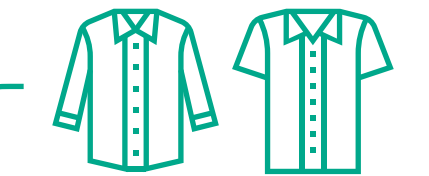
education focus. "To date, this focus has seen the distribution of female hygiene sanitary products and school shoes across various schools falling within our communities," continues Malie. "We saw the need and knew we had to respond."

Feedback to date affirms that this initiative is playing a very important role in these children's lives. "It has restored their self-esteem and confidence," says one of the school beneficiaries. "Some learners would stay at home simply because they did not have a jersey to wear."

They now feel equal to and the same as their peers. This leads to them feeling so much more comfortable at school, with their focus now able to be directed 100 percent on their schoolwork."

Initiatives such as this result in the school environment becoming a much safer space for learners and has greatly encouraged them. "It has also led to a much stronger connection between the school and its learners with the wider community. If learners are happy, parents are happy."

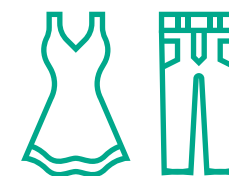
Learners received a batch of school uniforms which included the following items per learner:



2 X T-Shirts
Long sleeve and short sleeve



1 X School Shoes
Toughees for boys and
Buccaneer for girls



1 X Skirt/Tunic (Girl)
1 x Trouser (Boy)



1 X School Jersey



1 X Stationery Pack
4 pens, 4 pencils,
standard eraser,
standard scissor, 42g
Pritt glue, pencil case,
standard sharpener,
30cm ruler, set
of mathematical
instruments

THE LIST OF RECIPIENT SCHOOLS INCLUDES:

Joe Morolong: Marataditse Primary School, Tongwane Middle School, Bojelagomo Primary School, K S Shuping High School, Itekeleng Primary School, Pako Middle School, Kopano Middle School

Gamagara: Maikaelelo Primary School

Ga-Segonyana: Relekile Primary School, Vlakfontein Primary School,

Tsantsabane: Agang Thuto Primary school, Asmandia Primary School

Thabazimbi: Dwaalboom Primary, Mabogopedi Primary



"One of our greatest goals is for our communities to see us as an organisation that both **understands and responds to community challenges.**"

We want to draw even closer to our communities and are committed to getting involved **as frequently as possible** in projects that truly make a difference in the areas in which we operate. A key component of this will be our **continued focus on education and learners' needs.**"

Vusani Malie, CEO, SIOC-CDT



NORTHAM MATERNITY CLINIC GETS A MUCH-NEEDED UPGRADE

The Northam Clinic Maternity Ward upgrade, funded by SIOC-CDT, has focused on expanding the facilities for maternity care and has been taking place since October 2019.

The project will benefit residents of the Northam township and surrounding areas – providing support to a population of approximately 18,000 people.

The clinic is situated on the border of the North West province in the Thabazimbi municipality. Thabazimbi Hospital is a level one district hospital with ten feeder clinics, of which the Northam clinic is the only one that operates 24 hours a day.

As a result of the increasing immigration of residents into this mining and farming corridor, the population has been rising consistently. This has had ripple effects on service delivery in the area, including maternity services, due to capacity challenges. The current clinic size cannot meet the demand of up to 80 births

per month, causing unavoidable referrals to the Thabazimbi Hospital. Not only is this inconvenient for expectant mothers who prefer to give birth close to their families, but it is also extremely expensive for the Department of Health.

The vital maternity ward upgrade is a partnership success with Dikuno Tsa Sechaba Community Trust who have contributed R5 million to the overall budget of R28,791,289, with the balance being invested by SIOC-CDT.

The upgrade will be sustained by the Limpopo Provincial Department of Health, who have also committed to assigning a maintenance budget and ensuring that the bigger capacity is well resourced.

The project scope by SIOC-CDT has encompassed: the procurement of medical equipment and furniture, construction of the wards, delivery rooms, post-natal and ante-natal room, mentor mother, counselling, consultation and medicine rooms and the waiting area and power backup area.



“With this upgrade, we also aim to reduce the mortality rate of children under five years old within the Northam catchment area and to improve service delivery to mothers by implementing Mentor Mothers, lay counsellors and health education services. We are looking forward to soon providing new mothers with a good facility where there are no chances of being turned away or referred to a hospital that is far from home.”

