

## INSIDE\_May 2014

### WE ARE

concerned about  
overcoming  
poverty in  
southern Africa.

If you are too, please forward this newsletter to  
any of your colleagues or friends who want to see  
southern Africa transform into a vibrant, caring  
and prosperous community.

### PEOPLE POWER:

In 2010,  
72%  
of the estimated  
**5.3 MILLION**  
inhabitants who live in  
poverty are in rural areas,

▼  
**Siyavuna** registered as  
a not for profit company

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### PEOPLE POWER:



## DRIVERS OF CHANGE AWARDS

True to the ethos that a solution is contained within every problem,  
there are innovative organisations and individuals who are successfully  
tackling the challenges facing communities in southern Africa and  
turning them into success stories.

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### DRIVERS OF CHANGE:

## CIVIL SOCIETY AWARD: SIYAVUNA ABALIMI

The Siyavuna Abalimi Development  
Centre focuses on the development of  
organic farming as a means to increase  
food security and assist in providing an  
income to participants. [READ MORE](#)



### DRIVERS OF CHANGE:

## BUSINESS AWARD: UNJANI CLINIC

With over 40 million South Africans  
unable to afford private health care and  
reliant on an overburdened state system,  
people often wait entire days at healthcare  
facilities to receive basic treatment. [READ MORE](#)



### CASE STUDIES

*Learn more about the issues that matter*

## SAYXCHANGE:



Twenty one young people from Malawi, South Africa and Zambia participated in the five month exchange programme which aims to promote regional integration and a southern African regional identity amongst youth.

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## DRIVERS OF CHANGE:



True to the ethos that a solution is contained within every problem, there are innovative organisations and individuals who are successfully tackling the challenges facing communities in southern Africa and turning them into success stories.

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## SOCIAL BENEFITS:



Former mine workers who spent much of their working life underground are still owed an approximate total of R5.7 billion in social security benefits according to the findings of a regional study commissioned by The Trust.

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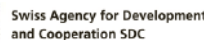
## MINEWORKERS HEARD:



For a long time, former migrant mine workers remained unrepresented and encountered a number of challenges when accessing their social security benefits and compensation for occupational disease.

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Angela Larkan
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- ▼ **SayXchange personal stories:** Ruth Kabaso
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*"Not only are skills programmes such as computers, art and agriculture, as well as sports including soccer, basketball and netball available to the children, young adults within the community are trained as teachers and mentors and employed to run the programmes, resulting in local job creation."*



## PEOPLE POWER:

# DRIVERS OF CHANGE AWARDS

True to the ethos that a solution is contained within every problem, there are innovative organisations and individuals who are successfully tackling the challenges facing communities in southern Africa and turning them into success stories.

These organisations and individuals in the region who are making a real impact in the fight against poverty, especially in the development of public policies and strategies, are recognised by the Southern Africa Trust (The Trust) in the form of the annual Drivers of Change awards.

The inaugural award was in 2006, having been created to hold up living examples of innovative practices, inclusive attitudes and effective processes that build social trust and create the best conditions to make a real and lasting difference in the lives of people living in poverty.

The Drivers of Change award has four categories, namely: civil society, government, individual and business.

The current award winners as announced on 31 October 2013 are the Siyavuna Development Centre for the Civil Society category, Unjani Clinic in the business category, with Angela Larkin receiving the individual award.

## The Drivers of Change Individual Award: Angela Larkan

While studying at the Wesleyan University in the United States, Durban-born Angela Larkan started researching orphans in KwaZulu-Natal for her thesis on HIV and AIDS.

But her research into the devastating effects of HIV/AIDS did not remain an academic exercise. Rather, she chose to return to her home province in 2008 to do what she could to relieve the burden the disease was placing upon rural communities.

## STORY ORIGIN



## Award drives Thanda forward

Larkan said receiving the Drivers of Change award has benefited the organisation due to the credibility it carries.

"It is an award from within the sector and carries a lot of weight," she said.

"Just by being at the awards ceremony we were approached by the KFC Add Hope programme who initiated talks about assisting with our feeding scheme."

She said this has led to KFC sponsoring the Thanda feeding scheme.

The award further led to the organisation being featured in the Mail&Guardian which resulted in eTV filming a documentary on Thanda and then secretly getting three staff members to compete on the OMO sponsored game show 'You Deserve It', from which R61 000 in prize money went to Thanda.

