

A New Chapter Begins for the 2026 Access for Success Cohort



**“Empowering
Future
Leaders Through
Education”**



Lesibane Mashiane shares a word with AEL students (Pics: courtesy of Academy of Environmental Leadership)

By Staff Reporter

February month marked an important milestone as a group of dedicated young learners from across our beneficiary communities officially joined the 2026 Access for Success Programme. The welcoming event took place at the Academy of Environmental Leadership SA(AEL) at Duin in Die Weg, where the learners were warmly received by the SIOC Community Development Trust and its valued development partners, including the Northern Cape Premier’s Office.

This gathering celebrated the start of a journey that aims to equip these learners with the tools they need to succeed academically and build brighter futures. Access for Success is a post-matric programme which focuses on improving learners’ performance in Mathematics and Science. These subjects play a crucial role in helping learners gain admission to public

learning in South Africa, particularly in STEM fields—Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics.

This year, the SIOC Community Development Trust is proud to sponsor 70 learners, an increase from 60 learners in 2025. This expansion reflects the Trust’s continued commitment to creating opportunities for young people and its belief in the value of second-chance learning pathways. Over the years, the programme has built a strong reputation for helping learners improve their academic performance, unlock their potential, and gain access to opportunities that once seemed beyond their reach.

The enthusiasm and determination shown by this new group of learners is truly inspiring. As they begin this journey, they are encouraged to

embrace the opportunity with dedication, discipline, and perseverance. With the right support and hard work, these learners have the potential to achieve excellence and make a meaningful difference in their lives, their families, and their communities.

Sharing words of encouragement to the learners, Lesibana Mashiane, SIOC-CDT Education Programme Coordinator says "The Trust remains committed to investing in education as a key driver of sustainable development. Together with its partners, the Trust looks forward to celebrating the many success stories that will emerge from the 2026 Access for Success Programme, stories of resilience, achievement, and hope for the future" - he further says.

Editor’s Notes

Welcome to this edition of our community newsletter, where we celebrate progress, partnership, and the power of opportunity.

This issue highlights the continued impact of the SIOC-CDT’s programmes in education, health, and community development. From improved Mathematics and Physical Science results through targeted matric support, to the inspiring journey of a young doctor who overcame challenges to achieve her dreams, these stories remind us what is possible with determination and the right support.

Our commitment to education is further strengthened through resources provided to schools, ensuring that learners receive the support they need from an early stage.

Beyond education, our mobile health services continue to bring essential care directly to communities, improving lives through early detection and prevention. At the same time, initiatives like sports kit donations, through the beneficiary communities discretionary fund initiative are encouraging healthy, active lifestyles among young people.

Together with our partners and communities, we remain dedicated to building a brighter, healthier, and more empowered future for all. Thank you for being part of this journey enjoy reading this copy.

Mosimanegape Macomo
Editor

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SIOC-CDT Matric Support Programme Drives Improved Mathematics and Physical Science Results



Learners participating in the SIOC-CDT Matric Support Programme focused on Mathematics and Science (pics: SIOC-CDT)

By Staff Reporter

In 2025, the trust implemented a targeted Matric Learner Support Programme aimed at improving performance in Mathematics, Physical Sciences, Technical Mathematics, and Technical Science in our beneficiary communities across the Northern Cape and Limpopo. This initiative aligns with Sustainable Development Goal 4 (SDG 4), which focuses on ensuring inclusive and equitable quality education, and promote lifelong learning opportunities for all.

The programme reached learners from all the schools in John Taolo Gaetsewe district, three schools in the ZF Mgcawu District, as well as 6 schools in the Dwaalboom and Thabazimbi circuits of the Waterberg District in Limpopo. The program focused on high-risk matric learners in JTG, while supporting all learners enrolled in Mathematics and Physical Sciences in participating schools from Waterberg and ZFM districts.

Key interventions included lock-in camps during the identified weekends, school holiday classes, and exam preparation sessions. These sessions were designed to

strengthen content mastery, improve examination techniques, and build learner confidence. The interventions provided structured, focused learning environments at critical points in the academic year.

To further promote excellence, we introduced a specialized enrichment programme for potential top achievers in Mathematics and Physical Sciences. This programme emphasised accelerated syllabus coverage, performance enhancement, and stretching learners beyond curriculum requirements.

Enrichment sessions were also held over selected weekends, with an extended one-week spring vacation camp hosted at Tiger Kloof School in Vryburg. The Vryburg camp also accommodated learners taking Technical Mathematics and Technical Sciences, ensuring inclusivity across subject streams.

