



**EDUCATION
AFRICA**
Incorporated Association not for gain

Education Africa Global News

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EDUCATION AFRICA
WOULD LIKE TO
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Ndaba Ntsele appointed Chairman of Education Africa

The Education Africa Board of Trustees is proud to announce the appointment of Ndaba Ntsele to the position of Chairman of Education Africa. He assumed this position following a meeting of the Board of Trustees on 11 October. Russell Zama has been appointed Deputy Chairman.

James Urdang, Executive Director and Founder of the Education Africa, is thrilled at the appointments. "Education Africa was founded in 1992 and we have a proud history and track record of delivery. The strengthening of the Board of Trustees, with Ndaba Ntsele as Chairman and Russell Zama as Deputy Chairman, will help ensure that we

can continue to move forward with confidence."

Ndaba Ntsele holds numerous senior board positions, mostly in Pamodzi's portfolio companies. In addition, he sits on the Advisory Board of Wits Business School for Entrepreneurs and he is also on the Board of Endeavor South Africa. Amongst his many achievements, Ntsele - together with 43 other entrepreneurs around the world - was inducted into Ernst & Young Entrepreneur Hall of Fame in Monte Carlo in May 2008.

Russell Zama is a former Director of Basil Read Developments

where he was instrumental in the development of the Early Childhood Development Centre which has recently been completed in Cosmo City as part of the Education Africa Social Architecture project. He has recently founded his own business, Russell Zama Construction and Transportation.

Ntsele and Zama will be supported by the Education Africa Board of Trustees which consist of David Bloch, Andrew Hunt, Chris Jiyane, Sanjay Kassen, Kanelo Makhetha, and Lungu Sisulu. The directors of Education Africa are James Urdang Executive Director and Founder) and Linda Gould (Director of Operations).

Education Africa International Arts & Culture project launches the "Marimbas for All" initiative

Our International Arts & Culture project received a boost with the appointment of Joan Lithgow to the position of national coordinator. She will be focussing on

developing and managing the "Marimbas for All" initiative which has been developed with the following objective in mind: To establish a regional infrastructure

whereby specifically identified schools in each of the nine Provinces will be equipped with all the necessary instruments to run a successful Marimba ►

Jo'burg Mayor officially opens Cosmo City ECD centre

There was much excitement in Cosmo City on 10 August when the Executive Mayor of Johannesburg, Parks Tau, arrived as our special guest for the official opening of our newly constructed ECD Centre. The Cosmo City ECD Centre, which is our latest Social Architecture project, is a partnership effort between Education Africa, students from Cornell University, The City of Johannesburg, Basil Read Construction and Play with a Purpose.

The Cosmo City ECD Centre will accommodate 80 preschool children in four classrooms. Also included in the centre are a kitchen and dining area, ablution facilities, an office and a separate teacher training facility. A beautiful outdoor play area set among landscaped gardens completes the picture, and there is even a vegetable garden under irrigation.

James Urdang, Executive Director of Education Africa says this project has set a new benchmark for student groups involved in our Social Architecture Project. What was particularly impressive was the partnerships that the students formed with suppliers and stakeholders – resulting in a very impressive ECD Centre for the Cosmo City Community.

“On behalf of Education Africa I would like to thank the students most sincerely for the role they have played in the design and construction of the Cosmo City ECD Centre. Out of all the social architecture design/build projects that we have been involved in over the years, this student lead project under the leadership of Barry Beagan stands out as one that has been most efficiently managed.

“Furthermore, what makes this particular project unique is that the Cornell University students



Johannesburg Executive Major Parks Tau is surrounded by children and representatives from the Cosmo City Forum at the recent opening of the Cosmo City ECD Centre. Also in the picture are James Urdang, Executive Director of Education Africa, Barry Beagan from Cornell University and Robyn Wienand.

have taken the concept of design/build a step further by also organising the equipping of the school classrooms, playground and the kitchen at the school. Even the landscaping was taken care of by the CUSD students!” says Urdang. The Centre will open its doors to

learners in January next year. Preschool teachers are currently being recruited and are already undergo regular training and assessments by the Education Africa ECD Specialist who will ensure that the young learners will receive the best possible teaching to ensure school readiness.●



James Urdang and Barry Beagan take Johannesburg Executive Mayor Parks Tau on a tour of the new Cosmo City ECD Centre

Gauteng high school debaters take top honours at SAMUN Cape Town International Conference

The Gauteng team comprising two learners from The Oprah Winfrey Leadership Academy and two learners from Meyerton High School was awarded first prize at the 14th International SA Model United Nations Conference which was held in Cape Town from the Thursday 20th to Monday 24th October.

The Conference, which attracted entries from the UK, Kenya and Nigeria as well as a team from each of South Africa's Provinces, proved to be a resounding success as high school students debated climate change and human rights issues. The Conference is held annually by Education Africa in conjunction with MUNSA and the United Nations Information Centre in Pretoria (UNIC), and is sponsored by MTN Foundation.

