

Sanibona

The newsletter of Education South Africa and The Sihle Duma Virtual School

Welcome

3rd quarter 2019

Welcome back to Sanibona—meaning “Hello” in Zulu.

Over the past few years the financial situation associated with many of our donors has curtailed - but not decimated - our activities. We have had to change and adapt our working methods in response to this financial situation, and more importantly to the changing needs of our colleagues and the learners of the Republic of South Africa.

We believe – no, we are certain - that our direction is now exactly right and meets the needs as told to use by our South Africa colleagues. We will be acting in coordination with their education delivery and administration; in supporting learning; in supporting educators in areas of monitoring and assessment methodologies; in developing methodologies in specific areas, namely, the setting up of a virtual school to support learning in rural and informal settlement schools, a project to assist and encourage girls into science; a programme of design, innovation and entrepreneurship; aid and support to learners with barriers to learning - to include the teaching of Makaton, a system of sign language for non-verbal learners; “Tools for “schools” - a donation programme to supply a school with an extensive kit of tools which the receiving school then uses for learning and for use within the community.

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Sihle Duma



Pronounced - sea / ll as in Welsh (that is tongue behind top teeth and blow with a slight spittle noise) / soft “a”. And then Do / ma

Friend, mentor, a man generous of spirit with a love of life that went through all he did and achieved. We are very fortunate to have known him before he untimely passed on.

Along with Thulani Thwala in Secondary education - still working with us - Sihle, who looked after Primary and Special Needs, was at the centre of EduSA’s work in the Republic of South Africa, KwaZulu Natal Province. We could not achieved what we did without Sihle.

That is why we are so pleased to call our new venture The Sihle Duma Virtual School

Special points of interest:

- Our rebirth.
- The new Sihle Duma Virtual School.
- Going for charitable status
- Who is involved
- How you can help

Education South Africa (EduSA)

EduSA has been in existence for twenty years, Started by Gareth Bowen its purpose was to raise funds from private and public purses to take volunteer UK teachers to work with RSA colleagues during UK school vacations, We achieved one hundred and twenty teacher weeks; six hundred working days; working with groups of an average of thirty RSA colleagues per day. With average class sizes in secondary at 45 to 50 and in primary up to 100, that is a lot of learners who, hopefully benefitted from our involvement in the RSA.

We have in addition been involved in capital projects such as building secure living quarters for educators who have to travel to school on a weekly basis and refurbished computers donated by UK businesses when up-grading.

Providing on-line computer training has been a successful feature of our work.



Our Patron:

The Rt. Hon Hilary Benn M.P.

How can you be involved?

Of course this depends on who you are and what you have to offer.

If you are a UK teacher then sending us by electronic means anything that we can up load to help in the Sihle Duma Virtual School would be a great help. (please be aware of copyright legislation). More information will be available soon on the

SDVS website. If you are a member senior management team then again anything that can help the administration of an RSA school or support their administration, pastoral,

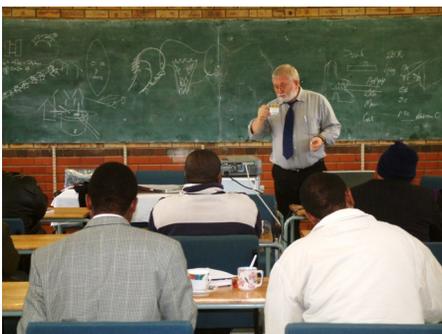
Become a provider of on-line learning materials

monitoring and assessment systems would be highly valued.

You could agree to be videoed whilst teaching ; the result would be up-loaded to the SDVS website. This is especially appropriate if you teach Makaton.

Of course we always need money! Please see our website.

Just a few images



Nothing wrong with a cuppa whilst your teaching!



Dance troupe we supported with the purchase of costume fabrics



Home for many rural learners

The Sihle Duma Virtual School



This project has already begun as we prepare the ground for what we anticipate will be a very extensive resource for learners in the rural areas of Kwa Zulu Natal in the early stages, Then expanding into other Republic of South Africa provinces if the demand is forthcoming. With all the preparation and collation of content to be ready and at a stage for use we anticipate going live at the start of the third quarter of 2019 - a frantic six months ahead. The primary purpose of the school is to support educators and learners in those geographical areas where there are disadvantages to learning. The facility will not be available to all schools as we try to help redress the current imbalance in provision, which despite massive government intervention still exists.

We will not be providing a new syllabus but simply supporting the RSA's current syllabus. It is very similar to that of the UK and as such sharing our work, our methodologies, our assessment and monitoring will be relatively easy.

How will we achieve this? Over the past twenty years we have very many UK supporters - teachers and lecturers, senior staff in schools, colleges and institutes of higher education, industry and commerce colleagues along technicians who currently support our work and will provide online resources for use in the RSA schools. It will be teacher to teacher, teacher to group, group to group interaction through sharing learning materials; we intend video recording lessons and particular subject topic items for our RSA colleagues to take off line as and when required. Each educator in the RSA and teacher in the UK will have the opportunity for free to use communication through social media, Skype, LinkedIn and other methods whilst keeping EduSA/The Sihle Duma Virtual School in the loop to strength the provision.

We have a very strong business plan and the programme is fully costed for three year and will be part of an annual review and prediction of need based on response and suggestions from both our RSA and UK colleagues.

Access to technology – mainly computers and broadband is not so good, but improving, in rural areas. Within our planning we have a sum allocated to purchase class provision of computer tablets and expand broadband. To this end we have already begun discussing opportunities with providers in RSA for both items. Our aim is seven hundred and fifty tablets per year in the first three years - sufficient for twenty five schools per year at current rates.



The SDVS additions

Additions is perhaps the wrong word as we will be as committed to the following as much as to the main product.

- 1) "Girls into Science". Our programme will be designed to encourage girls to take up the sciences in larger numbers through greater involvement of our science based UK teacher volunteers. We will actively work with RSA employers, with colleges and institutes of higher education to widen the opportunities and make sciences - as well as STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Mathematics) learning - more attractive and better seen as a career choice.
- 2) "Design, Innovation and Entrepreneurship". Again working with specialists in design and business studies we will provide projects to engender these abilities. Our industrial and commercial contacts will be very much involved in this provision

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EduSA (Education South Africa) has worked with many private and public bodies in the UK and the Republic of South Africa for twenty years. We are always happy to help any organisation who want to be involved in education development in the rural areas of the RSA.

To that end we are delighted and honoured to be working with the Army Cadet Force on their project to take cadets to KwaZulu Natal in August 2020.

The SDVS additions

(continued from page 3)

3) “Barriers to Learning”. Many youngsters with barriers to learning are in main stream schools specialist classes with few trained educators and in very large class sizes, sometimes around one hundred strong. Some are indeed in a few specialist schools Our volunteers working with such pupils in the UK are experts are providing relevant and appropriate learning materials and methodologies.

In addition we have agreed with the charity responsible for Makaton – a sign language for non-verbal learners. Our volunteers, very many who are trained in Makaton, will provide learning resources, including videos.

4) “Tools for Schools”. This is a project we have been running for a number of years. Donations from UK sources of around £200 buys a comprehensive kit of hand tools when purchased in the RSA. For a school to receive such a tool kit they have to show how learners will benefit—ikt can tie into the Design, Innovation and Entrepreneur project above. They will also have to show how such a tool kit will benefit the local community. Items such as play reas, benches, water managementto name just a few.

The SDVS additions plus

The above is just the start and we are already looking at aspects of Community Care, Community art, IT training and parent learning. These will come on line as the project establishes itself over the next few years