Vusani Malie, CEO, SIOC-CDT

2021 HYBRID COMMUNITY REPRESENTATIVE'S TRUSTEES ELECTIONS

Taking into consideration the restrictions of the Covid-19 pandemic, a Hybrid Elections Model (Electronic/Physical) was proposed to fill the Gamagara and Tsantsabane Board of Trustees vacancies. This hybrid model was designed to ensure the successful implementation of the registration and voting process amidst the pandemic whilst also accommodating all stakeholders. An elections company was appointed to facilitate and execute the hybrid elections project and the process commenced with presentations to the two local municipal councils. An awareness and mobilization campaign through various communication platforms was launched, candidates were nominated and voters registered.



The criteria for nominations were based on Section 20(2) of the Trust Property Control Act, 1988 (Act 57 of 1988) that stipulates that a Trustee should be a person who never has been:

- Convicted of any offence of dishonesty or sentenced to prison without a fine option
- Sequestered or liquidated or placed under judicial management
- Removed from office in respect to any appointment as a Trustee
- Declared mentally ill/ incapacitated

In addition, the SIOC-CDT Trust Deed specifies the following criteria.

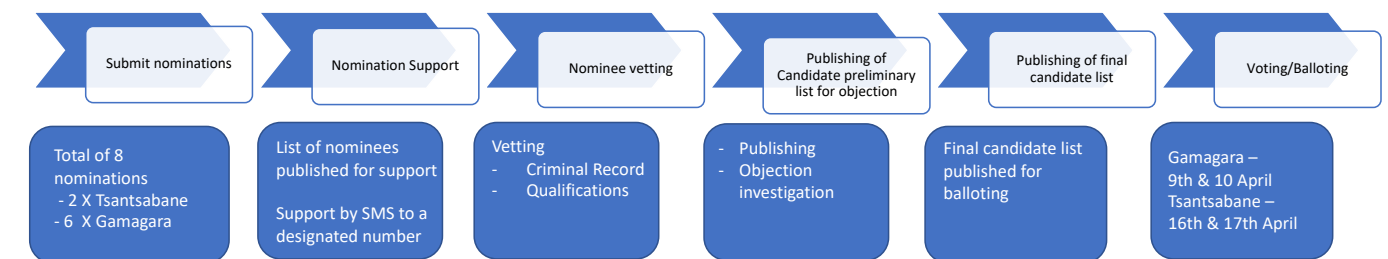
A person does not qualify to be appointed as a Trustee if they are:

- Over 70 years of age
- Working for government or parliament in any capacity

Any community member above the age of 18, with proof of residence in a beneficiary community, could nominate a qualifying candidate if:

- He/she motivated the nomination in writing using the form provided
- The nominee is a member of the beneficiary community with proof of residence
- The nominee accepts the nomination in writing (using the form provided)
- 100 or more community members from the beneficiary community in question, endorse the nomination by sending an sms to a stipulated cellphone number

NOMINATION PROCESS



Any objections received during the elections process were attended to and we appreciated all of the support received from the municipality councillors.

Registration was conducted on the 27th & 28th March 2021, in all 11 areas, with a total of 1046 registered voters (360 of which were online). Lower registration numbers in Tsantsabane resulted in an extension of the registration process in this region, with registrations made possible on the 9th and 10th April 2021.

589 Votes were received across both municipalities.

SIOC COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT TRUST					
ELECTIONS 2021					
TSANTSABANE MUNICIPALITY					
FINAL ELECTIONS RESULTS					
Name of candidate	Remote Voters	Boichoko	Mountain View	Postdene	Total Votes
Botha Sobuza Montgomery	20	25	32	02	79
Wapad Jesmien Lizzane	14	03	02	18	37
Total Number of Votes	34	28	34	20	116

SIOC COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT TRUST							
ELECTIONS 2021							
GAMAGARA MUNICIPALITY							
FINAL ELECTIONS RESULTS							
Name of candidate	Remote Voters	Siyathemba	Babatas	Dibeng	Mapoteng	Ditloung	Total Votes
Andreas Nico	113	04	36	04	12	101	270
Khumo Mmoloki Walter	171	08	06	00	14	01	200
Total Number of Votes	284	12	42	04	26	102	470

2021 HYBRID COMMUNITY REPRESENTATIVE'S TRUSTEES ELECTIONS ... CONTINUED

Mr Nico Andreas



Mr Nico Andreas was born on 23 August 1988, born and raised in Olifantshoek Northern Cape. He started his primary education in Olifantshoek at Noortkaap Primary School and attended high school at Langberg High School in Olifantshoek where he was a member of the Representative Council of Learners and also played for the school's first soccer team.

