

SHINE

*Who is
Voices
for
Africa?*

**HOW
IT ALL
STARTED
BRIEFLY !!!**

ZIHLE'S
Stunning Graduation

All Comes as
Nightmare
"KWANELE"

**Students
Involved
in Charity Work**

AGE IS NOT A LIMITE
**Mcolisi
Nhleko !!!**



Thank you Voices for Africa!!!

Voices for Africa Manager and Representative on Swaziland Sitjeni



Zodwa Dlamini: *Practising a guitar*

Creative Design and Layout



Mcebisi Dlamini: *Smiling to the camera*

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WHO IS VOICES FOR AFRICA?

This is a German based NGO which helps Orphans and Vulnerable Children's in the community.

HOW IT BEGAN

Inkhosikati LaMtsetfwa of Esitjeni had an idea of building an NCP (Neighborhood Care Point). This dream came true by the help of NECHA in conjunction with Walter Lusternberger and his family, from Switzerland. He bought steel tables, deep freezer, table soccer, TV and table tennis.

These were the first to fork out material for the building of the structure. So after the construction of the NCP, Voices for Africa stepped in by providing food on a monthly basis, since they were OVC's who they sponsored with the school fees, thus they then decided to provide food which would be provided even during the holidays.

For this activity Voices for Africa forked out more money on monthly basis. The Challenge faced was that this NGO (Ekuphileni KwaseSitjeni) was not registered with the Ministry of Justice and Constitutional Affairs, and the Ministry of Enterprise and Employment according to the laws of the country, it was not permitted to receive any foreign currency.

Voices for Africa helped with money to hire the Zonke Magagula & Co law firm to help with the registration of Ekuphileni KwaseSitjeni as an NGO, where it was represented by Nsika



Above is Inkhosikati LaMtsetfwa of Esitjeni

Fakudze. This whole registration period started from the November 2006 and finished in August 2007. "Then the question from voices for Africa said:for how long will we feed the children? Why can't we teach them skills" which will help them as they grow older and have outgrown the stage where they are orphans?" They asked the committee that they be taught marketable skills that the OVC's will learn and be in a position to make money and feed themselves in future The committee at that time was led by Mr. Jafta Matsebula. It came out with skills that would be suitable for a Swazi child, which amongst them was sew-

ing, welding and leathercraft. So the plan for the skill center building was solicited from public works department. Then construction started on the 29 October 2007 and was finished in March 2008. Then Voices for Africa paid for the building material and then the community of Esitjeni then helped with the construction of the building. So then the first class that started to be taught at the skill center were the sawers on the 2 May 2008. There was an employed instructor by Voices for Africa and paid on monthly basis, so the first one was Miss Lungile Dlamini who had qualified for the position at the Codec. Then a year later while at the skill

center she had to go to maternity leave. Miss Nomcebo Dlamini who is currently the instructor took over.

The first years as they did not pay money and the skill centre had to be self sustainable. On 24 September the Ministry of Education and Training signed a Memorandum of Understanding, and now the skill center is run by the government.

The main aim of Voices for Africa is to provide education for the orphans and vulnerable children, so now the community of Sitjeni is blessed because most OVCs children are being paid their educational fee by Voices for Africa.

Having Education is most important for any society, as it is the key of opening any door in life. There are primary Schools students who are being catered for. The primary school orphans are provided with uniforms since the government has introduced free primary education (FPE) in all public primary schools.

Their fees are paid by the government. There are some children who are supported by Voices for Africa in Esitjeni Primary School, St Mary's Primary School, Lobamba National Primary School, Mahlanya primary school just to name a few. Voices for Africa also sponsors High School Students.



Above this are the children who are from the Esitjeni Primary taking a nice picture after receiving some Jerseys from Voice For Africa standing in front of the Skill Center Building.



This is how the second kitchen looked like before, here the children were queuing for their lunch.

There are children who are sponsored in Lobamba National High School, Lobamba Lomdza-la High School, St Mary's High School, St Bosco High School, Somnjalose High School, St Christopher's High School, St Paul's High School, St Michael's High

School, Zombodze High School, Peak Central High School, Elan- geni High School and many more. There are 158 children who attend high school whose fees and uniforms are paid by Voices for Africa. There are also students who are attending tertiary In-

stitutions who did not get scholarships from the government and admitted on self sponsorship basis. There have been students studying at Gwamile VOCTIM, Swaziland College of Technology, Amadi University, Buhle Catering, CIT College and Vaal University.

Voices for Africa sends money for the children to buy food which is cooked for the orphans and pays the cooks on a monthly basis. The Orphans' committee was advised to grow the food for the orphans in order to reduce the food costs as the prices go on soaring everyday. The orphans are involved in the weeding of their maize crops as this activity is done during the December/January school holidays.

