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Introduction

The Vincent Tshabalala Education Trust is an initiative of the comrades and school friends of Vincent, who wanted to recognize his contribution, honour his legacy and ensure that his memory lives on and inspire generations of young people from Alexandra. The education trust has become a fitting tribute to this young and courageous soldier of the Umkhonto We Sizwe, in recognition of his commitment to an equal & better education and to the struggle for a better South Africa.

The Vincent Tshabalala Education Trust was successfully launched on 24th September 2004 at the Alexandra Technical College. It was well attended by the community of Alexandra. The Alexandra Technical College has a specific significance in that, the spot where Vincent heroically fought & died in a battle against the apartheid security forces forms part of College yard.

In October 2008 the community of Alexandra recognized his contribution by re-naming "London road" into Vincent Tshabalala road. His organization the ANC in Alexandra has named one of its branches after him. He was also one of those honoured by the president in December 2009 and had his name added to the list of heroes and heroines at Freedom Park

About Vincent "Toivo" Tshabalala

Vincent was a determined combatant who fought the apartheid regime and sacrificed his life for freedom. He was born on 15 August 1964 in Bethal, Mpumalanga. He was an extraordinary young man who at the tender age of 13 understood the hardships of black South Africans, and decided to join the struggle after being inspired by the Bethal Trial in 1977. He became the chairperson of COSAS while schooling at Minerva high school in Alexandra and thereafter became one founding members – together with Paul Mashatile and others – of Alexandra Youth Congress (AYCO). Vincent had passion for education and was a dedicated learner. His favourite sport was karate and was active in poetry and drama both at school and in the camps in Angola. He joined the ANC underground and left for exile in 1983 where he joined Umkhonto we Sizwe in 1983. He returned to South Africa in 1984.

Vincent died heroically in a battle against the apartheid police on the 9th February 1985 at the age of 20.

The Vincent Tshabalala Education Trust

The core principles that underline the founding of the Trust include community participation, a multi-pronged approach that encompasses educational development, enhancement of human capital and strengthening of the social fibre of the Alexandra community.

Primarily the initiative is aimed at assisting young people from Alexandra who have the potential to advance their education and social contribution to their community, but are hindered from doing so by financial restraints as well as lack of awareness of opportunities.

The Aspirations

The Trust was established to:

- recognize the contribution of Vincent Tshabalala in the struggle for better and quality education; preserve his proud legacy - the legacy of selflessness, sacrifice and outstanding service to the community – and ensure that his memory lives on and serves as a source of inspiration to the youth of Alexandra
- inspire, support and reward to the young people of Alexandra who are hardworking and committed to education
- give hope and enable the youth of Alexandra to pursue their dreams and take advantage of opportunities created by our freedom and democracy
- add to an army of educated and skilled young people that can contribute to economic growth and nation building
- inspire and enhance a strong sense of community service, drive civic responsibility; and put the interest of the nation first

The Objectives & Initiatives of the Vincent Tshabalala Education Trust

- Award full bursaries to the top Grade 12 learners from Alexandra high schools
- Identify and sponsor financially disadvantaged Grade 8 pupils till completion of high school and provide holistic support
- Initiate national and international exchange and exposure programmes
- Support and enhance the culture of teaching & learning in Alexandra High Schools
- Identify & support networking opportunities, collaboration & exposure for beneficiaries of the Trust

- Create and support a volunteer network to enable the beneficiaries of the Trust and other students to engage in community development initiatives

Trustees

1. Paul Mashatile (Chairperson)
2. Sizakele Nkosi – Malobane
3. Louis Seeco
4. Mxolisi Zwane
5. Dipuo Mvelase
6. Joe Manana
7. Constance Bapela
8. Pam Mallela

Funding

The following are the sources of funding:

- Monthly contribution by Trustees and friends of the Trust
- Monthly contribution by graduate beneficiaries
- Individual contribution by members of the community
- Annual Golf and Dinner fundraising
- Donations –cash and in kind
- Funding and Sponsorship private companies

Programmes

- **Bursaries for top students**
 - Full bursary : covering tuition, books, accommodation and monthly allowance
 - Basic bursary : covering tuition and books
- **Recognition of best performing educators** – award prizes that include laptops and cash
- **Leadership awards for Principals and deputies leading best performing schools** – award prizes that include cash, laptops and holiday vouchers.
- **Recognition for best performing schools** – identify and mobilize resources to address the needs of the school to enable better teaching and learning environment
- **Other initiatives to support and enhance teaching and learning** – career guidance; facilitating the establishment of Alumni at various

Alexandra high schools, engaging parents and teachers in support of education. We also buy books written by South African authors – especially Africans for the high schools. On a quarterly basis we organize a breakfast for principals to enable interaction and sharing of experiences and lessons

- **Supporting community programme through the involvement of the trust beneficiaries in initiatives aimed at improving education standard and the lives of the people of Alexandra** – Saturday Classes, community clean up campaigns, collection and distribution of kids underwear and adoption of vulnerable families