"It was an honour and a surprise. When eTV came in November, they told me they were making a documentary. In January, they secretly flew three of our staff members to Cape Town to participate in the game show and the next day, the guy from the Omo adverts walks into our library and hands me a cheque.

I was totally surprised," said Larkan.

The exposure has made "an incredible difference to us," she said.



## Are you changing lives?

Nominations are now open for the 2014 Drivers of Change awards. Nominations can be made in the following categories: Individual; Civil Society; Business; and Government. Click [here](http://www.southernaficatrust.org/drivers_of_change/nomination/2014/nominate) (http://www.southernaficatrust.org/drivers\_of\_change/nomination/2014/nominate) to make a nomination. Closing date is 31 July 2014.

Angela Larkan started researching orphans in KwaZulu-Natal for her thesis on HIV and AIDS.

But her research into the devastating effects of HIV/AIDS did not remain an academic exercise. Rather, she chose to return to her home province in 2008 to do what she could to relieve the burden the disease was placing upon rural communities.

"I felt I could play a role here," said Larkan. She certainly has proved to be an agent for positive change.

Her visionary, innovative and pioneering ideas have resulted in tremendous strides to decrease malnutrition and food insecurity amongst youth by initiating a feeding scheme that provides food daily for over 400 children, as well as agricultural programmes that encourage youth to start their own home gardens and community garden initiatives that help unemployed youth, adults and the elderly to earn an income.

Initially, she wished to create a low-resource model she believed could help orphans and vulnerable children affected by the HIV/AIDS epidemic. But, when funding proved hard to secure she, together with Tyler Howard, started the Thanda After-School initiative. Six years later Thanda After-School is a successful programme providing daily care and support, knowledge and training to 440 orphans and vulnerable children at six schools in the rural Untwalune community, all of whom are fed as part of the programme five days a week.

Using existing local resources – from classrooms to soccer fields – the initiative works with both primary and secondary school children ranging in ages from 5 to 22, employing young role models from the community as mentors who fill the developmental and emotional gaps left by missing parents and overwhelmed caregivers.

Not only are skills programmes such as computers, art and agriculture, as well as sports including soccer, basketball and netball available to the children, young adults within the community are trained as teachers and mentors and employed to run the programmes, resulting in local job creation.

There are 14 teachers trained by Thanda, at least half of them having participated in Thanda After-School when they were learners.

The programme has made a marked difference to children's lives.

"The Grade R and Grade 1 programme resulted in a 600% increase in the number of children who had foundation literacy skills after participating in the aftercare programme for five months," said Larkan.

Participation also made a "big difference" to children's self-esteem and ability to think creatively.

"Initially they are very withdrawn, have no opinions and cannot tell you what they think about things. But after a while they start thinking about what they're going to do and how they're going to do it, and start seeing opportunities in the community as well."

This bodes well for sustainability, as some of the children elect to remain and contribute creatively to the community rather than seeking employment in the cities.

With sustainability a core component of Thanda's value system, the socially-conscious business Thanda Zulu was founded to support Thanda's non-profit endeavours.

Thanda Zulu imports items from income generating projects throughout southern Africa, providing jobs for over 50 men and women, with all profits going to the Thanda After-School programme.



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# Southern Africa changemakers



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*"The organisation's mission is "to train and mentor emerging organic farmers for food security, developing successful micro-enterprises through Farmer's Associations and Co-operatives that market the produce under the Kumnandi (Zulu for 'delicious') brand"."*



## PEOPLE POWER:

# DRIVERS OF CHANGE AWARDS

Operating in the Ugu District of KwaZulu-Natal, a province in which 72% of the estimated 5.3 million inhabitants who live in poverty are situated in rural areas, the Siyavuna Abalimi Development Centre focuses on the development of organic farming as a means to increase food security and assist in providing an income to participants.

### Civil Society Award: Siyavuna Development Centre

Having registered as a not for profit company in 2010, Siyavuna has in three years empowered just under 600 rural inhabitants, 80% of whom are women. These 600 small holder farmers are spread across 10 communities in two municipalities in the province.

### How it works

Siyavuna's modus operandi is both simple and thorough, placing the means of production in the hands of participants, but ensuring oversight and training is a continuous process.

