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EDUCATION IN SOUTH AFRICA



SUMMER 2020 PREPARED BY THUTO TRUST



**THUTO TRUST**  
Advancing Education in Africa

# LETTER FROM THE THUTO TRUST CHAIRMAN - LERATO OKEYO



The COVID-19 pandemic the past year turned our lives upside down and changed not just the way we live and work but, also how we think and behave. Every part of the world has been affected, and every aspect of life has been impacted. Our everyday routines were brought to a stop, and any sense of normalcy was lost.

The COVID-19 pandemic was also a time to be resilient, compassionate, caring, and supportive towards each other where possible.

### **Our student successes**

Thuto Trust is extremely proud of its students' endurance under extremely difficult circumstances. Not only did they have to pursue their studies from home where conditions are often less than ideal, they also frequently had to deal with connectivity and data access issues that made online learning a real challenge.

Thuto has offered a helping hand, offering financial and moral support during the lockdown to help them remain positive and persevere to successfully complete the 2020 academic year.

We are happy to announce that several of our final year students have already been appointed in teaching positions commencing 1 January 2021. We could not be prouder!

Recent appointments include that of Itumeleng Kumalo at Rivonia Primary School, Rebaone Gabanakgosi as a math teacher at Grey High School, Schae Jenay Niekerk and Lerato Zikitane both in mathematics and physical sciences at Roedean Senior School.

These placements are testimony to a successful teacher development programme that includes our strict qualification criteria in the selection of these exceptional students, the full-time internship we offer at our partner schools, a mentorship as well as psycho-social programme and full-time bursaries to partner universities. This set us apart from other teacher programmes and bursaries.

### **Thank you to our partners**

These achievements would not be possible without the valuable contributions of our financial and investment partners, partner schools and universities, as well as an excellent administrative team.

On behalf of the Thuto Trust board I would like to thank each individual and business for their great contributions to improve education conditions and standards.

**"I NEVER TEACH MY PUPILS. I ONLY ATTEMPT TO PROVIDE THE CONDITIONS IN WHICH THEY CAN LEARN." - ALBERT EINSTEIN**



### **We look forward to an exciting 2021!**

Thuto Trust has partnered with four more schools in addition to our existing family of partner schools. We are also in negotiations with one more private, and seven public schools, offering full-time internship programmes to prepare our programme students for their teaching careers upon completion of their studies.

We currently have 52 students enrolled in our 2021 Teacher Development Programme and trust that we will drastically increase the number of students as more funding is confirmed later this year or early in 2021.

On behalf of Thuto Trust I wish you all a prosperous and blessed festive season. Travel safe!

Yours sincerely,

Lerato Okeyo

Chairman: Thuto Trust

## SUCCESS STORY

### **Itumeleng Kumalo - proud recipient of a B.Ed Degree**

We would like to congratulate Itumeleng Kumalo, a 2020 Thuto Trust Teacher Development Programme intern and bursary recipient on achieving her Bachelor of Education Degree (Early Childhood Development) Foundation Phase from the University of South Africa (UNISA).

Itumeleng acquired an astounding 38 distinctions out of the 40 modules she registered for throughout her studies. What an achievement! She also received a belated (due to lock-down) award as a 'Top Performer' in her faculty for the 2019 academic year and attended the ceremony on Friday 4 December 2020.

This star student secured a full-time teaching position at Rivonia Primary School commencing in 2021.

During the period 2018-2020, Itumeleng received a three-year scholarship from Thuto Trust to study at UNISA, co-sponsored by Thuto partners (funders) Adcorp (2019) and Cambridge University Press (CUPSA) (2020). She completed her full-time internship at one of Thuto's partner schools, St Peter College.

This worthwhile financial Investment by Thuto Trust over the three-year period added up to R 353 129,69. The investment included the payment of her tuition, meals and living allowances, books, psycho-social support programmes, mentorships and COVID-19 relief funds.

*"I am truly grateful for all Thuto Trust and sponsors' continuous support and generosity towards my well-being and learning. May you all be blessed and stay safe,"* says Itumeleng. We wish Itumeleng well with her future endeavours and will follow her career path closely.



# 2020 Highlights

## 2019/2020 PGCE students excel!

Five Thuto Trust final-year students of the 2019/2020 PGCE programme at the University of Johannesburg recently completed their postgraduate qualification. These five graduates are the first Thuto Trust candidates to complete the two-year internship and university programme.

All five of our star students, Lerato Zikitane, Martha Mothapo, Sabela Ramafoko, Schae Niekerk and Rebaone Gabanakgosi completed their PGCE with distinction.

We are also extremely proud that three of them have already been appointed in full-time teaching positions starting next year: Schae van Niekerk and Lerato Zikitane at Roedean School and Rebaone Gabanakgosi at Grey High, all of them as math and science teachers.

Martha Mothapo and Sabela Ramafoko have been to interviews and are currently still awaiting responses from potential employers.

Our two University of Witwatersrand (Wits) PGCE final-year students, Didintle Sehogela and Luyanda Nzama only recently finished their exams and their results are due to be released just before Christmas. We look forward to congratulating them in our first 2021 newsletter!

