

**MINISTER'S SPEECH TO BE MADE AT KHA RI GUDE/SAQA MODERATION
WORKSHOP TO VERIFY THE LEARNING ASSESSMENTS OF THE 2009 KHA RI
GUDE LEARNERS**

VENUE: ST GEORGES HOTEL

SATURDAY 27 MARCH 2010

Programme Director

Officials from SAQA

Kha Ri Gude coordinators

Ladies and gentlemen

Literacy as redress

It is my pleasure to open the Kha Ri Gude/SAQA moderation and training workshop. This workshop is a tangible symbol that we as the South African Government have responded to the call in our Freedom Charter for “adult illiteracy [to] be ended by a mass state education plan”.

One of the main goals of the Department of Basic Education is to improve the quality of schooling. However we recognize that redress in education through, for example, the Kha Ri Gude Mass Literacy Campaign has to form part of this greater mission. The legacy of illiteracy through the lack of education continues to affect the lives of those denied their right to a basic education some twenty, thirty and even forty years later.

Improving the quality of life of all citizens requires that we cannot forget nor leave the past behind. We need to be bold in tackling Kha Ri Gude's original target of 4,7 million illiterate adults.

As a government we have committed ourselves to the 4th EFA Goal, that of a reduction of the adult illiteracy rate by 50%. Through your efforts, as Kha Ri Gude, we are making headway towards this Goal in tandem with other important government strategies such as the Anti-Poverty Strategy and the Rural Development Strategy.

We as government, recognize that illiteracy is closely tied up with five key interrelated societal issues – class, race and gender, as well as HIV/AIDS and disability. I am pleased therefore that the Campaign is **inclusive of all marginalised** groups targeting specifically the homeless, rural, both the aged and out-of-school youth, the disabled, the incarcerated, women, street children, victims of trafficking and migrants – enabling inclusivity and redress across the spectrum of our society.

Commending the coordinators

It would not be possible to do this without you the coordinators in the campaign who work tirelessly and voluntarily to make this possible. You need to be applauded for this contribution to our nation. The Mass campaign relies on you to be active in your communities for the recruitment of volunteer teachers and learners, and in the selection of venues for classes. It is pleasing to note that through you, our youth have internalized the important values of “service”. More than 60% of the 40 000 volunteers are youth (ie below 35 years of age) and they willingly give of their time to serve those less fortunate in their communities. It is through the skillful supervision provided by you, the coordinators, that the youth are enabled to make their contribution to those who were denied education to achieve literacy. It is only through working together that we can do more for our people.

The Campaign is also an example of joined up government as it builds synergies with other government departments such as the EPWP, DSD, Correctional Services, the NPA, as well as other agencies for women, disability, faith based and community based organizations with whom coordinators are expected to work.

Job creation and poverty alleviation through the stipend system

While utilising the services of volunteers, the Campaign offers **social welfare and job creation** opportunities for volunteers to earn a stipend. Over the past two years more than R500 million has been paid out in the form of stipends to our volunteers. In 2010 it is anticipated that a further R300 million will be paid out as stipends as the Campaign hopes to chip away at the 4,7 million target of illiterates it has committed to eliminating. While tackling illiteracy, through its stipend system, the Campaign can be regarded as one of the instruments of the Anti-Poverty Strategy, and is central to the EPWP in its mission to create 500 000 short term jobs. This has been possible through you all working harder and smarter, and through the Campaign managing to reduce its per capita costs by half in order to double up on its initial enrolment targets.

The need for stringent controls

With the amounts of state money being paid out in the form of stipends, it has been important for Kha Ri Gude to apply a stringent monitoring system – to monitor vigilantly that more than R500 million worth of stipends are paid out to **bona fide volunteers for genuine service** to registered learners. This monitoring made easier by the modern day ICT and the fact that all participants in the Campaign (coordinators, supervisors, educators and learners) are all registered onto a single Kha Ri Gude database. Both SITA and the Department of Home Affairs have assisted Kha Ri Gude in verifying its database. By comparing learners' and volunteers' IDs with the Home Affairs registry system, Kha Ri Gude has been able to detect and eliminate irregularities on its database. This weekend's verification of Kha Ri Gude's assessments by SAQA is a further instrument used by the Campaign for indicating whether the state money invested in the Campaign has been well utilized.