The format of the Conference is that of a UN General Assembly debate as each team is allocated a country that they have to represent in the debate, meaning that participants have to familiarise themselves with the cultural practices as well as with the so-

cial, economic and political policies of that particular country.

One of the topics debated was "The Road to COP17: The right to development, management of the environment and climate change" – a topical subject in

light of the upcoming UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (COP17) which is set to take place in Durban this November. The issue of climate change as a threat to international peace and security was tabled at the United Nations Security ►



The winning Gauteng team comprising learners from the Oprah Winfrey Leadership Academy and Meyerton High School. They are pictured with their teachers and tutor as well as Russell Zama, deputy chairman of Education Africa (left) and Eric Matsomane of MTN Foundation (right).

Marimbas cont.

► programme, which they will be able to share with neighbouring schools in a drive to promote learners to come and play the Marimbas.

The initiative is aimed at learners from the age of 10 upwards as well as teachers. Benefits of the initiative include:

- Cultural development and preservation of traditional music.
- Job creation for two facilitators.
- Raised self-esteem among learners.

- Keeping learners off the streets will help address the currently high statistics regarding teenage pregnancy, crime, substance abuse, spread of HIV/Aids and STDs.

- Identifying and developing undiscovered talent.

- Showcasing the musical talent of South Africa's youth. The very real possibility exists that one or more of the bands created through this initiative will be invited to participate in and Education Africa International Arts & Culture Tour.

The first Education Africa Inter-

national Marimba Festival will take place in July 2012, and it will feature Marimba competitions, workshops and Interactive experiences for all delegates . ●



ECD Caregivers continue to shine

Our ECD project has had a busy couple of months with the finalisation of the ECD Centre in Cosmo City as well as all the other activities undertaken on a regular basis.

Four training workshops were held in Zandspruit as well as four workshops in Cosmo City. The following modules were covered in these workshops: Thinking and Problem Solving Skills; Nutrition; Administrations; and Creative assessment. Robyn Wienand, Education Africa's ECD Specialist, is encouraged by the positive approach to these training sessions by the caregivers who continue to work enthusiastically. "It's incredibly rewarding to see how well these ladies have progressed," she says.

Many of the caregivers undergoing training as part of the Education Africa ECD project will be writing their assessments early November, and a graduation ceremony is planned for Friday, 18 November 2011. ●

Phase 1 of Project Limpopo is complete

The first Phase of "Project Limpopo", our social architecture project in partnership with Nottingham University and Thusanang Training Centre, is complete. The project involves the construction of an ECD centre at Calais Village in the Province of Limpopo. James Urdang, Executive Director of Education Africa says, "Out of the 14 social architecture design/build projects that we have been involved in over the years, Project Limpopo, being situated in a rural area with no easy access, has undoubtedly been the most challenging. Education Africa salutes Nottingham University for taking up the challenge and completing Phase 1 of the Centre. We look forward to continued cooperation between the university, Thusanang and ourselves to ensure the completion of this facility."●

Centriq staff surprise Tembelihle

Centriq Insurance, who has adopted Tembelihle Preschool in Weillers Farm, recently sent some of their staff out to the school to surprise the children and visit the teachers. A fun morning of creative interaction was had by all, and ended with a chocolate fountain treat which was thoroughly enjoyed and appreciated by our very excited young learners.●

SAMUN cont.

► Council in July 2011 and the United Nations Secretary-General, Ban Ki-moon urged all parties attending COP17 to take decisive action.

Linda Gould, Operations Director at Education Africa said this particular topic was hotly debated at the SAMUN International Conference, and the judging panel was particularly impressed with the Gauteng team's accurate policy presentation of North Korea, the country they were representing in the debate.

Delegates at the Conference recognised that climate change can impose a threat on international peace and security, as well as a threat to natural resources. Delegates were

in agreement that member states need to commit to a reduction in greenhouse emissions in a way that is fair, feasible and equitable to both developed and developing nations, calling for the implementation of common but differentiated responsibilities in accordance with each country's capacity.

The Gauteng team consisted of the following learners: Sade Pieter-son and Noxolo Ntaka (Oprah Winfrey Leadership Academy) and Esther Kgongwane and Balekaofela Mphuthi (Meyerton High School). All four will be representing South Africa at an International Model United Nations Conference at Cornell University in the USA in March next year.

They will be joined by eight other learners (one from each remaining Province): Esethu Cenga (from

Kingridge Senior Secondary School, Eastern Cape), Neo Tsikoe (from St Michaels School for Girls, Free State), Nozipho Gwaza (from Durban Girls High School, KwaZulu Natal), Eddie Mogale (from St Bedes' School, Limpopo), Mandy Mpatlanyane (from Lowveld High School, Mpumalanga), Thulani Sigonya (from Paballelo Secondary School, Northern Cape), Kenneth Diale (from Ferdinand Postma High School, North West) and Raphela Bohmer (from La Rochelle GHS, Western Cape).

The final results of the SAMUN Cape Town International Conference are as follows:

- 1st Gauteng
- 2nd City of London School (UK)
- 3rd Aga Khan Academy (Kenya).●

Education Africa:

"Making real change happen - Poverty Alleviation through Education"

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