The organisation's mission is "to train and mentor emerging organic farmers for food security, developing successful micro-enterprises through Farmer's Associations and Co-operatives that market the produce under the Kumnandi (Zulu for 'delicious') brand".

Siyavuna assists in setting up farmers associations and co-operatives, the co-operatives are owned by the farmers and are able to become economically sustainable through the sale of organic produce.

With a strategy of helping the neediest first, the organisation first identifies the poorest communities, and then approaches the local chief for permission to work in the community.

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With a strategy of helping the neediest first, the organisation first identifies the poorest communities, and then approaches the local chief for permission to work in the community.

With permission granted, community information meetings are held and people are asked if they would be interested in being trained and whether they would volunteer to lead a farmers association in the area.

### Benefiting from Drivers of Change award

Director Diane Pieters said winning the Drivers of Change award "was really huge for us". "It was a big deal," she said.

The immediate benefit to the organisation was that it strengthened their funding proposals, with the result that of seven funding proposals sent out after receiving the award, six were successful, with the seventh only not succeeding because the funder's funding cycle was completed.

Winning the award has also spurred innovation in the organisation, she said, motivating staff with the result that positive changes have been wrought.

One of these is more effective farmer ownership. Where previously it was Siyavuna staff who drove to collection points to pick up fresh produce, it is now a farmer doing the collection, providing positive proof to members that they are taking greater control of the value chain.

"It creates a sense (among farmers) that this really is 'our co-op, our business'," said Pieters.

Additionally, farmers associations have been started in three new areas since the award was announced, and farmers "are really producing, taking it seriously".

With farmers becoming more adept and established, markets are also beginning to open up as co-ops move into a position where certain crops can be guaranteed. Thus larger restaurants are placing bulk orders while crops are still in the ground, said Pieters.

While the aim is to have a dedicated Kumnandi fresh produce shop, a partner organisation (Total SA) has in the meantime offered free space and signage in one of their 24-hour retail shops.

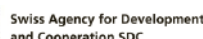
Pieters said the award really cemented their relationship with partners Volkswagen and Total, and the office has been receiving "interesting phone calls" from resourced individuals offering their help.

She said the farmers are really beginning to take their businesses seriously.

"We're seeing women find their voice and become assertive and make plans for themselves, said Pieters"

Pieters also recently participated at the inaugural Mail & Guardian Africa Business Conference which was held on March 25, 2014 at the Sandton Convention Centre. She was invited to represent Siyavuna in a panel

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Tonsillitis patient Rookshana Allay getting attended to by Patricia Philemon who runs the only Unjani Clinic in the province.



## PEOPLE POWER:

# DRIVERS OF CHANGE AWARDS

With over 40 million South Africans unable to afford private health care and reliant on an overburdened state system, people often wait entire days at primary and secondary healthcare facilities to receive basic treatment.

## Business Award: Unjani Clinic

Many state healthcare facilities in rural areas are often far flung, resulting in the additional burden of transport costs for people who can scarce afford it.

There is a resultant wide gap between the primary health care and medication needs of millions of poor South Africans, and the services available.

One of South Africa's largest logistics companies, the health sciences division of Imperial Group (Pty) Ltd, addresses this gap through the set-up of its franchised concept Unjani Clinic which aims to meet the need for primary health care in poor communities by providing essential medicines and education at the point of need.

## How it works

The model, which creates entrepreneurial opportunities for professional nurses to own and operate commercially viable primary healthcare clinics supported by a franchise network and structure, also empowers individuals – often black women who are primary caregivers in the household – to take charge of their own and their family's health.

The model is premised on the idea that only a small percentage of people seeking treatment at primary health care facilities actually need the attention of a medical doctor.

For common illnesses, most patients can be helped by a nurse or even, with enough knowledge, self-diagnoses and treatment.

Unjani Clinic thus works on a "deal with what you can, refer what you cannot" principle.

Initially piloted in Etshuwa, a township in Gauteng, for a period of 22 months

## STORY ORIGIN





Tonsillitis patient Rookshana Allay getting attended to by Patricia Philemon who runs the only Unjani Clinic in the province.

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Initially piloted in Etwatwa, a township in Gauteng, for a period of 22 months, Imperial Health Sciences now have seven fully franchised units in the Western Cape, Gauteng and Mpumalanga. Patients pay R100-R150 to receive a consultation and medicines for the treatment of the most common health conditions from a qualified nurse.