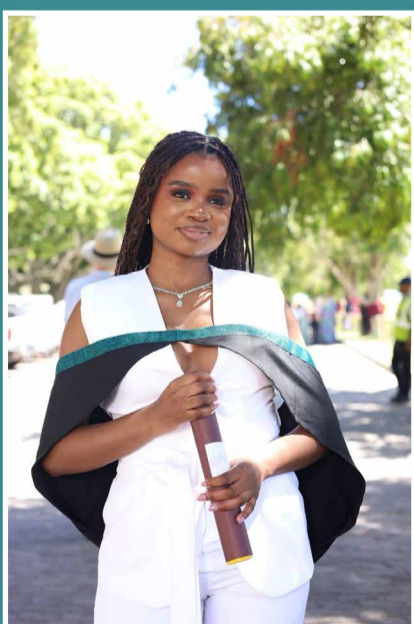
The success of the programme is largely attributed to strong collaboration between the SIOC-CDT (led by its Education, Training and Skills Development Unit), the

Department of Education, and participating schools. SIOC-CDT extends sincere appreciation to education officials, including Chief Education Specialists (CESs), Circuit Managers, and Subject Advisors, who worked beyond the call of duty to ensure effective planning, coordination, and implementation of the programme.

The commitment of teachers and the dedication and discipline demonstrated by learners were equally critical to the programme's success.

In addition, joint programme monitoring by SIOC-CDT and the Department of Education played a significant role in strengthening implementation quality, enabling timely support, and ensuring accountability. This collaborative monitoring approach added measurable value to the overall impact of the programme. Through this initiative, the trust continues to demonstrate its commitment to improving educational outcomes, strengthening Mathematics and Science performance, and expanding opportunities for learner success in underserved communities.

A Story of Determination, a young Medical Doctor from Rooiberg



SIOC-CDT Bursary programme beneficiary who has successfully completed her MBChB Degree with Stellenbosch University (SU) (pics: Courtesy of Stellenbosch University)

Keneilwe Paulinah Mataboge grew up in the rural community of Rooiberg in Limpopo, where access to resources was limited and few learners pursued higher education. After losing her mother in Grade 8, Keneilwe was raised and supported by her siblings, an experience that shaped her resilience and determination.

Inspired by her mother's illness and a desire to help others, she pursued a career in medicine. Although she was not accepted into medical school immediately after matriculating in 2018, she enrolled in the SIOC-CDT sponsored SciMathUS programme in 2019, where she improved her results and later gained acceptance into the MBChB programme at Stellenbosch University.

With support from the SIOC-CDT bursary, Keneilwe completed her medical degree and recently graduated. She has started her internship at Mokopane Hospital and geared to serve under-resourced communities while contributing to improved access to quality healthcare.

Her journey is a powerful reminder that perseverance, support, and belief can change lives.

SciMathUS Continues its impact in the Education of Learners from the Beneficiary Communities



Welcoming of the SciMathUS cohort at Stellenbosch University (pics: SIOC-CDT)

By Staff Reporter

In the beautiful town of Stellenbosch, 50 determined young learners from Thabazimbi, Tsantsabane, Gamagara, Ga-Segonyana, and Joe Morolong Local Municipalities are working to improve their Mathematics and Physical Science results in pursuit of careers in Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) fields. These learners are fully supported to ensure they achieve this goal.

The SciMathUS Programme, implemented by Stellenbosch University, is a long-standing partnership focused on improving Mathematics and Physical Science

results of learners who show potential. Since the partnership began in 2018, the programme has continued to produce strong academic outcomes. In 2025, the programme achieved a 100% pass rate, with 11 distinctions (7 in Mathematics and 4 in Physical Science).

Through interactive classes and dedicated tutor support, students receive hands-on assistance to strengthen their understanding of key concepts. Practical Physics sessions further enhance their learning, allowing them to develop a deeper and more comprehensive understanding of the subject.

The SciMathUS together with Access for Success programme—run by SIOC-CDT in partnership with the SU and Academic Institution for Environmental Studies, respectively—helps students improve their Mathematics and Physical Science marks after matric. This gives them a better chance to qualify for further studies and pursue careers in STEM fields that are important for the future.

Beyond academics, the programme also exposes learners to the tertiary education environment, helping them gain insight into university life and better prepare for their future careers in their chosen fields.

Laptop Donation to Deben Laerskool



Handover of laptops to learners at Deben Laerskool (pics: SIOC-CDT)

By Staff Reporter

Our Education, Training and Skills Development strategy aligns with and supports the Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 4 - "Quality Education". As we aim to ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and promote lifelong learning opportunities for all, we do our best to support schools in our beneficiary communities with equipment and various educational programmes to make quality education accessible to all learners.

We are delighted to have donated compatible laptops to the Deben Laerskool, in Deben, Gamagara Local Municipality area. The gadgets are geared to assist the school in implementing the Early Grade Reading Assessment (EGRA) toolkit, designed to help with

one-on-one oral assessment for teachers to identify learner strengths and provide tailored support to improve reading proficiency for early grade learners, ensuring that learners who need support are identified early and assisted effectively.

We believe this donation of laptops will go a long way in assisting the school with this important initiative.

"As the school we appreciate this sponsorship and we believe it will help the school big-time" says Mr Aobakwe Sebolai - Deben Primary School, Principal.