Voices for Africa buys the farm inputs such as fertilisers, maize seeds and pesticides. A second kitchen has been constructed in the community as there are small children who are not able to reach the present one and also to help prevent road accidents for the small children as one of the children was knocked by a car while going to get his food at the kitchen.

A skills training centre was built in the community with the aim of improving the life of an orphan child. The skills targeted were sewing, welding, and leathercraft. The skill which kicked off was sewing, and the other Since the target group was the orphans, no money was paid but the centre worked on self sustainability.

View the the below pic.....



Young boys enjoying the lens of a camera in the field.



Children weeding in their maize fields



Children relaxing and having thin porridge after weeding their maize field.



Inkhoskati, Marrissa, Franzi and Thando dishing food for the children on christmas

STUDENTS INVOLVED IN COMMUNITY CHARITY WORK

On December 2013, a windstorm blew away and demolished in Sitjeni Community at Petsile's Nyoni's family. The family was literally sleeping outside as there was no house left as even the walls collapsed as they were made of mud.

The government of Swaziland through the Disaster Management provided temporary shelter, which were tents. As it was the rainy season, the tents would be wet inside.

The family was fortunate as Voices for Africa stepped as all the children in that home were supported by Voices for Africa in their school needs, donated a sum of E10 000 towards the construction of a permanent and strong house. This money helped this family to buy building materials for building the new house.

Mr Masilela, Lobamba Member of Parliament provided the roof, corrugated iron sheets, now the family has a cement blocks house. During the building of this house the tertiary students played a vital role in helping with man power which amongst them the was Kwanele Gama (who is currently doing his last year at SCOT), Zinhle Dlamini (who have recently graduated at Vaal University), Mcolisi Nhleko (who is currently doing his last year at Amadi University), Musa Nkomo (Gwamile VOCTIM) Gcebile Mtsetfwa (who has completed PGCE and is now teaching).

Mr Jabulani Dlamini provided the expertise as he is a builder by profession. He did this work free of charge as he understood that it was an SOS work.



Zodwa Dlamini working with the Tertiary students at Phetsile Nyoni's homestead.



Zinhle Dlamini a student of Vaal University bringing stones with a wheel barrow for foundation (Above)



Kwanele Gama a student of Swaziland College of Technology putting stones on the Foundation (Above)



Gcebile Mtsetfwa who has completed PGCE and is now teaching (Above)



Mcolisi Nhleko a student of Amadi University flattening the concrete on the Foundation (Above)

IT ALL COMES AS A NIGHTMARE – KWANELE GAMA

Kwanele Gama is a young man who was born and raised at Sitjeni which is a place found at the Lobamba Constituency in the Hhohho region in Swaziland. “From Zero to Hero” these are words of the young man Kwanele Gama who was expressing his feelings about the way he grew up as a child and the help he got at the most difficult time of his life. When he was in Grade 3 at Esitjeni Primary School, he was lucky to be given an opportunity of joining the Voices for Africa Sponsorship.

At this time and age it was very unfortunate for him because he had lost his father, and his mother was not employed. So then in the same school as he was able to study up to Grade 7 and wrote his SPCE examination and passed with a second class. Passing Grade 7 was a nightmare as he did not think that he would be able to go to high school as he thought of the high school fees paid and the requirements for high school and he thought it was the end of the road for him.

After passing his SPCE examination he had to go to high school. It is a requirement to go to search or apply for a place in a Secondary or High school. He was lucky to be accepted at the St Mary’s High School which is a good high school in terms of accessibility as well as it provides good quality education.

So here when he reached the secondary he was able to adapt to the ways the other students were living but luckily he was able to choose the best friends and this helped him to be able to even pass up the Junior Certificate which he scooped a Second class as well. Then he went to high school at the same school and then reached time to write the SGCSG Certificate which he was able to pass.



Kwanele Gama on a formal wardrobe enjoying the days of his final teaching practise.

here he didn’t though qualify to be sponsored by the government because the cut off point at SCOT was higher than his results. Although Kwanele was now in dilemma, because he thought that it was over now as it was like he won’t be

able to continue with his dream of having Tertiary Education as he applied to the Swaziland College of Technology (SCOT) but he was not accepted due the high competition of Government intakes.

So then after he remembered that the is Voices For Africa and he then decided again to go to Zodwa who is the Voices for Africa's Representative at the Sitjeni Community Center. Then on his arrival to her, he was so much relieved as on his arrival at the office he shared his problem to Zodwa. She asked Khanyisile Vilakati to accompany him to SCOT to mention if he can be taken in at least on a self sponsorship basis as she would communicate with Voices for Africa to sponsor him through his tertiary education.

He was admitted at SCOT on a self sponsorship basis, meaning that he pays for his tuition fees, boarding, meals and other fees. He would not receive any allowance when the government gave allowance to those she pays for.

