

# Sibanye Reading Rooms

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**Est.2010**

P. O. Box 5031  
The Reeds  
0158  
Centurion:  
Gauteng  
South Africa

Contact person: Unathi Mlisa  
Contact number: +27 083 222 5234  
Email address: unathi.mlisa@yahoo.com

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## **Sibanye Projects Status report: Year ended 31 December 2018**

### **Introduction**

This report serves as an update on the work and life of our 4 reading rooms. It has been a busy year for 3 of our 4 reading rooms and progress has been phenomenal.

#### **1. Seki Women's Foundation *(in Port Elizabeth)***

- This our oldest and flagship project. We have seen it grow from just 30 kids in 2010 and now 96 kids and 280 adults being fed meals here 3 times a week.
- We have also seen it evolve from feeding once a week and due to the awesome support from the Red Clay Creek Presbyterian Church is now able to provide hot meals 3 times a week.
- Due to Sibanye Reading Rooms, the kids are now able to do their homework at Seki, do research for school projects and learn how to read.
- We now have a dedicated volunteer whose primary function is to look after the reading room, ensuring that the kids do their homework, assisting them with reading, comprehension and any academic challenges they might have.
- Seki has lost 3 volunteers in 2018 who sadly passed away, but God continued to strengthen the remaining volunteers to carry the load of the ever-increasing orphans.
- We also lost one orphan to death and the Seki funds assisted a great deal in giving the young man a dignified funeral.
- The funds from Sibanye and Red Clay have enabled to Seki team to maintain the 3 times a week feed, to assist the orphans with school uniform, stationery and other needs.
- It is very important to the Seki team that the kids celebrate all the major South African holidays like Mother's Day, Father's Day, Madiba day; as well as having a Christmas party. All these special days were commemorated due to the support given by Sibanye.
- Once again, we were able to give the volunteers a small "thank you" token in the form of vouchers for Christmas.
- Through the trumpet blown by Sibanye, Seki has gained a "once a quarter" donation from Nikiwe in Ivory Coast which assists a great deal in getting stationery and uniform for the kids.

- The Seki team has a very well-functioning garden now which ensures that greens are served with all the meals provided.

### **1.1 Additional needs and challenges**

- **Books and Stationery:** The books they currently have are few and some don't cater to the needs of the older kids. There is a need for curriculum-based books as well as age appropriate reading books. Stationery is needed for the younger kids to be taught how to write and for them to colour and draw
- **Uniform for under-privileged kids:** The SA phenomenon is kids being chased away from school for not having a school uniform. Many of the kids we assist have no money for uniform and opt to stay home at times if they don't have the uniform mandated by the school. Assistance to those kids who show great potential, but lack funds is needed.
- **The number of kids in need keeps rising:** As SA borders on a recession and pending sovereign rating downgrade, the ordinary citizens are feeling the pinch of rising prices of basic foods and energy sources (electricity, gas and paraffin). The kids are always the worst affected and we see that at Seki currently. The need keeps rising, the funds are never enough, and companies are cutting on CSR to stay afloat.

### **1.2 Long-term needs**

- **TV and DVD Player:** This is for the kids to be able to watch educational programmes and DVD's.
- **Computers/ laptop:** This is to equip the kids with computer skills from a young age.

## **2. Tiyo Soga (Mgwali) Community Library (in Stutterheim)**

This has been by far the most expensive of the all the projects we have undertaken. It saw us restoring the old church hall built by Rev Tiyo Soga. The project proved challenging due to the hall being a heritage site which needed to be restored in a certain way that preserved the original look.

- The hall is divided into 2 rooms and due to the awesome work done by Sibanye, one of these rooms now serves as a museum dedicated to the preservation of Rev Tiyo Soga's legacy.
- The other room is a reading room/ library.
- This reading room is unique because:
  - It has a rich heritage of the Presbyterian church introduced by Rev Tiyo Soga to the black community.
  - It has artefacts that are more than 100 years old, remains a home to all Presbyterians in South Africa
  - The age group targeted are in high school, getting ready to go off to college; their needs are beyond just studying but include career guidance, assistance with college applications ad funding.
- The detail of the 2018 activities is attached
  - The report also details the needs as well as the challenges faced.

### **3.1 Additional needs and challenges**

- **Books and Stationery:** The books they currently have are old and outdated. There is a need for curriculum-based books as well as updated Christian and life-skills books. Stationery is needed for the younger kids to be taught how to write and for them to colour and draw
- **Uniform for under-privileged kids:** The village of Mgwali is comprised of poor people, mostly unemployed and the problem of school uniform is great. Assistance to those kids who show great potential, but lack funds is needed.
- **Support for Grade 12 learners:** The Mgwali High School has been placed under the worst performing high schools in Eastern Cape as the passing rate of Grade 12's drops every year. The Grade 12 learners are not motivated as they don't seem to see a life outside of Mgwali Village. Pamphlets for potential bursaries and universities need to be available for them and career path coaching is a matter of urgency for these kids.

### **3.2 Long-term needs**

- **TV and DVD Player:** This is for the kids to be able to watch educational programmes and DVD's.
- **Computers/ laptop:** This is to equip the kids with computer skills from a young age and for record keeping should the books be loaned out. Many of the Grade 12 students reach university without having ever touched a computer, this greatly disadvantages them when they need to submit assignments or even retrieve work emailed by lecturers.

### **3. Lisahluma Day-care Centre (in King Williams Town)**

When we closed off 2017, Lisahluma had venue challenges and in 2018 these were resolved. The creche now has a dedicated class in a Primary School in Zwelitsha.

- **Nangamso will submit a report of the work and life**

### **4. KidZ Corner After School programme (in Queenstown)**

We invested R50 000 on this programme on renovations, shelves and stationery. The investment has reaped great rewards and assistance the community at all.

- **A detailed report is attached.**