

The Report

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“True Reflection, Real Stories”

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Instilling the Culture of Reading and Writing

By: MDDA - School Newspaper Project & Development of Toolkit

It was after the Summit was launched that the actual training was implemented by the Institute for the Advancement Journalism.

- The first training “Teacher-Coordination Workshop”, was held on 23 – 24 October 2009 in Kokstad at Ingwe Lodge. The workshop initially had to cater for 10 schools but only 8 teacher-coordinators were in attendance.

- The second training, 40 learners and 7 teachers were trained during “Learners and Educators workshop” held on 6 – 7 February 2010 at Mount Currie High School at Kokstad.

Most importantly, the school newspaper project has gained support from the Department of Education in Maloti district. Ms. Thami Tenza and Mr. Pule Matela both attended the summit and provincial training workshops. The district office also provided support in terms of distributing the invitations to other schools where there were no communication facilities in place. The IAJ worked with the following schools during the implementation phase:-

St. Margaret SSS, Moiketsi Graves SSS, Mt. Hargreaves SSS, Maluti JSS, Pontsheng JSS, Prospect JSS, and all these schools falls under Maloti Education district. The other schools which fall under Mount Frere Education district are E.N Makaula JSS, Zibokwana JSS, Mt Ayliff JSS and Mahamane JSS.

These schools have shown a commitment to be part of school newspaper project even though some still face challenges in terms of lack of resources like computers, cameras, printers and other relevant resources needed to run the school newsletter/paper.

North West School newspaper project:

The approach was expected to be much better to North West training compared to Eastern Cape given the lessons we learnt during the implementation process with Eastern Cape schools. The unique thing about North West province is that we got the buy-in from the Department of Education at the provincial level.

- Both North West training of Teacher-Coordination and Learners were launched in two consecutive weekends of 16 & 17 October 2010 and the second leg was on 23 & 24 October 2010 at Ngaka



Photo by: MDDA

‘schools have shown a commitment to be part of school newspaper project even though some still face challenges...’

Modiri Molema District –Regional Education Department.

All these were made possible by Ms. Nchoe, deputy director of projects and special programme, Ms. Baas, both from Ngaka Modiri Molema district office and Mr. Elias Malindi from provincial Communication Directorate. They made time to help in terms of logistic arrangement when the IAJ sent them a request.

The following schools were trained during the after-care support; Batloug High School, Kebalepile High School, Tshoganyetso High School, Mafikeng High School, Setlopo High School, Reikanne High School, Mothibinyane High School, Kagiso Barolong High School, Mmoleledi High School, Madiba High School and Leteane High School – all these schools are part of Ngaka Modiri Molema district.

The Media Literacy Project does not only enhance the accessibility of community based media platform but it also empowers historically disadvantaged communities and it creates a platform for the very communities through school newsletter/paper to experiment the right to freedom of speech. School newspaper project is an ideal instrument to be used by the learners in exercising this freedom of expression within the legitimate and controlled environment.

The school newspaper project faces the challenges in terms of lack of resources for participating schools particularly in the Eastern Cape and part of the problem is that some of these schools don’t have electricity. Lack of computers and other equipments forms part of the challenge that need implementing partners to look at and seek interventions. The other challenge that may be indirect is the commitment of the schools to keep the project running beyond MDDA & IAJ support. The IAJ, in an effort to leverage resources has embarked on donate-old computer campaign, wherein the Institute has sent-out letter to different companies to donate either computers or old printers. The campaign has thus far collected four computers that will be donated to schools later.

The Institute for the Advancement of Journalism would like to thank MDDA for its continued support and funding of this project; which part of its outcome is School Newspaper Toolkit “titled Starting your own School Newspaper “. This is part of a pledge that the IAJ has taken upon itself when it started with Kidz Radio Toolkit which a spin-off toolkit for kidz radio mentors had called Sakaza Mgani also supported by MDDA.

“Education is the most powerful weapon which you can use to change the world.” — Nelson Mandela

Media Rocks

Learners from Madiba and Setlopo High schools were interviewed by Kagiso Barolong learners about the role of school newspaper inception in schools. How are they going to urge fellow learners to take part in this programme.

Newspaper Boom

Batloug High School did an interview at Mafikeng Mall to hear comments on the upcoming school newspaper. Mr. George Monareng said that the newspaper will only be suc-

cessful if we believe in ourselves and put our minds to it.