Challenges that Kwanele Faced after High School

1. He was not accepted at Swaziland College of Technology due to high competition of intakes as well as the points he received. Although there was a solution as every problem has a solution, now Kwanele Gama was qualifying to be a student but on one circumstance which was to be self-Sponsorship when Voices for Africa stepped in once again to sponsor him.

2. Also another problem raised when at Swaziland College of Technology they wanted a sworn affidavit as an agreement that was to be signed by Zodwa, that the the payment of fees will be delivered on the right time at the College otherwise they would meet in court. So then Khanyisile went to collect the affidavit to be signed at SCOT, then on the week that the affidavit was to be delivered at

SCOT by Zodwa, she lost her grandchild on the 14th August 2014 and to be buried on the 15th August 2014 at night as per the Swazi Culture so now Zodwa was to go straight from the gravesite to the Police Station for the Oath of the Affidavit. Then from the straight to SCOT for the acceptance letter as well as being advised to the engagement she has engaged herself into as to trust that Voices for Africa will pay for Kwanele as they mention that they don't believe that why they wanted a local person as Voices for Africa is based outside the country.

Challenges Kwanele faced at College

1. On his first day at SCOT he was so much amazed to note that four of them were to share a dormitory. So unfortunately in the same dorm some of the dormitory mates were drug addicts.

So they will sometimes come to the room at night drunk while finding that on the same night I have to go study for a test that I have to write on the following day.

2. So also the were challenges that when other students who are sponsored by the governments have received their Allowances and bought very nice clothing's as well as jewelries and gadgets, I was happy though that at the same time there was something that Voices for Africa would give me for buying the toiletries as well as some clothing, that it was a lot to me.



Kwanele Gama having a great pose on his black t-shirt and white trouser on above pic.

3. Kwanele Gama on his second year was to do his first Teaching practice. Now another problem come out that he needed to be formal and presentable to differ from the students he was going to teach, but he didn't have decent or formal clothes.

Then again Voices for Africa was approached to provide him with clothing allowance and fortunately he was sponsored with a clothing allowance and he was so much grateful for that.

And even in his final teaching practice Kwanele's shoes were time worn out so then once again Voices for Africa stepped in again with an allowance for the shoes as well as some clothing's.

THE INNER COUNCIL SHOWING LAND FOR BUILDING THE SECOND



Konrad Siegel being asked by the inner council what he is going to do with the place given to Voices for Africa.

ING VOICES FOR AFRICA THE OND KITCHEN



AGE IS NOT A LIMIT - MCOLISI N

As Mcolisi Nhleko would firstly love to thank everyone who have helped him in Voices for Africa in the funding or in paying his school and tuition fees, would also I would like to thank his godmother the whole team of voices for Africa his Inkhosikati Gogo laMtsetfwa and Madam Magagula Zodwa for the warm hands they have opened for him.

Mcolisi Nhleko telling his story he said “Ladies and Gentlemen I am not here I am today of because I am super or eloquent but because of what God, Voices for Africa as well as my godmother have done for me. I remember that I dropped out of school just before the Grade 7 exams. I dropped out of school because I had not paid my school fees. That time I had my father and mother but they did not have money for my fees. I stayed at home for 10 years. I was exposed to all nasty things done by children, ranging from smoking, drinking and whatever you can think of. After the 10 years of staying at home, I decided to go back to school.

This time I had no father and mother, but I wanted to go back to school. When I decided to go back to school, I was 23 years old by then. Worst of it all, I had to go back to primary school. It was the most nightmare of my life because I was the oldest pupil in the whole school. The second oldest child in the school was 17 years old, but because of the ambition I had of achieving my high school certificate, I managed to put the devil in shame and go back to school even though I had financial challenges.

I had forgotten almost everything that was done in school, I only remembered the songs that were sung. I had forgotten even 2 x 2. When the teacher said, “2 x 2”, I would turn to those who sat next to me in class who were too younger than me. I would ask the answer from them. Though they first laughed at me then told me the answer. I worked very hard in Grade 7 and obtained a first class, Voices for Africa came to my rescue and gave me the opportunity to learn and did not fear when the head teacher came



Mcolisi Nhleko on the left hand side with



IHLEKO...AND HIS LITTLE LOVELY ONE

that she would expel me from school for the shortage of fees. Voices for Africa came to my rescue and helped fulfill my dreams by paying all my academic fees. Seeing this opportunity, I grabbed it with both hands. It is very vital ladies and gentleman that when you are given such a golden opportunity you must make sure that you use it profitably, thus goes the saying: Time wasted is never regained. What I have learned in the process is that age is not a limit actually, there is absolutely nothing that can stop or rather hinder you from achieving what you desire when you are ambitious. It takes one to be ambitious in order to start something and work in order to finish the race.