Clinical services such as infant weighing, immunisation, HIV and glucose testing for diabetes, family planning and basic health education – which facilitates informed self treatment – are also provided by the clinic.

The qualified nurse running the Unjani Clinic is authorised to prescribe and dispense schedule 1-4 medicines. The clinics also sell over-the-counter medicines such as aspirin and various cough and flu medication should a patient not require a consultation.

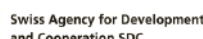
The Unjani Clinic network operates from suitably customised 12 metre shipping containers and it not only provides an affordable and accessible service for the poor who would otherwise spend hours, if not an entire day or more waiting to receive attention at a state health care facility, it also creates an entrepreneurial opportunity for professional nurses.

Further employment opportunities are created due to the need for administration support staff at the clinic, as well as cleaners and other service providers. Each clinic creates a guaranteed three jobs (professional nurse, administrative assistant and security guard) and has further potential for an additional two (community marketer and cleaner/gardener).

The ownership model sees the nurse increasing her ownership share annually based on a five year franchise agreement with Imperial Health Sciences after paying off an "interest free loan" of R150 000 which equals 50% of the initial capital needed to set up an Unjani Clinic franchise.

Based on the success of the seven clinics (each clinic seeing between 180-500 patients per month), Imperial Health Sciences plans to establish a national network of 400 Clinics over a period of 2 years. This national roll-out will consider the existing healthcare infrastructure and the needs of the community and will concentrate on those areas where the greatest need for accessible and affordable primary health care exists.

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*"I created a great network that I am in touch with. I formed relationships with people from South Africa. It also exposed me to a broader understanding of the region." - Faida Phiri, Malawi.*



## PEOPLE POWER:

# NEW TIES CREATED THROUGH SAYXCHANGE

February 2014 marked the end of the 2013 cycle of the Southern Africa Youth Exchange programme, SayXchange. Twenty one young people from Malawi, South Africa, and Zambia participated in a five month youth volunteer exchange programme which aims to promote regional integration and a southern African regional identity amongst youth.

While these young people learnt a lot about their host country's culture, language and development during their stay, they learnt a lot about themselves as well in the process. But the real and lasting work of changing mindsets about the inter-dependence of our region only begins after the exchange.

## Benefiting communities

The programme does not just involve spending time in a different country, it also involves participants using their newly learnt skills and knowledge to benefit their community back home. Participant's civic engagement when they return to their home country is captured at the programme's Post-Return Orientation.

Three Post-Return Orientations were held in February. One in South Africa on 6 February, one in Malawi on 11 February, and one in Zambia on 20 February, where the participants reflected on their experiences and planned follow-up projects that will benefit or contribute to their home communities.

## What participants said

Here is what some participants said about their experiences:

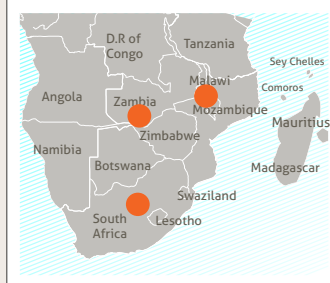
"I created a great network that I am in touch with. I formed relationships with people from South Africa. It also exposed me to a broader understanding of the region." - Faida Phiri, Malawi.

"The way I view the world has changed, the way I see myself in the world has changed, and I truly got to understand what Ghandi meant when he said, 'to find yourself you have to lose yourself in the service of others'." - Olwethu Bonani, South Africa.

"Because of my involvement in the programme I sit on the following boards: Hope Widows Christian Organisations, Council of Churches of Zambia and Dream Institute of Southern Africa. I am also the country secretary of the Council of Churches of Zambia." - Ruth Kabaso, Zambia.

"I felt what it is like being a foreigner and for the first time acknowledge that I am an African. [I also] developed a passion for regional development. In Zambia people live humanity/Ubuntu, while in South Africa we just preach humanity/Ubuntu." - Gustaff Seema, South Africa"

## STORY ORIGIN



## Apply to SayXchange

Applications for the Southern Africa Youth Exchange (SayXchange) 2014 are now open. If you are between the ages of 18 and 25, and are from Zambia, South Africa, Malawi or Mozambique **apply here** (<http://www.sayxchange.org/node/163>) before the closing date of Monday, 12 May 2014 for this amazing opportunity to volunteer for five months in a community service project in one of the countries between July and December 2014.