Post High School, started working at different construction companies and in 2020, enrolled with IQ Academy to study for a Certificate in Project Management and is currently on a 7-month business development training course to enhance his business skills. During 2020 he also registered a Non-Profit-Organisation, the Olifantshoek Youth Women Development.

The objective of the NPO is to minimise the impact of unemployment, alcohol and drug abuse on women and youth by improving their skills through development and training programmes.

He is also part of an NPO called Gamagara Development Agency where he leads the team for seeking business opportunities for businesses that resides in Gamagara Municipality area.

To date Nico has made the following contribution to the communities.

- Skills development and trainings [computer training, business training to businesses]
- Job creation [women in mining currently busy with internship and Learnerships at Khumani Assmang Mine]
- Food security [giving hygiene packs and hampers to community members]



Mr Sobuza Montgomery Botha



Mr Sobuza Montgomery Botha was born on the 9th of February 1982 in Postmasburg Northern Cape. He attended primary school in Boichoko (H.T.T Bidi Primary School) and later matriculated in Kimberley at Saint Boniface High School where he was awarded the best matriculant in the category of "Consistency and Dedication". He furthered his education by completing "information system and technology" at PC Training and Computer College (now known as Richfield College) in 2004 and decided to develop his skills even further by completing a FET course in engineering science, mechano technology, industrial engineering and mathematics.

Sobuza worked as a train assistant at Transnet and was promoted to a train driver position in 2010. After 9 years, he was promoted to Section Manager. In 2020, he resigned and started his own poultry business – producing eggs. Sobuza is very passionate about farming (food security/health), sustainability, enterprise development and lifelong learning, which is the main reason he left a secure job to become an entrepreneur.

To date he has made the following contributions in the community:

- Upskilling young people through storytelling/filmmaking
- Feeding homeless kids with egg sandwiches from his own fresh farm eggs business
- Picking up waste in the community
- Assistance to youth with access to computers and emailing





A RECORD 38 NORTHERN CAPE ECD PRACTITIONERS RECEIVE THEIR NQF LEVEL 4 QUALIFICATION IN EARLY CHILDHOOD DEVELOPMENT

Friday, 30 April 2021 saw the ECD Level 4 Graduation of no fewer than 38 ECD practitioners from beneficiary communities across the Northern Cape. Held at Delportshoop High School, these graduates received their full qualification in 'Further Education and Training Certificate: Early Childhood Development – NQF Level 4 – Qualification ID 58761'.

Sponsored by SIOC-CDT, the qualification is offered by Custoda Trust, an accredited Training and Service Provider with the ETDP Seta, carries a weight of 140 credits and qualifies the graduates to work as professionals in this specific field.

In order to qualify, students had to be involved in ECD centres within the beneficiary areas. The selection process then saw Custoda Trust, in collaboration with the Department of Education and the Department of Social Development, work on an application process with regards to those who met the necessary requirements.

"The training is composed of foundation learning competence (mathematics and two languages with a weight of 56 credits), core unit standards with a curriculum of early childhood development specialisation (64 credits) and elective credits (20) which entails the specialisation of certain life skills (for e.g. HIV/

AIDS, working with children with disabilities, referral of disabilities and management of an ECD centre). Students who complete an additional nine credits within a specialisation area go on to achieve a total of 149 points," says Vusani Malie, CEO of SIOC-CDT.

Taking place over 18 months, students were required to attend, on average, one class per week. There are also 16 weeks of contact training in total. However, due to the Covid-19 pandemic, students reverted to online training between May and August 2020. A further period of six months was then required to allow for final moderation, verification by the ETDP Seta, uploading onto the National Learner Record Database and obtaining the statement of results and certificates prior to graduation.

Onsite assessments were also conducted at least three times over the 18 months in order to ensure that the ECD practitioners/ students can implement what they have learnt before they are declared competent, with portfolios submitted after each unit standard for assessment. Further, a combination of mentors and study groups provides assistance and support to the learners during the training.