The importance of multilingualism

The Campaign recognises the importance of **mother tongue literacy** and offers classes in all 11 official languages, as well as in Braille and Sign language. I am

pleased to report that the Campaign has recently won the PanSALB award for its contribution to national multilingualism.

I want to congratulate Kha Ri Gude on this achievement, and more especially I want to congratulate Dr Maguvhe and his team of blind coordinators for making it possible for the blind, regardless of language, to become literate in their mother tongue in Braille. I am delighted to hear that there has been a 90% completion rate among blind learners and that this matches the completion rate of the sighted learners. I wish you luck in the moderation of these Braille assessments this weekend.

SAQA and Kha Ri Gude work together to ensure quality

I am pleased to note that overall, Kha Ri Gude has achieved a 90% retention/survival rate with 540 000 of the 613 000 initial candidates completing the programme and submitting their assessments. Over this weekend you will be moderating and verifying their assessments in what is **one of the largest assessment exercises** to be carried out at one central point in the country.

I am pleased that SAQA has undertaken to verify that our learners are getting the level of quality they deserve. The majority of Kha Ri Gude learners missed out totally on formal education when they were young. Others who may have attended school during apartheid will have had education of such low quality and relevance that it led nowhere. Through Kha Ri Gude, nearly a million adult learners have invested their time and energies in learning to read and write and to use numbers with insight. Kha Ri Gude and SAQA need to be applauded for their boldness in ensuring that the learners' learning outcomes are **externally moderated**. This is to determine whether learners are getting a genuinely worthwhile service, and more specifically, to register the learners' achievements on SAQA's National Learner Record Database so that they get recognition for something worthwhile. In this way, SAQA validates the learning of those excluded. I am pleased to see that Mr Sishi from the DBE examinations present to observe the processes.

Let me now turn to who are the beneficiaries of the Campaign.

It is heartening to see that the Campaign has enrolled learners across the age spectrum.

I am happy to report that the Campaign has reached so many learners who are below the age of 35. I am pleased that those youth who were excluded are keen to learn and are turning up in large numbers. 23% of the learners are **youth below the age of 35 years**. For these youth, the Campaign will have a long-lasting effect on their lives.

A further 55% of the **learners are between the ages of 36 years and 60 years**. This is the time at which adults should be most economically active and at which they are mostly likely to be engaged in their children's lives and education. It is my hope that these learners will embark on further adult education to be offered by the Department of Higher Education.

I do not want, however, to discount the importance of learning for the 22% of the learners who are **above the age of 60 years**. Many of our seniors are "second round carers" and today more than ever need the skills of literacy and numeracy to manage the children left in their care.

And, I am very pleased (even as the head of the ANC Women's league) that the number of **men** enrolling for Kha Ri Gude has increased from 21% (in 2008) to 24% (in 2009). The benefits of learning and the impacts of learning affect us all.

Conclusion

I therefore wish you luck on this weekend as you proceed with what is a historical event - your moderation and verification of 540 000 learner assessments, and thereafter with the training needed to proceed with the third cohort of campaign learners.

MINISTER IS REQUESTED TO HAND OUT 4 AWARDS

BEST PERFORMING PROVINCE AWARD

I am honoured to hand out an award to the province that performed the best during 2009. The Eastern Cape enrolled 142 671 learners and had a completion rate of 138 787 learners whose assessments will be checked at this workshop. They have an unprecedented rate of 98% completion.

I call upon Mrs Lindiwe Bara (old Transkei area) and Mrs Barbara Soloshe (old Ciskei area) to receive the award on behalf of the province.

KHA RI GUDE DEDICATION AWARDS

Secondly, there are those senior WOMEN who have made their contribution to society over their lifespan of 75 or more years. Three coordinators have excelled in the Campaign in 2009 and I make these “Kha Ri Gude Dedication awards” to Mama Lindiwe Myeza, Mama Prisca Molotsi and Mama Caroline Njozela.