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## PEOPLE POWER:

# SAYXCHANGE PERSONAL STORIES: RUTH KABASO

Ruth, who is turning 26 this year, exchanged her home in Lusaka for Soshanguve, Pretoria, living with her host mother and younger host sister for five months. Like most participants, it took a few days to adjust.

## Ruth Kabaso, from Lusaka, Zambia

“At first it was not easy to live with people you’ve never met before, but because of the care I received I took this to be my home from home,” said Ruth.

She said her host mother treated her like her own daughter and she did not feel like a foreigner.

“As a result of that, it gave me an opportunity to interact with other people in the community apart from my host family.”

## Activities

Involved in the faith community, Ruth is a volunteer in the Council of Churches in Zambia and in the Young People’s and Children’s Department of the Women’s Missionary Society of the African Methodist Episcopal Church.

“I have been involved in training of women and men and youths alike in gender issues in the three provinces of Zambia, as well as advocate for both women and children rights,” said Ruth.

Ruth is also involved in adolescent reproductive health education through the Planned Parenthood Association of Zambia, and involved in peer-education at Behavioural Change programmes for youth.

While in South Africa, she worked at the Zakhani Training and Development Centre as a health facilitator within the centre’s health programme, as well as a facilitator in the arts and culture programme.

This involved engaging community members at relevant platforms to educate them on the importance of achieving and maintaining good health, especially in regard to preventing HIV infection, and managing HIV.

She was also interviewed on radio about the importance of HIV prevention, gender equity and equality and the importance of cultural practices. This, said Ruth, enhanced her public speaking capabilities. Beyond that, she engaged in the hard work of participating in door-to-door campaigns to educate people about HIV/Aids and related diseases, and the importance of HIV testing.

Furthermore, she was involved as the youth education programme facilitator, speaking to youth at schools, as well as those attending extra-curricular training camps.

She believes it is “vital to involve the youth in the fight against this pandemic for they will help their fellow youths make informed decisions in life”.

## Differences and similarities

## STORY ORIGIN



## Lessons learnt

“As a SayXchange participant I learnt that in as far as change is concerned, it should start from a personal level, to the family, then community and the nation. Thereafter we can initiate change in the region. Thus one person’s behaviour can influence change.”

Ruth said she also discovered the perception that everyone in South Africa is violent is not true.

“Having been placed in an ordinary family, I discovered that we all embrace our families and the people around us. The most vital thing is that where my rights end, that’s where my neighbour’s rights begin. It is my responsibility as a change pioneer to respect human dignity, and then pass it on.”

## Differences and similarities

During her involvement in community work she noticed some interesting cultural differences between Lusaka and Pretoria, one of these was how many young people in South Africa lived together without getting married, something that was seen as “unacceptable” in her home community.

Also, she noticed that people attending funerals did not wear wrappers[m1], whereas in Zambia one did not go to a funeral without wearing a wrapper.

The importance placed on sangomas in Pretoria also took her by surprise as in her home community the sangoma did not have the same level of influence.[m2]

However, there were more similarities than differences, ranging from the food people eat, their underlying cultural values, even many words in the different home languages were similar.

“As southern Africans we are one and the same people,” said Ruth, “the same colour blood flows in us all.”

## Economic insight

Ruth notes that Zambians and South Africans face similar economic challenges and integration will be effective if skills across all sectors were shared in order to aid development.

She believes youth empowerment through arts and culture can help to reduce poverty levels in the region, and markets should be opened up to allow cross-border trade.

Regional trade would also help break the negative perspectives citizens from neighbouring states sometimes have of each other.

“Being part of this programme was of great value, for I learnt so many things. The programme has helped change my perception on the region’s way of life.”

Ruth said her participation in SayXchange sharpened her skills and broadened her understanding and “above all”, the initiative should continue to involve as many young people as possible.