"It is an intense and demanding training programme," continues Huldah Bernard - Director Custoda Trust. "And, over and above



TOP ROW LEFT TO RIGHT:

M Kgosierileng, B Boutlwanye, O Morena, O Moseki, E Morolong, P Mokgethi

MIDDLE ROW LEFT TO RIGHT:

G Moeng, T Cogang (Top student and received an award), S Pule, K Leeuw, M Sibase, P Leberegeane, M Matlhomantsho, M Nouse

BOTTOM ROW LEFT TO RIGHT:

H Boutu, M Hume, S Witbooi (Custoda facilitator/assessor), T Sebelego, D Bosiane



A RECORD 38 NORTHERN CAPE ECD PRACTITIONERS RECEIVE THEIR NQF LEVEL 4 QUALIFICATION IN EARLY CHILDHOOD DEVELOPMENT (CONTINUED)

the impact of COVID-19, additional challenges are often experienced. Many of our students are married with families they need to support. We also had no fewer than six students give birth during the training, yet they all still managed to remain focused and successfully continue and complete their studies. One student unfortunately also passed away during the training and we just want to mention Kgalalelo Mogabeng – who we all missed very much at the graduation ceremony.” The graduation ceremony also acknowledged the top students within Group A (Ketura Taote) and Group B (Tsholofelo Cogang), both of whom were awarded a trophy and a cash prize of R 3,000.00.

Of the 38 graduates, 12 are now busy with the Early Childhood Development NQF Level 5 (120 credits) Qualification ID 23117, also through the Custoda Trust and again sponsored by SIOC-CDT.

For the JTG Group A: comments from Facilitator/Assessor – Willienke Bruwer In an ECD centre that is in a very remote area, you showed us that with nothing, you can create something. Your centre does not have a lot of resources, but you used your will and your passion for what you do to make and create resources for the children and to be able to develop them to the best of your ability. Your Portfolio of evidence was always neat and you put in extra effort in all your Unit Standards. Thank you for this! How you handle the special needs child is amazing and we could all see you care for his well-being.

Well done and congratulations Ketura Taote!



For the JTG Group B: - comments from Facilitator/Assessor – Willienke Bruwer In a beautiful ECD centre and a beautiful classroom you showed us that resources are to be used, and not kept packed away. You were using a lot of the resources for the group activities that you were busy with when we were there for workplace assessment, even the resources you made yourself were used. We could see the passion for the children while you were playing with them! You work as a team with your peers and supervisor, one of the most important traits of a good practitioner.

Well done Tsholofelo Cogang!



TOP ROW LEFT TO RIGHT
D Matebesi, K Petrus, K Ntau, K Taote (top student and received an award), K Sebolao, S Mocumi

MIDDLE ROW LEFT TO RIGHT
P Sehularo, B Manner, S Itumeleng, D Hume, M Januarie, K Mathe

BOTTOM ROW LEFT TO RIGHT
K Mokwena, P Andrews, N.M. Leboa (Custoda facilitator/assessor), M Hebe, K Ntshekisang, M Moleleki



THE FIRST ADVANCED DIPLOMA PROGRAMME STUDENTS COMPLETE THEIR INDUCTION TRAINING



SIOC-CDT is funding 80 teachers in the two-year Advanced Diploma (SLM) programme that is run by North West University.

The SLM Programme is designed to empower School Management Teams (SMT) to develop the skills, knowledge and values needed to lead and manage schools effectively and to contribute to improving the implementation of quality learning and teaching in schools.

The funded candidates were selected by the Department of Education, together with North West University. Two members from the SMT at each of the High Schools in the beneficiary communities were confirmed as candidates for the programme and 80 teachers undertook the three-day induction process in Kathu from the 28th to the 30th April this year.

The induction provided a detailed overview of what the SLM programme entails, what is expected from each teacher and what the Professional Portfolio (PP), which is the exit requirement of the programme requires.

The PP includes the Workplace Project (WPP) which provides evidence of the candidate's applied skills and knowledge from each of the other six programme modules. The PP therefore, provides an integrated record of the candidate's changed practices over the duration of the programme.

The teachers now embark on their two-year programme with the goal of achieving their Advanced Diploma (SLM) qualification. All training is delivered via interactive e-fundi lessons which will guarantee each teacher 24 hour access to all study material and resources supplied. Support to all teachers is delivered electronically and via telecommunications to ensure a high level of support on a constant basis. Each of the 80 candidates has been supplied with a laptop. The candidates will emerge as knowledgeable, experienced and informed education experts in school leadership and management.

The beneficiaries will therefore not only benefit the school community, but the whole of society in the beneficiary communities, as the well-being and performance of the school is strongly linked to the well-being of the whole community.

This is an important project as school principals and SMTs in South Africa do not have a formal compulsory qualification specifically designed to assist them to prepare for their roles as school leaders and managers. This can cause confusion in the approaches and uniformity on how to apply and monitor school leadership in the quest for quality education as envisaged in the Constitution of the Republic of South Africa.

To counter this, the Advanced Diploma: School Leadership and Management (Advanced Diploma (SLM)) was developed by the national Department of Basic Education (DBE), which is aligned with the new National Qualification Framework (NQF) that is intended to take forward the National Development Plan's (NDP) vision for 2030: Improvement of human resources in the education system and school management.

