

Kha Ri Gude bridges literacy gap

By Tshepo Ramonoedi



CEO of Kha Ri Gude:
Dr Morungwa Ramarumo.

The Kha Ri Gude Mass Literacy Campaign was launched in February 2008, with the intention of educating 4,7 million South Africans to become literate and numerate in one of the eleven official languages. The campaign is believed to be the largest of its kind ever launched.

On 28 March 2012, the DBE's Coordination, Liaison and Support Directorate, together with the provincial coordinators of the Kha Ri Gude Mass Literacy Campaign, met at the Saint George Hotel for a 5-day workshop to track the progress provinces had made in respect of the enrolment of learners for this campaign and to do verification of the Learner Assessment Portfolios with the South African Qualifications Authority (SAQA).

Although there are a few remaining challenges, Kha Ri Gude continues to be a powerful drive to improve the quality of adult education. A gala dinner also took place on the day of the verification process, Sunday, 1 April 2012, to honour the best performing provinces:

Gauteng, Free State, KwaZulu-Natal, North West and the Western Cape.

The next two days were dedicated to address the literacy gap in the country. It was necessary to train and strengthen the provincial coordinators and monitors to reinforce the implementation of the project within the various provinces. The workshop was also meant to explore the challenges faced by the provincial coordinators in their day-to-day work.

Through the Campaign the learners receive the following support:

- the learner is provided with the required stationery and learner support materials;
- the classes are held in the area where the learner resides;
- the facilitators of the course are trained and suitably reimbursed for expenditure incurred; and
- adequate supervision from an academic and project management perspective occurs.

The materials used for the campaign are copyrighted to and are the property of the Department of Basic Education. The materials contribute significantly to the advancement of all South African official languages, thereby enabling the acquisition of literacy in the learners' mother tongue as per their constitutional right.

The materials include literacy primers, numeracy books and assessment portfolios

in 11 official languages. Furthermore, these materials include an English oral and reading primer, literacy primers in Braille as well as the 11 official languages, numeracy books in Braille, assessment tools in 11 languages in Braille, a volunteers' lesson manual, facilitator's lesson plans, and coordinators' manuals.

As part of the initial plan, the projected learner participation in 2008 was targeted at 275 000 learners. On 22 August 2007, Cabinet approved a target of 300 000 learners. As the Campaign gained momentum in 2008, 360 000 learners were enrolled and approximately 22 000 learning sites were established. Volunteer educators, supervisors and coordinators were recruited.

The campaign plays a crucial role in as it caters for the needs of deaf learners. 60 deaf learners were trained as teachers. 66% of the volunteer educators recruited by the Campaign are youth - below the age of 35 years. Volunteers are coordinated, managed and supported by sufficiently skilled coordinators, all of whom have post-graduate qualifications and substantial experience in communication development or ABET-related work.

The Director for Coordination, Liaison and Support, Mr Elijah Sekgobela, said the Kha Ri Gude Campaign is an enormous achievement as far as literacy and numeracy is concerned: "Kha Ri Gude is making an important contribution by way of job creation. Many men and women who are unemployed continue to benefit from the project," he said.



Ms Marieta du Toit, financial manager of the
Kha Ri Gude Mass Literacy Campaign



Mr Elijah Sekgobela interacting with Kha Ri Gude
coordinators during the workshop.



DBE Kha Ri Gude Team, from left to right: Refiloe
Ndziba, Nomsa Twala, Itumeleng Jikolo, Tebogo
Bokaba and Sonja Meyer.