



# NEWSLETTER

## Message from Executive Director

Cyril Ramaphosa Education Trust (CRET), a Cyril Ramaphosa Foundation partner entity, welcomes you to its end-of-year brief as we spotlight some of the achievements of 2023 that saw us amplify the impact of our work.

Our theme for the year – as conceptualised by our beneficiary students – is “Leave No One Behind”, which speaks to our commitment to youth skills development support projects and programmes for as many young people as possible.

We believe better life outcomes for young people can be achieved through a holistic support approach. Support needs to go beyond the bursary to cater for the overall well-being of students, to mitigate dropouts and to capacitate students for improved employment prospects.

This is evidenced in CRET’s five-year strategic objectives and deliverables.

The fall out of the Covid 19 pandemic and global economic volatility means that now more than ever, young people need support and real opportunities that provide them with a sense of hope that they can create better lives for themselves.

In 2023, the Trust supported 77 students on the bursary programme and has impacted over 500 youth in various skills development support programmes. To date, 95% of our beneficiaries have been Black South Africans, with two thirds being woman.

I would like to thank our funders whose invaluable support and collaborative partnerships have enabled so much of our work to be impactful. I also take this opportunity to thank our Alumni Advisory Board, chaired by Dr Sazi Nzama, for its ongoing support.

Valued partnerships are integral to the work CRET is undertaking to assist young people to achieve better life outcomes.

As such, the makeup of partnerships is evolving, and CRET strives to be differentiated by partnerships that are agile and employ a skilful use of technology and broad thinking.

Potential sponsors and donors are reminded that CRET can assist your company with its Black Economic Empowerment (BEE) strategy. CRET is a Public Benefit company, that is section 18a approved by SARS. Any quantifiable donation is tax deductible.

I look forward to us continuing to strengthen our relationships in 2024. We thank all our partners for this and look forward to the contributions of our students to society in their professional careers and as committed, active citizens.

## CRET hosts holiday programme



Over 60 students attended the CRET July 2023 Holiday Programme at a lodge in Dinokeng Reserve near Hammanskraal, Tshwane.

The bi-annual Holiday Programme is part of CRET's holistic model and exposes students to team-building activities, volunteering, networking, personal development seminars, soft skills activities and mental health discussions.

CRET's Executive Director, Chantelle Oosthuizen, said CRET's comprehensive and holistic approach to tertiary education support "helps ensure the successful completion of studies and the social and economic return on the support that students receive."

"The drop-out rate in tertiary study is high in South Africa and support needs to go beyond the financial aspect of paying for tuition but needs to cater for the overall well-being of students," she says.

Learn more about the holistic programme that CRET implements:

<https://www.cyrilramaphosafoundation.org/project/cret/>

## CRET checks in with its students



Cyril Ramaphosa Education Trust (CRET) staff recently undertook campus visits to hand out stationery to the students it supports and to do a wellness check to support and enable the students to focus on their studies.

"Campus visits are important as students are provided with a sense of family and connection," Hlulani Baloi, CRET's Programme Administrator, said.

"Many students experience loneliness and depression on campus as they try to navigate their way around. During our visit, students gather in one place, reconnect, eat together, and share useful tips depending on the challenges they face. The mentorship and buddy networks are also reinforced.

"The campus visits act as a reminder to students of the support system they have on campus through their CRET peers," Baloi said.

Cyril Ramaphosa Foundation implements holistic development models in education.

Learn more about the holistic programme that CRET implements:

<https://www.cyrilramaphosafoundation.org/project/cret/>

## Congratulations CRET graduates!



The Trust extends congratulations to the 24 CRET students who successfully graduated this year, and thanks all loyal sponsors and partners for walking this journey with us.