The curriculum of the Advanced Diploma (SLM) was approved by the DBE in October 2015 as a national, professional entry qualification for school principals in line with the new policy, the South African Standard for Principals (SASP).

SciMathUS PROGRAMME PRODUCING TOP STUDENTS

**Thabo Mthombeni, from Thabazimbi,
top student in the 2020 programme.**



The Science and Mathematics at Stellenbosch University (SciMathUS) programme provides a second opportunity for educationally disadvantaged learners to enter higher education studies in Mathematics, Science and Commerce-related fields. The programme, which turns 20 years old this year, continues to provide academic literacy support as well as mentoring and psychosocial support to help bridge the gap between school and university; ultimately preparing the participants for study success.

SIOC-CDT has partnered with the University of Stellenbosch to select and sponsor candidates from their beneficiary communities in the Northern Cape and Limpopo to participate in the SciMathUS programme.

The 2020 cohort consisted of 21 candidates from the John Taolo Gaetsewe District Municipality and Tsantsabane Local Municipality in the Northern Cape. The selection included 4 post-matric learners from Thabazimbi in the Limpopo province.

One of the candidates, Thabo Mthombeni, from Thabazimbi, emerged as the top student in the 2020 programme.

“When I heard that I scored 91% for Mathematics and 98% for Physical Sciences, I could not believe it. I went into SciMathUS with no idea that I would one day have 91% and 98% for subjects I perceived to be difficult, subjects that tormented me throughout high school,” says Mthombeni.

Comments Ms Nokwanda Siyengo, the SciMathUS Programme Manager: “The good results obtained by our class of 2020 continue to be an inspiration to staff. We find joy when students embrace an opportunity to rehabilitate themselves through hard work and zeal. We are very proud of the class of 2020 that has displayed strength and resilience when the whole world was in fear of the pandemic. They are a true epitome of hope, motivation, and success”. “Taking on this programme during lockdown was hard,” says Mthombeni, “but you need to

remember why you are there. You are there to do better. So, you have to work better, you have to work harder. Cramming in the last minute does not work. There is a saying that I had to remind myself of when I felt lazy or uninspired: Sacrifice for what you want, otherwise what you want will become the sacrifice. Do not limit yourself.”

SIOC-CDT covered the expenses for 21 of the 100 candidates in respect of accommodation (subject to availability), providing two meals per student per day, providing learning materials and necessary resources, offering psychosocial support to the students through counselling and access to the student counselling centre and an opportunity to write psychometric tests.

Says Mthombeni: “At the moment, I am in Huis Visser at the Stellenbosch University and have been accepted for a BSc in Human Life

Sciences. I want to be the person who does the research on the way the human body and mind are linked, so that better measures for rehabilitation, care, prevention, cure, can be developed.

I want to be part of creating innovative technology to improve product and service provided to the public. I would love to have a role as a leader with interesting and innovative ideas and opinions.”

The 2021 cohort was confirmed in April and 25 students embarked on their SciMathUS journey.

There are 15 students from Kuruman, one from Dibeng, two from Thabazimbi, one from Northam, two from Kathu, one from Chrome Mine and three from Tsantsabane.

It was reported that for every 100 South African pupils that started school in 2003, only 40 successfully progressed to Grade 12 in 2014; 28 passed; and a meagre 4 qualified for university. Of these, only 1 would go on to graduate. This means that a very high percentage of South Africa’s out-of-school youth have no educational qualifications. The Fourth Industrial Revolution has made it abundantly clear that the jobs of the future are largely concentrated in STEM-related subjects (Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics). We have partnered with the Stellenbosch University on the SciMathUS initiative to ensure that the youth in our beneficiary communities are given the opportunity to tackle the future with confidence. Their success within this programme is to be commended. Particularly within the context of the pandemic conditions in 2020.”

Vusani Malie, CEO, SIOC-CDT

THE 2021 BURSARY COHORT

For students from economically disadvantaged backgrounds, achieving a tertiary education is an opportunity to change their economic status at both a personal and family level.

However, their economic conditions often impact on their ability to achieve academic success. Without adequate financial resources available in institutions of higher learning, students' experiences of poverty may be only marginally alleviated, which merely extends and in effect, reproduces systemic conditions of poverty.

The bursary project has therefore been developed with the following objectives in mind:

- To empower financially disadvantaged youth from SIOC-CDT beneficiary communities by providing them with the opportunity to obtain a qualification at a higher education institution (HEI).
- To provide bursary beneficiaries with financial and psycho-social support to unlock and maximise their potential; enabling them to complete their qualification.