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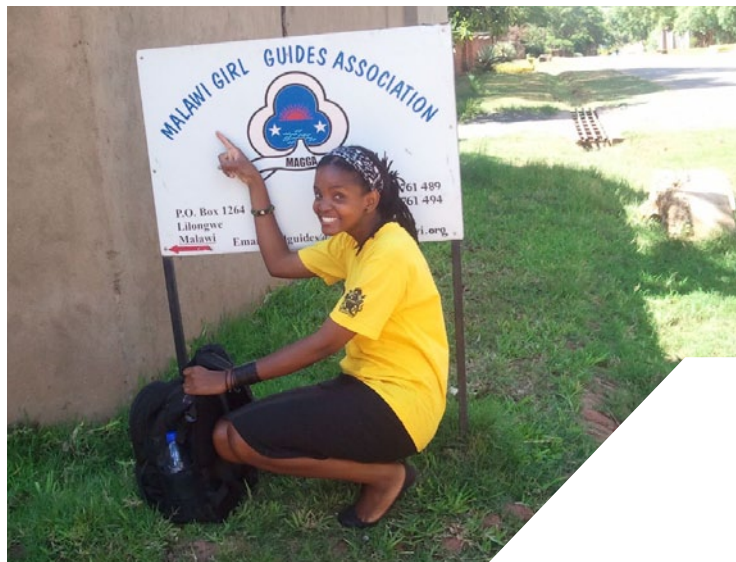
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*“even the language barrier was a source of laughter rather than frustration and when her basic knowledge of Chichewa ran out, actions combined with much laughter, managed to get the message across.”*



## PEOPLE POWER:

# SAYXCHANGE PERSONAL STORIES: NOMONDE MALANDA

25 year-old Nomonde from Cape Town said the hospitality she experienced in Malawi while participating in the SayXchange programme was “overwhelming”.

### Nomonde Malanda, from Cape Town, South Africa

Nomonde stayed in Lilongwe with the Mtema family consisting of sisters Sifundo and Nikiwe, brothers Tantwe and Ole, her host mother Olive and host father Peter, all of whom she got on well with and with whom she has remained in contact.

The Mtema family were in fact key to what Nomonde describes as a “great” SayXchange experience.

“They have welcomed and accepted me as one of their blood. I travelled and engaged with them in all family events and undertakings. There was not a day I felt out of place or unwanted.”

### Activities

At home in the multi-cultural suburb of Wynberg, Cape Town, Nomonde is a student at the University of South Africa, studying for a degree in computer science and software engineering. Besides her studies, she is also a community development activist, advocate for girl-child and women social justice and a software engineering entrepreneur.

Extending this community work while in Malawi from July until December last year, Nomonde worked with the Girl Guides Association, leading the adoption and implementation of gender sensitive education policies and programmes.

The Malawi Girls Guide Association aims to enable girls and young women to develop economically, socially, spiritually, emotional and physically so that they can become responsible and useful citizens of Malawi.

Her role as policy advocate and program coordinator was to give girls and young women the opportunity for self-training in the development of good character and service to others based on the spiritual and moral values embodied in the “Guide Law” laid down by the founder of girl guides.

She was also part of the team working on the development of programs that allow girls and young women to undergo skills training with the aim of making them economically independent.

Nomonde was also involved in promoting strategies for prevention of HIV and other Sexually Transmitted Infections (STI), and other sexual and reproductive health issues affecting girls and young women. Fostering collaboration amongst key players and stakeholders dealing with girls and young women's educational issues was one of her responsibilities.

Organising an international event for the Malawi International Day of the Girl Child and implementing Campaign Malawi for development and solidarity were some of the tasks she undertook which contributed to her learning experience.

## STORY ORIGIN



## Lessons Learnt

The SayXchange programme not only got her to learn a new language, it expanded the network of young people she knows, from civil society, government and the private sector, which she believes will be useful in her future endeavours.

Nomonde said her experience with the Malawi Girl Guides enhanced her approach to policies and issues affecting the girl-child and women's social rights, and taught her how to plan and implement a campaign.

## Differences and similarities

Although Nomonde lives in an urban environment in Cape Town, she is familiar with the rural areas of the Eastern Cape, which she said was similar to the more rural Lilongwe community where she stayed in Malawi.

The people in Malawi were relaxed and calm compared to Cape Town, she said.

But what really stood out for her was “countless warmth and happiness”.

“From church communities to local retailers and neighbours, it has been awesome.”

She said even the language barrier was a source of laughter rather than frustration and when her basic knowledge of Chichewa ran out, actions combined with much laughter, managed to get the message across.

