

Funding Proposal – Igqangi Educational Initiative

The project takes its name from that given by the amaPondo people to the Morning star, a powerful symbol in their society. The rise of the morning star heralds the oncoming dawn and is symbolic of lifting darkness, waking those embarking on long journeys, announcing the end of the night, and the start of the working day.

Project Details: This project aims to make use of willing and able postgraduate student educators to enhance the educational experience of several hundred grade eleven and matric learners at Mdatya High School (E.C) through the provision of weekend-long clinics in mathematics and physical science from June 2009 to the conclusion of the school year of 2010.

Funding Requested: R54000 is the requested grant, though all donations of any size would be gladly accepted and effectively utilised. All donations to SWC are fully tax deductible, and full accounts of expenditure will be provided with receipts.

This project presents an ideal and cost-effective opportunity for businesses of any size to actively engage in Corporate Social Investment. Towards this end, the project will be covered in the Wits University Weekly 'Vuvuzela', and a presentations package will be available to significant donors at the conclusion of the project for 2009. This pack will include a write-up on the project's activities and results, as well as a number of high quality photographs, ideal for use in internal publications or public promotions.



Classes at Mdatya are often as large as 60 pupils.

Where sponsors have specific promotional needs or ideas, these can be discussed and will be accommodated where possible.

Problem Statement: The numerous difficulties faced by rural schools in South Africa are well known; a lack of resources, facilities, and adequately trained staff, coupled with a crippling isolation have led rural schools in South Africa to produce results that rank markedly lower than their urban counterparts. Moreover, the provincial breakdown of matric results reveals startling geographic discrepancies, with the Eastern Cape by far and away the lowest-scoring province.



Mdatya Senior Secondary School, March 2009

Situated in the Bizana schooling region (reputed locally to be the lowest scoring schooling region in the Country for 2008) of the former Transkei, Mdatya Secondary School epitomises many of these challenges. Traveling to the school from Port Edward (the nearest town) takes a full hours drive over poorly maintained and often difficult roads, and many of the students endure daily walks of over 10km to school. The school itself

is lacking in classroom infrastructure, with only 12 large prefabricated classrooms housing around 400 students from grade 10-12, and a single out-block of ablutionary facilities. This isolation and desperately lacking capacity make the attraction and retention of skilled teachers immensely difficult, with the result that classes are often taught by young and inexperienced teachers, many of whom struggle immensely with the recent changes to the matric curriculum. Also, due to the absence of laboratory equipment, physical science students are forced to learn the syllabus in purely theoretical terms, without any practical demonstration component which is essential to a proper understanding of the work at hand.

About SWC: This project takes place under the banner of Sustaining the Wild Coast (SWC), a Section 21 not-for-profit organisation seeking to promote the development of socially inclusive and environmentally sustainable livelihoods in the Pondoland region of the Eastern Cape. Towards this goal, SWC is involved in a collaborative process of research, public education, and the development of community-driven programs from a grassroots level. More information on SWC is available at www.swc.org.za



Chris teaching a Gr11 Science Class (March 2009)

Project Manager – Chris Harrison will be heading the project for 2009-10. Chris is a postgraduate student of economics at the University of the Witwatersrand and a passionate educator. Chris has been tutoring math and Science up to a matric level for 5 years, and has recently begun tutoring a course in Environmental Economics at Wits. (074 117 5715 – available all hours or at Chris.Harrison25@gmail.com)

Project Activities: For 2009, the project involves 4 weekend-long clinics, which will aim to provide grade eleven and matric students with effective and high-quality assistance in their exam preparations, through extra tuition, individual assistance and distribution of packs of worked examples. These classes will aim not only to improve individual comprehension of the subject material, but also to familiarise students with various styles of likely examination questions. The project hopes to promote a self-sustaining process of peer education and assistance at Mdatya, and in coming years hopes to train current students as educators themselves. To date, the students at Mdatya have expressed great interest in this project, showing encouraging enthusiasm and pride in approaching their studies. Likewise, the school staff have expressed support for the project, offering use of the school classrooms as venues for lessons, and eagerly assisting in the planning of clinics, to ensure that the sections of the syllabus covered in the clinic coincide with those recently covered in class, so as to maximise the benefits to pupils.

Where resources permit these classes will involve hands-on practical experiments that demonstrate various principles covered in the syllabus, so as to promote deeper personal understandings. This need is especially pressing in sections like chemistry and electricity.

This project intends to mobilise the skills, passion and energy of young South Africans towards the goal of a better, more inclusive and more equitable spread of educational



Students at Mdatya have expressed their enthusiasm and support

opportunities in South Africa. The volunteer tutors involved are drawn from students at the University of The Witwatersrand (primarily postgraduate and education students), the majority of whom are employed by the university to conduct tutorial lessons for first and second year students, and many of whom have significant (up to 5 years) experience in the provision of math and science extra lessons at high school level. All tutors will be highly competent in

their assigned sections of the syllabus. Whilst many of the tutors have near-expert knowledge of the matric work, training will be provided to tutors where required.

In harnessing the willingness and energies of these young people, this project aims to relocate the challenge of educating the youth from the sphere of government to that of society at large; the problem is too big, too urgent and ultimately too important to be left to government alone.

Thus far, the project has concluded one visit to Mdatya school during March 2009. Whilst this visit was intended as more of a fact-finding and planning mission, a few classes were conducted, and were generally very well received. A second trip is being planned for June 2009, with trips in July, August and September to follow. The project will continue operations in 2010.

Funding Requirements (per clinic)

Item	Description	Total
Transport	<i>The 6 tutors will be transported to Port Edward in 2 of their own cars. Including tolls, the cost of the return trip in 2 cars is likely to be in the region of R6000 per trip. R1000 is budgeted for transport whilst on the coast. including daily transport of tutors to Mdatya.</i>	R7000
Accommodation	<i>Accommodation for the 6 tutors is projected to cost R1000 per night over 3 nights per trip.</i>	R3000
Food	<i>Provision of food for the tutors over the four day stay is projected to cost around R1800, and the provision of basic lunches (hotdogs, sandwiches, fruit etc.) at the clinics is expected to cost around R700 per clinic.</i>	R2500
Equipment	<i>The provision of basic stationary (pens, paper and rulers), the printing of note packs, the rent of laboratory equipment, and the purchase of chemical supplies is expected to total R1000 per clinic.</i>	R1000
		<u>R13500</u>
	<i>The total projected budget for the full 4-clinic project :</i>	<u>R54000</u>