- To pull together and set aside adequate resources to maximise and ensure the sustainability of the scheme and the continuous development of local skills in SIOC-CDT beneficiary communities.
- To strengthen links between secondary schools and HEIs, influencing the academic curricula to be aligned to the requirements of the local labour market within the SIOC-CDT beneficiary communities.
- To address skills shortages, as identified in the annual Sector Skills Planning reports, by increasing the pool of young talent.
- To increase awareness and knowledge of tertiary opportunities.
- To increase the number of students enrolling at institutions of higher education.
- To increase the number of students who complete their studies in a timely manner.

This very successful project has resulted in SIOC-CDT bursary students being enrolled at 22 of the 26 universities we have in South Africa. There are no specific fields of study required for the 2021 cohort. The bursary caters for all fields of studies that are recognised at any Public Higher Learning institutions. 60 students were awarded.

LOCAL MUNICIPALITY

No of successful candidates per municipality

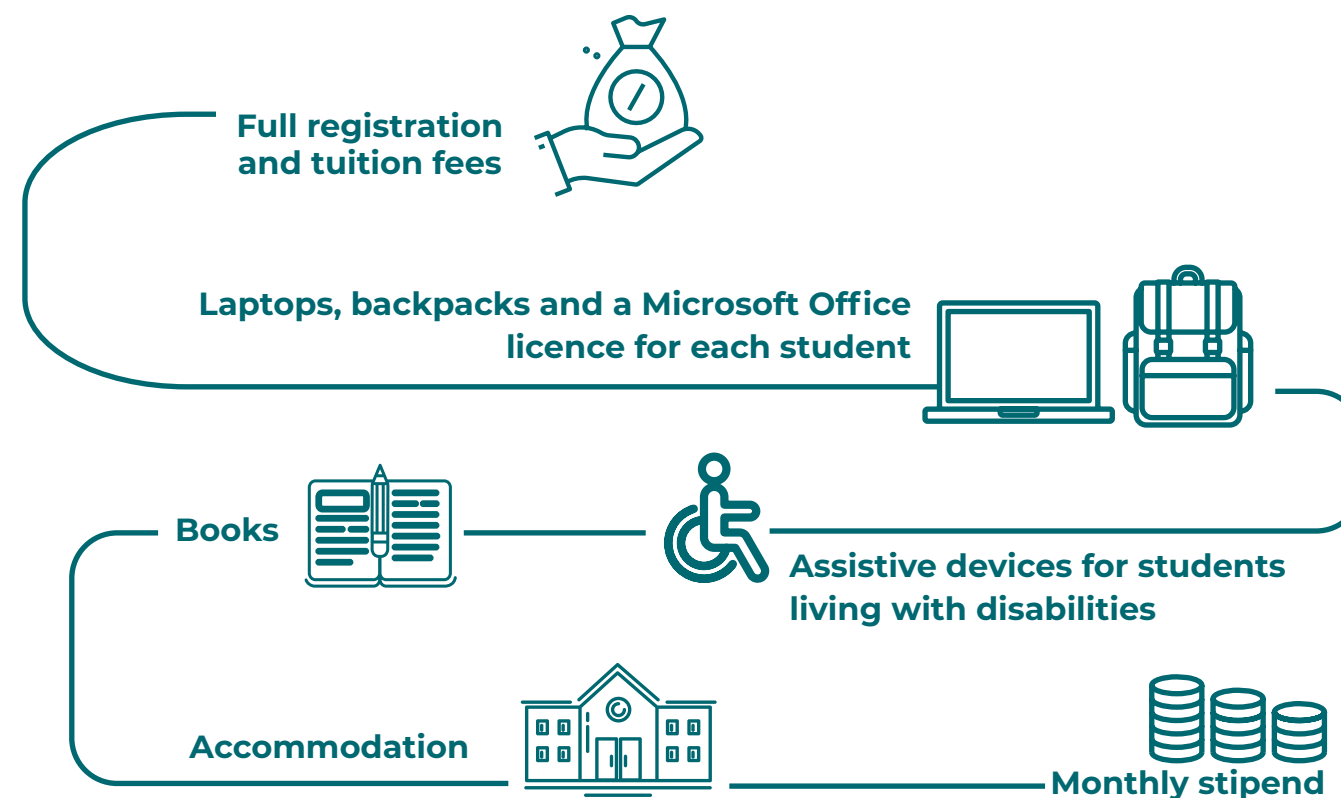
Thabazimbi	11
Tsantsabane	6
Gamagara	7
Gasegonyana	28
Joe Morolong	7
Disability (Gasegonyana)	1



142
full cost bursary
students at various
higher learning
institutions across
the country.