Progress to date

1. Bursaries for Tertiary Education

- To date 184 learners from the five Alexandra high schools have been awarded bursaries by the Trust since 2005. Of these 48 have successfully completed their studies and some are employed in various fields eg : Derivative Trader, Chartered accountants, engineers, IT, lawyers, university lecturers and auditors
- 40 top performing grade 10 and 11 learners have been recognized and awarded prizes

2. Support culture of teaching & learning

➤ Educators and Principals

- Thirty best performing educators were awarded lap top computers with mobile internet connection to both recognize their contribution and provide them with additional tools to support their teaching endeavours.
- The principal of the four best performing high schools were recognized for their leadership and awarded laptop computers with mobile internet connection, cash and two also received an all-expenses paid holiday for her and family to Cape Town.
- Three deputy the principal were given prizes and vouchers to a spa
- Organised Educator team building sessions

➤ **School Improvements**

In recognizing the best performing High Schools, school infrastructure improvement and support was done for the high school and more is planned for this year

➤ **Alexandra High School**

- The perimeter wall in Alexandra high school was erected to improve security.
- Matric classrooms repainted
- Staff room refurbished with new office furniture and blinds; and installed with air- conditioners, TV, DSTV and DVD
- Administration block including principal's office was furnished and installed with air conditioners

- Staff kitchen refurbished and installed with Urn, fridge, microwave and crockery and cutlery. Monthly groceries for tea are also provided
- Science laboratory was refurbished and equipped
- School kitchen was also refurbished
- The school was also provided with communication system and photocopying machines
- Installation of security equipment around the school

➤ **Realogile High School**

- Broken windows were replaced and all classrooms painted to improve the learning environment.
- Staff room renovated and refurbished with new office furniture, tiling and blinds; and installed with air- conditioners, TV, DSTV and DVD
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- Administration block including principal's office was furnished and installed with air conditioners
- Staff kitchen refurbished and installed with Urn, fridge, microwave and crockery and cutlery. Monthly groceries for tea are also provided

➤ **Kwabhekilanga Secondary School**

- Staff room renovated and refurbished with new office furniture and blinds; and installed with air- conditioners, TV, DSTV and DVD
- Administration block including principal's office was refurbished with new office furniture and painted. Air conditioner was also installed in the administration office.
- Staff kitchen renovated and installed with Urn, fridge, microwave and crockery and cutlery. Monthly groceries for tea are also provided

- School kitchen refurbished, tiled and provided with industrial kitchen equipment
- Science laboratory was refurbished and equipped
- Civic Tech laboratory build and furnished

➤ **East Bank High School**

- Staff room renovated and refurbished with new office furniture and blinds; and installed with air- conditioners, TV, DSTV and DVD
- Staff kitchen refurbished and installed with Urn, fridge, microwave and crockery and cutlery. Monthly groceries for tea are also provided
- Administration block including principal and deputies offices were refurbished with new office furniture and painted. The air conditioner was also installed in the administration office

➤ **Minerva High School**

- Matric classes repainted
- Two science laboratories renovated

3. Networking and support opportunities for the beneficiaries of the Trust

- Monthly meetings and regular telephonic engagement to check on progress, provide assistance and information.
- Networking opportunities with leaders from both the public and corporate sector who share their journey and inspire our beneficiaries
- We also assist graduates with learnership opportunities.
- The Trust in partnership with Outward Bound organised a personal and leadership development programme for all our Saturday classes tutors

4. Volunteer network to participate in and support community development initiatives

- The following Initiatives were undertaken with the support of community members, donors and graduates. These were under the theme: **“Promoting Community dignity & Solidarity”**
- Shoes donated to 100 primary school learners at Emfundisweni primary school
- Underwear for boys and girls distributed to 900 primary school learners
- 22 child and granny headed families adopted. They are provided with monthly groceries and assisted with home improvements and cleaning. On Mandela Month additional child & granny headed families are adopted for a year
- Monthly clean up campaigns to support these families

- Since 2011 some of our graduates have been participating in providing Saturday and supplementary classes for grade 10 and 12 in Alexandra. This programme accommodates learners from all the five high schools in Alexandra.
Beneficiaries of the Trust together with other tertiary students from Alexandra have been running supplementary classes for grade 10 - 12 learners from the five Alexandra high schools

➤ **General School programmes**

- A partnership between schools and our beneficiaries for clean-up campaigns
- Support for school debates and preparing for the launch of Alexandra debating society to encourage a positive dialogue amongst learners
- Development of School websites
- Bi – Annual Principal's breakfast for share experiences and as a support network
- Quarterly provision of library books to schools

➤ **Partnerships**

The Trust has inspired, supported and partnered with various groups and initiatives:

- Youth groups in Alexandra in pursuance of youth development initiatives
- Alexandra Athletic Club to promote running and healthy living amongst young and old in Alexandra.
- TOPISA Education, Sports and Culture in rural Limpopo
- Ravensmead, Uitsig and Cravenby Education Trust (RUCET) in the Cape Flats, Cape Town

BANKING DETAILS

VINCENT TSHABALALA EDUCATION TRUST

ABSA CHEQUE ACCOUNT

ACCOUNT NUMBER: 4059523275

SANDTON BRANCH

For more information, contact Dipuo Mvelase: info@vincenttshabalalatrust.org.za