Rea Fola Mobile Health Services, Strengthening Access to Sustainable Community-Based Healthcare

By Staff Reporter

According to SIOC-CDT CEO Anita Loots, the Trust's health initiatives support global efforts to improve community wellbeing. "Our Health and Wellness Strategic key Focus area aligns with Sustainable Development Goal 3 – Good Health and Well-being. Addressing health challenges and promoting preventative care in our beneficiary communities is fundamental to achieving this goal," said Loots.

Through the expansion of this programme by bringing in five (5) new mobiles in 2024, the Trust has already conducted more than 75 369 comprehensive healthscreenings across its



Rea Fola Mobile Unit (pics: SIOC-CDT)

communities in the provinces of Northern Cape (John Taolo Gaetsewe and Tsantsabane) and Limpopo (Thabazimbi). These screenings have played an important role in identifying health conditions early, allowing individuals to access treatment and support before problems become more



serious. The programme also offers a range of services including optometry, audiology and oral health care. For many beneficiaries, receiving corrective lenses has helped restore functional vision, improving their ability to learn, work and participate more meaningfully in everyday life.

In addition to clinical services, Rea Fola promotes preventative healthcare by raising community awareness and encouraging residents to live healthier lifestyles and seek medical help early. The programme offers services such as TB, HIV, and cancer screening, as well as mobile school health services.

By bringing integrated healthcare services directly to communities, the programme continues to strengthen access to sustainable, community-based healthcare.

A Great Start to 2026 for Schools in Joe Morolong

By Staff Reporter

The year 2026 began on a positive note for eight schools in the Joe Morolong area. These schools were chosen to benefit from the SIOC-CDT Community Discretionary Fund Programme and recently received soccer kits to support sports development and recreation at schools.

The campaign started with visits to Khiba Secondary School in GaMopedi and KS Shuping High School in Tsineng. The visits were led by Mr Tebogo Kotsedi, the SIOC-CDT Joe Morolong Local Municipality Community Representative Trustee.

During the visits, we also introduced the new Community Builder for the Tsineng cluster, Tshepang Mothelesi, showing our commitment to working closely with the community. The SIOC-CDT Discretionary



Handover of soccer kits to local schools through the SIOC-CDT Discretionary Grant Fund (pics: SIOC-CDT)

Fund supports community-driven projects that that are small but impactful and can make a difference in the communities. "These soccer kit donations reflects that goal and we hope the eight schools benefiting from this undertaking will treasure and make the best out of this initiative" - says Mr Kotsedi.

Each school received complete soccer kits for both boys' and girls' teams. Included with the kits are soccer balls, whistles, and ball pumps, making sure that all learners can take part in sports and recreation and continue playing.

By supporting sport and youth development, we are investing in the future of our communities. Together, we are helping to build healthier, more confident, and connected young people.



Apply for Community Funding today!

The SIOC-CDT Discretionary Fund is now open for 2026 applications! We're inviting community groups and local initiatives to apply for funding support for small but impactful projects that can make a difference. If you have an idea that will positively impact your community, this is your opportunity to bring it to life.

Funding Categories:

- Community Pride & Resilience:** Initiatives like cleaning campaigns, food gardens, and support for vulnerable groups.
- Community Events & Awareness:** Activities aligned with national/global initiatives (e.g. poverty eradication, environmental campaigns).
- Sports, Arts & Healthy Recreation:** Community projects promoting sports, arts, culture, and recreation.

PLEASE NOTE:

- No Infrastructure Projects** (The fund will not support infrastructure-related initiatives.)
- You can only receive the grant once per initiative in a single year.** (No multiple applications per initiative)
- Eligibility:** Only community initiatives within the beneficiary communities will be considered.
- Maximum Funding:** R50,000 per initiative, per year.

"Let's make a difference, together."

APPLICATION PROCESS

- Obtain a Discretionary Grant application form from your Community Representative Trustee (CRT) or Community Builder (CB).
- Complete the form and attach all required supporting documents. For any enquiries, contact your CB.
- Ensure the fully completed form is signed by your CRT.
- Submit the signed form, together with all supporting documents, to the Community Builders for processing or use other submission methods on the form.

Local Municipality	Community Representative Trustee	Community Builder
Thabazimbi	Mr Molebo Sikwane	Odilio Malopane Cell: 084 771 7488 Kestelwene Isaacme Cell: 078 737 7229
Ga-Segonyana	Mr Botumalo Magothu	Palesa Saboli Cell: 072 268 8534 Tshepang Mothelesi Cell: 072 016 2082
Tsentsabane	Mr Sobuzo Botha	Bokamoso Motshabang Cell: 078 517 7822
Gamagara	Mr Nico Andriess	Fahli Madlali Cell: 060 522 8884
Joe Morolong	Mr Tebogo Kotsedi	Ogoteleseng Thesayane Cell: 072 348 4622 Kantelo Mochi Cell: 072 687 6708 Mokhe Wecheseng Cell: 078 513 4738 Thabo Madlala Cell: 078 363 5806 Leobone Kgipe Cell: 078 474 4993

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