142 Students are currently supported. " In total bursary students, (2018, 2019, 2020, 2021 cohorts), are receiving:



MANDELA DAY: THE SPIRIT OF GIVING

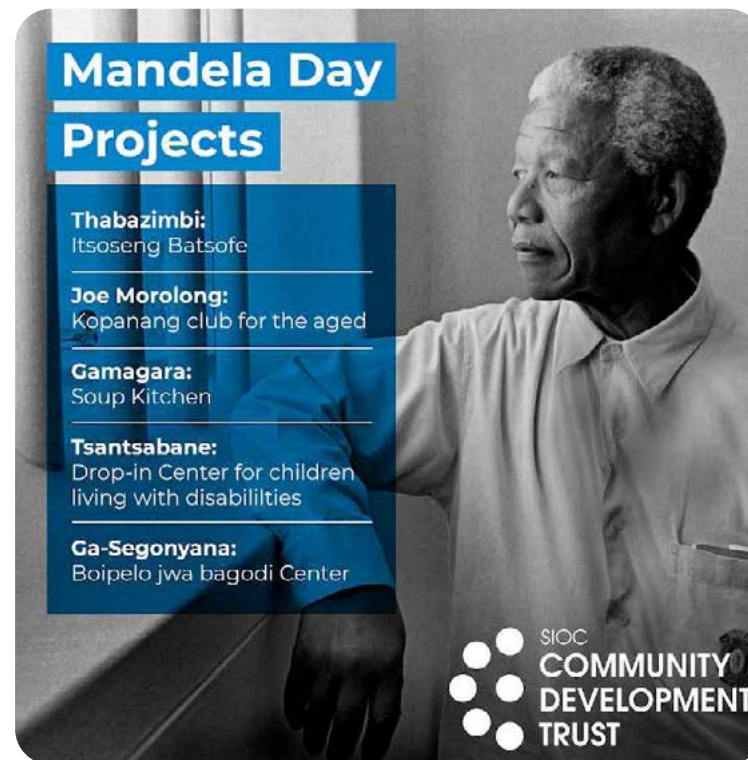
SIOC-CDT always embarks on social causes during the month of July. Whilst we always focus on providing value to our beneficiary communities, July embodies the “spirit of giving” in honour of the late Nelson Mandela.

Each year, SIOC-CDT identifies and assesses projects to ensure that the contribution leaves an impact. The aim is to contribute both financially and through individual efforts, but the Covid-19 pandemic has curtailed the latter. For this reason, we have worked with the Department of Social Development (DSD) to identify five projects for July 2021 – one for each of the five beneficiary communities in Limpopo and the Northern Cape. Essential support in the form of donations will be given (directly) to beneficiaries belonging to vulnerable groups.

The DSD identified the following points to consider when selecting our projects:

- All social service-related entities or centres have not been operational to minimise the spread of Covid-19.
- They have been struggling to support many beneficiaries, such as soup kitchens, since the pandemic outbreak.
- Assistance to vulnerable community members should be undertaken with restricted to no physical contact to protect them.

With above in mind, the following projects have been selected.



Thabazimbi Local Municipality

Itsoseng Batsofe (Organisation for Elders)

Identified by the DSD as one of the most impactful centres in Thabazimbi, this is an organisation for elderly people. Comprising of forty members, Itsoseng was formally established and registered in 2011. Their activities are held at a shelter in Regorogile and cater for elders both living there and from neighbouring areas. They promote active aging and poverty alleviation through establishing vegetable gardens at schools and home. Prior to Covid-19, these elders would meet once or twice



Beneficiary



Blankets



Sanitiser



Branded Mask



Food Parcels



Groceries



Heaters

Thabazimbi
Itsoseng Batsofe

40

40

40

40

Joe Morolong
Kopanang Club For The Aged

26

26

26

26

Gamagara -
Soup Kitchen

165

165

165

6
months

Tsantsabane - Drop-In Centre For
Children Living With Disabilities

43

43

43

43

4

Ga-Segonyana -
Boipelo Jwa Bagodi Center

78

78

78

78

MANDELA DAY: THE SPIRIT OF GIVING (CONTINUED)

a week – sharing meals, exercising, gardening and visiting elders who are hospitalised. SIOC-CDT donated blankets, masks and food parcels.

