

Back-to-school excitement at Adopt-a-School Foundation

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There were no tears as confident five and six-year-olds kicked off day one of Grade R in what will be their 12-year journey through school.



There to wish them well were members of the Adopt-a-School Foundation (AAS), a partner entity of Cyril Ramaphosa Foundation. The Foundation will follow their progress and celebrate their successes while facilitating the ease of their learning through its Whole School Development (WSD) programme.

Said Steven Lebere, AAS chief executive officer: “It is our goal this year to create environments conducive to teaching and learning through the implementation of our four-pillared Whole School Development Model that focuses on school leadership, curriculum, infrastructure and social welfare.”

He added that he and members of the AAS team are looking forward to the release of the matric results later this coming Friday.

“Our WSD model is working well, which will be evident when we showcase the matric results of some of our top performing schools later this week” he said.

Together with supporting partners, in 2024 at least 14 adopted schools across the country (Eastern Cape, Mpumalanga, Gauteng, Limpopo, North West, Northern Cape and KwaZulu Natal) will see much needed infrastructure improvements that will include the construction and upgrading of classrooms as well as the refurbishment of ablution blocks.



At Qhobosheane Primary School in Diepkloof, Soweto little six-year-old Ketso Mahelo, clung to his mother Mpho Mahelo who said her son wants to be a doctor when he grows up.

Mahelo said: "Though I worry about the future of my child who is starting school at a time when the world is changing, we are excited that my Ketso got accepted at Qhobosheane Primary School and is starting grade R today. This day marks the beginning of his journey to becoming a doctor, and I looking forward to seeing him grow and pass primary and high school with flying colours and continue to university," headmistress at the school, Mashiba Molofe said the school was delighted to be part of the AAS family.

The partnership, she added, has seen the school benefitting a beautiful library, a new kitchen, refurbishment and painting of classrooms and a repaired roof."

At Dr Beyers Naude Secondary School in Dube, Soweto, Grade 8 learner Siphelele Cele, 14 years of age, said she was happy to be back in the classroom and was looking forward to working hard and passing all her subjects.

Headmistress at Dr Beyers Naude school, Josephene Matini Ntshani said: "We are preparing our senior secondary learners for their careers and the business world. We ask for more companies to partner with the Foundation as we need further help from them."

The school, she said, is in need of help with infrastructure, water tanks, furniture and the revamping of the sports ground.

Since 2002, AAS and its partners have invested over R1,2bn in over a million learners across 650 primary and high schools it supports nationally.

Said Lebere: "Collaborating with our donors and sponsors is crucial. Their support ensures that we are able to implement WSD into our adopted schools."

Donors that have infrastructure projects underway as we enter 2024 include Nafasi Water, Anglo Gold Ashanti, Cyril Ramaphosa Foundation (funded through the Presidential Golf Challenge); African Bank, Tshikululu Social Investments and Grindrod Limited.

Merafe Resources, Adapt IT and Sasria currently have curriculum delivery programmes underway.

There are eight schools with over 7,550 educators and school leaders benefitting the School Leadership Advancement programme through the support of some of the already mentioned donors.

A Moral Regeneration Project is underway through the support of Merafe Resources.

“Despite the extensive work being done, there are many more schools that need our help. It is only through collective efforts that we can reach more schools in need. We currently have 441 schools on our waiting list with a wish list encompassing all four pillars of the Whole School Development model. We call upon individuals and more corporates to support more schools,” Lebere said.

About Adopt-a-School Foundation

Adopt-a-School Foundation (AASF) is an entity of the Cyril Ramaphosa Foundation (CRF) and was officially established in 2002 by a group of concerned individuals, including Cyril Ramaphosa and Dr James Motlatsi. The Foundation is registered as a Section 21 company with PBO status and has an Independent Board of Directors. The Foundation works with a wide range of stakeholders including; District, Provincial and National Departments of Basic Education, corporate donors, various service providers and best practice NGOs. The Foundation implements Whole School Development – a holistic model aimed at improving the academic, infrastructural, social and security environment in schools.

There are currently 609 schools under the Adopt-a-School Foundation’s adoption programme. The Foundation works in all nine provinces in South Africa, and in Lesotho and Mozambique.

For more information on Adopt-a-School Foundation top-performing, visit the Foundation’s website at www.adoptaschool.org.za. Email zjacobs@adoptaschool.co.za or call 011 592 6580.

Should you wish to learn more about the work of the Foundation please visit, www.adoptaschool.org.za.

Adopt-a-School Statistics:

Since inception, well over a billion rand has been invested

Schools Adopted: 643

Learners reached: 1,555,240.

Educators developed: 33,023

Facilities constructed: 715

Jobs created: 14,837

SMMEs: 2,335

Learners benefitting from visual support: 108,048

Spectacles provided: 5,276

Learners benefitting from Health and Sanitation projects: 21,102

Learners participating in awareness campaigns: 9,423

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Adopt-a-School

Adopt-a-School Foundation is a non-profit organisation that supports the creation and enhancement of a conducive learning and teaching environment in disadvantaged schools.

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