Ladies and gentleman I am one of the applicants who managed to apply for the tertiary education. I would like to thank my godmother Barbra, "Mom you are such a caring mother and I am blessed to have you as a mother may God bless you abundantly so that you can be able to help even more underprivileged children." In a nutshell I would like to pass my gratitude to all who have assisted me morally, financially and spiritually, especially Madam Magagula, Zodwa."

Mcolisi had his little secret where he did not tell anyone that he had fathered a beautiful son, as he was so scared that he would lose his sponsorship. The time his secret was out he wished the ground would open and bury him. Nobody condemned him apart from Zodwa who asked why he did not tell her as he regarded her as his mother. She asked: 'Why didn't you tell me Mcolisi?' he answered: 'I was afraid of losing the sponsorship.' But she assured him that he would have spoken in time, as nobody was going to hurt him. See Mcolisi's little secret.





ZINHLE DLAMINI

Graduate of the Vaal University in SA. She was studying at the Vaal University and apparently she graduated this year recently. *Read more about this super girl in our next edition.*



On a very nice swing and good pose in a Jovial Mood after Graduation Zinhle Dlamini took a Million Dollar pose in front of her School in South Africa with her hands on the air as a sign of great happiness and free



Above is Voices for Africa's Leadership from the left to right is Irmela Ebers, Barbara Birzzle-Harder, Annette Lennartz, Vera Baley, Gudrun Rappold and Konrad Siegel.

THANKS TO VOICES FOR AFRICA AND OTHER SPONSORS

The Sitjeni community is so much thankful to Voices for Africa in such a way that we don't even have enough to thank this provision we are repeatedly offered to our OVC's students. We thank the Imbongi Choir for raising funds through their African songs and the other

donors whom we might not be able to list one by one due to their large numbers and we do not know them by name. We are so much inspired by the words of the late President of South Africa, Nelson Mandela's words of advice which say: "Education is the most powerful weapon that we can use to

change the whole world." As this being mentioned, this is done to our lives as the OVC's we are not taking it lightly because we know and we believe that we will one day change the country, but not only the country but the whole world through education.



The Imbongi Choir Singing for the orphans of Esitjeni.

HANDING OVER THE KEYS OF THE HOUSE to Petsile's Honourable Micheal Masilela, (insert) Zodwa Dlamini



From right to left the Chairperson of the orphans committee Sicelo Dlamini, Princess Ntfombiyenkhosi Dlamini, MP Michael Masilela and Phetsile's Family.



Zodwa Dlamini wearing a Red Dress in front of a car at Petsile Nyoni's Homestead on the handing over of the Keys ceremony at Phetsile Nyoni's homestead.

Nyoni's Family by Lobamba Member of Parliament,



The nice house that was build for Phetsile's family above and the smile that was brought to this family is a smile that cannot be measured and they were so much happy and gratefull.



Still infront of the house on the right handside MP Masilela having a light moment with some members of the community after handing over of the keys and awaiting to leave the homestead. Standind next to him is the lovely Princess Ntfombiyenkhozi smiling.

WHAT IS THE GIRLS CLUB more about this club's responsibilities

This is a Girls club which is sponsored by Voices for Africa. It was started last year, whereby Girls club start with a need of seeing that girls are vulnerable due to the high dropout rate at secondary and high school level.

Then there was a need to empower the girls. The idea came from the sponsor side as to what can be done to empower the girls as they dropout at school. Girls club have a chairperson who is Zihle Dlamini.

The girls club members are all the girls being sponsored by Voices for Africa as the organisations aiming in making them good members of the society tomorrow. So far the Girls Club have two meetings and in the first meeting which was held sometime last year.

In this meeting few number of girls since they didn't know much about the club, so about 10 or less attended the meeting. A President

of the girls club who is Zihle was also available in the meeting as she was to see the proceedings of this meeting. Basically there girls at this meeting were looking at how they can help each other as girls.

Then also another meeting was raised this year where by this time around the number of girls were a larger cope, So here we were looking at the ways of raising funds, so as to how we as girls can have means of making money as to strategies that girls can come into.

This meeting was a smile provider to the number of girls attended since it increased drastically as compared to their first meeting. We have many plans of showing the talents of girls and we will use that as an advantage, it will be helpful to us as girls.

CAREERS THAT HAVE BEEN ACHIEVED & THOSE STILL UNDER-MAKING THROUGH VOICES FOR AFRICA.



one of the completed teachers Mr Kwanele Gama, on pic.

From the tertiary students we have produced this careers there are 7 caterers two secretary, one teacher, then profession in the making which amongst them are three teachers who will be done in 2017, health inspector, one IT Specialist, one X-Ray specialist and one social science specialists.

Voices for Africa



*We thank you for being a true
Friend!!!*