## The bursary manager, Busi Makhanya, bids farewell to some of the Thuto Trust-CUPSA PGCE Bursars of 2020.



*From left to right: Sabela Ramafoko and Lerato Zikitane, Busi Makhanya Bursary Manager Thuto Trust, Schae Niekerk and Rebaone Gabanakgosi*

## Our B. Ed students

Precious Ncube and Gugu Nkosi are set to graduate from UNISA at the end of the year. Their results will be received during the course of December 2020.

For more information on how to financially contribute to Thuto Trust (a registered PBO and NPO) visit [www.thutotrust.org](http://www.thutotrust.org) or call +27 (0)11 285 0148

# We are celebrating new financial partnerships

## Thuto Trust, GDE and DBE in tripartite partnership to upskill education degree students

The Department of Basic Education (DBE) and Gauteng Department of Education (GDE) has its own higher education, teacher bursary programme called the Funza Lushaka Bursary Programme. The bursary programme currently funds more than 150 students' tuition, transport, books and accommodation.

Thuto Trust, GDE and the DBE recently joined forces to offer 35 of the Funza Lushaka Bursary programme students access to Thuto Trusts' more comprehensive teacher development programme.

In addition to tuition, the full-time internship programme run at Thuto Trust partner schools, also offers academic tutoring, mentorship, leadership workshops and general psycho-social support.

The all-embracing value-add not only empowers students, but also equips them with teaching and leadership skills as well as developing their emotional intelligence. This enables them to start their teaching careers with confidence, ready to make a difference in school children's education, especially in subjects such as math and sciences.

Thuto Trust will be co-funding 20 of the 35 DBE, GDE students in 2021, and an additional 15 in 2022, offering the above-mentioned value-add in addition to the accommodation, tuition, books and transport already funded by the DBE.



**basic education**

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**GAUTENG PROVINCE**

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A memorandum of agreement (MOA) was signed for a period of five years.

The interns will be placed at Thuto Trust partner schools selected by the GDE and the DBE.

The B. Ed students are studying at partner universities, University of South Africa (UNISA) and North West University (NWU), and the PGCE students at the Universities of Witwatersrand (Wits) and Johannesburg (UJ).

"We have been working on this MOA for more than 24 -months, and to finally reap the fruit of our long negotiations and many discussions with its signing, is momentous and significant for the growth of Thuto Trust."

"The co-funding tripartite MOA between DBE, GDE and Thuto Trust is a further step toward our goal to empower South Africa's public school system. The Thuto Trust teacher development programme is set apart from other teacher bursaries as a leading and growing brand, providing top interns and full-time employed teachers to public schools to change the face of education in South Africa", says Sello Kgosimore, Business Development Manager Thuto Trust.

The DBE and GDE are excited about the partnership with Thuto Trust enabling them to add value to the Funza Lushaka Programme, to deliver highly skilled and well-equipped teachers into the public schooling system, especially for scarce skills such as math and sciences.



## Expanding our list of partner schools

Thuto is currently in the process of partnering with several new schools to expand its list of schools participating in the Thuto Teacher Development internship programme.

A new memorandum agreements (MOA) in final negotiation stages is with the Kyalami group of schools, giving Thuto access to Kyalami Preparatory School, Beaulieu Preparatory School and Beaulieu College.

**The Kyalami Schools Group** is made up of three distinguished schools in northern Johannesburg.

**Kyalami Preparatory School** is an independent, co-educational school that teaches and nurtures children from Grade 000 to Grade 7. During these formative years, the school helps learners to achieve their potential by fostering a love of learning, a strong sense of self-worth, respect for others, and a call for social responsibility.

The school's character-building approach is enhanced by encouraging its learners to participate in a variety of cultural and sporting activities outside of the academic curriculum to develop natural talents, confidence and capacity for teamwork.

At **Beaulieu preparatory School**, children come first. The school values, inspires and nurtures its learners to achieve success via intellectual curiosity, physical development, imagination and personal growth.

In a world that is ever-changing, the skills needed for today's success will no longer be sufficient in the years to come. Beaulieu Prep bridges this divide by encouraging critical thinking and striving for excellence. Its dynamic approach develops learners who are highly equipped for the future and inspired to learn for the rest of their lives.

**Beaulieu College** is a co-educational high school that is highly attuned to the evolving needs of its community. The school provides a dynamic thinking space for learners, encouraging them to think for themselves, interrogate assumptions and solve problems.

The school's high quality, varied curriculum caters to the whole pupil and invites them to explore all their talents. Not only is the school environment stimulating and innovative, but it is caring as well. To be courageous and the best version of themselves, individuals need to feel safe and supported.

Beaulieu College tracks all individuals and provides them with the emotional support they need. The learners who enter the school gates in grade 8 leave as adults, with five years of holistic education and years of practice in critical thinking and self-examination.

"We are excited to soon welcome these fine schools into our fold. They were elected as our partner schools as they adopt the same value system of innovation and the social and emotional well-being of students, preparing them to become top-achieving citizens of our country. We look forward to a long and fruitful relationship", says Busi Makhanya, Bursary Manager, Thuto Trust.