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*“Former mine workers who spent much of their productive working life underground – predominantly in the South African gold and coal mines – are still owed an approximate total of R5.7 billion in social security benefits”*

## A way forward

While the challenges facing former mineworkers in accessing their social security benefits were enumerated by stakeholders, including the fund administrators who mentioned frustrations they have, such as having to comply with strict laws and the need to have checks and balances in place to prevent fraudulent claims and identity theft, the aim of the dialogue was to map a way forward to overcome these challenges.

To this end a Joint Roadmap was adopted containing implementable



## SOCIAL BENEFITS

# MINEWORKERS DISCUSS WAYS TO ACCESS BENEFITS

*“There is a train that comes from Namibia and Malawi  
there is a train that comes from Zambia and Zimbabwe,  
There is a train that comes from Angola and Mozambique,  
From Lesotho, from Botswana, from Swaziland,  
From all the hinterland of southern and central Africa.  
This train carries young and old, African men  
Who are conscripted to come and work on contract  
In the golden mineral mines of Johannesburg  
And its surrounding metropolis, sixteen hours or more a day  
For almost no pay.  
Deep, deep, deep down in the belly of the earth  
When they are digging and drilling that shiny mighty evasive stone,  
Or when they dish that mish mesh mush food  
into their iron plates with the iron shank.  
Or when they sit in their stinking, funky, filthy,  
Flea-ridden barracks and hostels.  
They think about the loved ones they may never see again Because they might have  
already been forcibly removed  
From where they last left them  
Or wantonly murdered in the dead of night  
By roving, marauding gangs of no particular origin,  
We are told. They think about their lands, their herds  
That were taken away from them  
With a gun, bomb, teargas and the cannon.  
And when they hear that Choo-Choo train  
They always curse, curse the coal train,  
The coal train that brought them to Johannesburg.”*

-Stimela, Hugh Masekela

Although Hugh Masekela's rousing lament over the conditions faced by migrant workers in southern Africa was recorded in 1974, much of what it says remains relevant today.

Former mine workers who spent much of their productive working life

## STORY ORIGIN



## Reasons for non disbursement of funds

According to the findings, the reasons former mine workers were not receiving the social security benefits owed to them are:

- ▼ Immigration laws in South Africa (SA). Issues raised included the logistical, financial and information burdens faced by widows who are forced to travel to SA after the death of a mine worker spouse.
- ▼ Absence of portability arrangements or limited provisions for this in SA social security laws. It was noted that there are instances where these are not in place, but where they are (such as the SA-Mozambique Bilateral Labour Agreement), the system is problematic and in many cases, benefits never reach their intended recipients.
- ▼ Administrative and institutional challenges. These were identified as lack of information, lack of meaningful institutional engagement and an



To this end a Joint Roadmap was adopted containing implementable recommendations to support former mineworkers and cross border portability arrangements.

## Roadmap

- ▼ The formalisation of a multi-stakeholder platform to be coordinated by the Trust, with necessary sub-committees, to be responsible for taking forward recommendations and issues.
- ▼ Collaborate with other existing platforms, including a mooted SA Pension Fund initiative, the Technical Working Group on TB in mines, Regional Partnership Forum on Migration and Health, and the SA Inter-Departmental Task Team on Social Security.
- ▼ Development of Terms of Reference (ToRs) for the multi-stakeholder forum to be developed by the Trust.

## Information

- ▼ Develop strategies to reach rural communities
- ▼ Technical capacity-knowledge development and research
- ▼ Means of information dissemination, such as flyers, road shows, traditional and social media dissemination.

relevant today.

Former mine workers who spent much of their productive working life underground – predominantly in the South African gold and coal mines – are still owed an approximate total of R5.7 billion in social security benefits according to the findings of a regional study commissioned by The Trust and conducted by Dr Mathias Nyenti and Prof George Mpedi.

These benefits, desperately needed by the former South African and migrant workers and their families to alleviate the poverty in which they live, are held by a number of pension funds, provident funds and retirement funds.

In addition, Nyenti and Mpedi's findings were that over 274 000 former mine workers were yet to receive occupational disease compensation totalling about R700 million being held by Rand Mutual Assurance and the Mines' 1970 Pension and Provident Fund.

These figures from the study were presented at the Regional Dialogue on the Portability and Access of Social Security Benefits by Former Mine Workers held in Pretoria on 27 and 28 February this year.