Joe Morolong Local Municipality

Kopanang Club for the Aged

Recommended by the DSD, this organisation is based in Maphinick Village and operates in a three-room structure. Catering for twenty-six senior citizens, sewing, exercising and socialising are their primary activities. As again, they are unable to meet, SIOC-CDT provided blankets, masks and groceries.

Gamagara Local Municipality

Soup Kitchen

This soup kitchen is run with the support and monitoring of the DSD. They cater for 165 beneficiaries living in Mapoteng/Sesheng and their database comprises of orphans, elderly and other indigent community members. They are not currently fully operational as a result of the pandemic and only open for beneficiaries to grab ready meals, sign and go. Those who are bed ridden receive deliveries.

The DSD has not been able to fund them since early 2020 and they have been receiving bread from Shoprite to keep going. SIOC-CDT donated blankets and masks to the 165 beneficiaries as well as monthly groceries to enable continuity of the Soup Kitchen for a 6-month period.

Tsantsabane Local Municipality

Lebelelang Disability Centre

Based in a community hall, this centre caters for children living with disability in the Newtown area. There are currently forty-three children enrolled in their programme, which includes learning sessions (where they learn movement) and attention exercises through stories and listening activities. Whilst they have secured land and a commitment from local mines to build a structure, the current location has no kitchen facilities, so the children have to bring their own lunches.

They do provide blankets, but these are very worn and there are no heaters.

SIOC-CDT provided blankets and heaters to the Centre.

Ga-Segonyana

Boipelo jwa bagodi

Boipelo jwa bagodi is located in Magojaneng. Established in 2017, it currently caters for seventy-eight elders who do needle and bead work, have games and do dancing. The organisation was suggested by the DSD as one that does not get frequent funding. With their meetings compromised by the pandemic, SIOC-CDT will be assisting them as per the other organisations that cater for the elderly. SIOC-CDT has donated blankets, masks and food parcels.



FIRST TOUR OF FREE EYECARE PROJECT IS CHANGING LIVES

Even before the pandemic hit us, it's common knowledge that the South African public healthcare system was buckling under the pressure of a large population with limited resources to service it. Despite the symptoms appearing at a far more gradual pace than other healthcare issues such as TB or cancer, vision and eye care health should still be considered among the top public healthcare concerns.

SIOC-CDT commenced the roll out of their comprehensive eye care project in March 2021. This roll-out has seen 246 cataract surgeries take place and the issuance of 734 spectacles since then.

The project encompasses eye care testing and the treatment that patients require to prevent or rectify vision impairment. This intervention addresses specialised human resources capacity to reach more people in rural areas. The first tour successfully concluded at the end of March as follows:

ZF Ngcawu District Municipality, Northern Cape (between 19th and 28th March):

- 162 cataract surgeries performed to date
- 718 spectacles issued

Waterberg District Municipality, Limpopo (between 26th and 29th March):

- 84 cataract surgeries performed to date
- 16 spectacles issued
- The next surgeries are scheduled for September 2021

SIOC-CDT funds the project, which is divided into quarterly tours, by an amount just shy of R1 million for the cataract's surgery, screening, awareness and reading glasses. In partnership with the Northern Cape Department of Health (NCDoH) and the South African National Council for the Blind (SANCB), the project initially aimed to provide a total of 160 cataract surgeries and 200 pairs of reading glasses for patients in need within SIOC-CDT beneficiary communities – this goal has been surpassed.

FIRST TOUR OF FREE EYECARE PROJECT IS CHANGING LIVES (CONTINUED)



Each tour follows a stringent itinerary in order to achieve the following goals:

- Raise awareness against blindness via education (causes and prevention, genetic retinal conditions, etc.).
- To provide vision screening, testing and treatment for minor ailments (identifying cataracts, issuing reading glasses, escalating complicated eye conditions to the next level of care, etc.).
- Providing cataract surgeries to patients in need (the operations are scheduled/performed in one of the NCDoh hospitals by a qualified Ophthalmologist from member organisations through Private Partnerships as part of the existing Cataract Outreach Programme).



"The project was supposed to launch in April last year and end in March 2021, but due to the health and safety delays during the pandemic last year, we delayed the first tour until March 2021. We have exceeded our goals and are delighted at the progress made to date. We wish to thank all of the partners that have worked with us on this vital eyecare project. Waterberg District Municipality, Limpopo project will continue until March 2022. Thousands of South Africans are needlessly blind merely because they cannot afford treatment or do not have access to adequate services, which is why support from corporations and civil society is so essential in assisting to bridge this gap."

Vusani Malie, CEO of SIOC-CDT



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