### The Regional Dialogue

The Regional Dialogue, held by the Southern Africa Trust (The Trust) and the Southern Africa Mining Association SAMA) with support from the Ford Foundation (fostered discussion and collaboration between critical stakeholders from SADC in order to find the means to overcome the challenges former mine workers face in accessing their social security benefits, and the regional portability arrangements in the SADC region.

Stakeholders represented migrant workers in the mining industry from Lesotho, Mozambique and Swaziland, with discussions informed by the research paper presented by Nyenti and Mpedi.

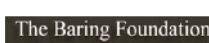
The status and implementation of the SADC Charter of Fundamental Social Rights and the SADC Code of Social Security were also reviewed in terms of how they relate to the portability of social security benefits.

Also discussed was the means that exist through mechanisms or institutions to support former migrant mine workers in accessing their social security benefits and compensation, as well as possible collaboration among stakeholders for joint action in support of the disbursement of funds to former migrant mine workers.

of meaningful institutional engagement and an absence of administrative cooperation between entities.

- ▼ Delays in payments. This issue was noted for the devastating and diverse impact it had on both former mine workers, their families and their communities at large.
- ▼ Issues in dealing with professional occupational health services.
- ▼ Cumbersome documentation requirements for social security benefits applications. This was specifically noted with respect to widows who lacked the information, capacity of knowledge, or were faced with issues such as lost identification documents and exorbitant travel costs.
- ▼ Difficulties in establishing causal links between illness and employment, which directly affected legitimate access to benefits.
- ▼ Differences in regional banking systems. This issue included aspects such as difficulties in transfer, and the lack of understanding or clarity on exchange rates.
- ▼ Lack of implementation of international standards and protocols.
- ▼ Inertia by the South African government.

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*"Mantsi expressed appreciation of SAMA's endorsement as a legitimate representative of former migrant mine workers at this level."*



## SOCIAL BENEFITS

# FROM UNDERGROUND TO THE FOREGROUND mine workers' issues take centre stage

For a long time, former migrant mine workers remained unrepresented and encountered a number of challenges when accessing their social security benefits and compensation for occupational disease. This was particularly the case for those from Mozambique, Lesotho and Swaziland.

### We're being 'listened to' – Mine workers

Today, there are not only national ex-miners associations in the three countries, but a regional body was formed in 2011 which has grown to become recognised as the official platform that represents the interests of migrant mine workers.

The Southern African Miners Association (SAMA) was formed by the national associations of ex-mine workers to support their access to compensation for occupational diseases, trace the location of lapsed beneficiaries and assist them to claim social security benefits of close to R6 billion, currently locked in South African financial institutions.

On the 25th of March 2014, SAMA was invited to the Ministerial Meeting on Harmonizing the Regional Response to Tuberculosis (TB) in the Mining Sector which was held in Sandton, Johannesburg. Rantso Mantsi, president of SAMA, made a presentation at the meeting on the challenges encountered by former migrant mineworkers when trying access compensation for occupational diseases.

"We're for the first time being listened to. Our members are very excited," said Mantsi.

The meeting was convened by Deputy President of South Africa, Kgalema Motlanthe, and South Africa's Health Minister, Aaron Motsoaledi, with support from the World Bank, the Stop TB Partnership and the Global Fund. The meeting brought together ministers from the SADC region who are responsible for Health, Energy, Labour, Finance and Natural Resources and Minerals.

Mantsi expressed appreciation of SAMA's endorsement as a legitimate representative of former migrant mine workers at this level.

In the keynote address delivered by the Deputy President, Motlanthe further commended the coordinated efforts of non-state actors in supporting former mine workers to access their social security benefits, such as retirement insurance, and made reference to the regional dialogue convened by SAMA and the Southern Africa Trust in February.

"It is heartening to note that a few weeks ago, a two day workshop involving many of the key role players in this particular issue was convened here in Gauteng and that a number of important recommendations were adopted

## STORY ORIGIN



"It is heartening to note that a few weeks ago, a two day workshop involving many of the key role players in this particular issue was convened here in Gauteng and that a number of important recommendations were adopted and commitments made to find ways to ensure that benefits reach those who qualify, including their dependants," said Motlanthe.

Mantsi said he was pleased that recommendations adopted at the regional dialogue in February were included in the agreement signed at the ministerial meeting.

A SADC Declaration on TB was adopted by member states in 2012. The objective of the ministerial meeting was to adopt a programme of action that will implement the recommendations of the declaration.

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