Follow our social media platforms for further updates on graduate internship opportunities:

Facebook: [Cyril Ramaphosa Education Trust](#)

Twitter: [@CRETBursary](#)

LinkedIn: [Cyril Ramaphosa Education Trust \(CRET\)](#)

## Student Spotlight: Flying high where the sky's the limit

Shaun Maunatlala matriculated in 2022 and wanted to pursue a career in aeronautics. However, despite his superb marks, he was not accepted into his preferred degree at the University of Witwatersrand. As with many young people, he was willing to accept the next best offering by the institution in a course with availability, architecture. Shaun did not want to be an architect, but was happy to accept the offer.

However, CRET was unable to offer Shaun a bursary in this field. Instead, we recommended an alternative route to reaching his dreams.

In September, just eight months after receiving his matric results - Shaun completed his theoretical training as an Aeronautical Engineering Apprenticeship at Mega Aero Training Academy (MATA) and began his 18 month fully paid apprenticeship at Safair on 4 September. He averaged 77% for his theoretical practice, and just 8 months after matriculating, is now earning a salary as he pursues the next leg of his qualification.

He is also one of the youngest CRET beneficiaries to pursue his driver's licence training, a pre-requisite for any student graduating from the CRET programme that CRET supports.

Shaun is an alumnus from the Cyril Ramaphosa Foundation's partner entity, Adopt-a-School's Moses Maren, and is proof that dreams can come true via many pathways.



## Make graduates more employable.

Chantelle Oosthuizen, Cyril Ramaphosa Education Trust (CRET) Executive Director, took part in a CTU Training Solutions webinar to discuss how learning institutions may help make their learners more employable.

"Perhaps graduates cannot find employment because their training is not sufficiently aligned to the multifaceted needs in the economy," she says. "When choosing a direction for their studies, students need to think about the future of work."

Read the report of the webinar here: <https://www.msn.com/en-za/news/other/five-traits-of-more-employable-learners/>

## Book Fair at Kingsmead College



CRET continues to encourage a culture of reading by hosting a few of its own bookworms at the annual Kingsmead book fair hosted by Kingsmead College in Melrose, Johannesburg.

“Youth literacy is a key challenge in our society, and we need to continuously stress the power of reading in fulfilling educational gaps”, says Sharlotte Mkansi, CRET’s Youth and Skills Development Administrator.

## CRET spends its 67-minutes at Tsakani Primary with Adopt-a-School Foundation

Adopt-a-School held its Back to School for Mandela Day initiative on 18 July at the Tsakani Primary School in Kagiso, Krugersdorp in Gauteng.

This year, Johannesburg students joined the Adopt-a-School’s Back to School for Mandela Day and spent their 67 minutes repairing school facilities, painting the Grade R play area and hopscotch lines, assembling Solar Buddy lights, and packing snacks for the learners.

This is in line with CRET’s commitment to developing socially committed young people through an ethos of volunteerism and “paying it forward”.



## Job shadowing at Bowmans Law Firm

In partnership with Bowmans Law firm, CRET hosted 17 Minerva High School Grade 12 learners at the Bowmans offices in Sandton for an information session, where they were treated to a day of interactions with legal professionals. Minerva High School is in Alexandra township, Johannesburg.

Job shadowing opportunities such as these assist in motivating learners and offering vital direction for future career pathways.



## The 2023 Cape Town SMME Summit

Western Cape based CRET students with an interest in entrepreneurship had the opportunity to attend the Bi-Annual Cape Town SMME Summit in June where motivational speaker and entrepreneur, Vusi Thembekwayo, was one of the speakers.

The summit touched on a variety of topics, including business management, marketing, financing, and government regulation.

CRET students found the summit insightful and gained valuable entrepreneurial knowledge.

## CRET brings Life After Matric Programme to KZN



The concept of Life After Matric, a project of CRET and a reminder of our vision to leave no youth behind, was unpacked to nearly 300 learners at a recent event at Inhlakanipho High School in KwaMashu, KwaZulu Natal.

CRET staff and alumni were joined by Grindrod employees and various other stakeholders and shared information on options that youth may be exposed to. Tertiary study was unpacked and options around diplomas, certificate course, short courses, colleges and various other options were shared.

The aim is to provide evidence that networks in today's world can help young people access the support they need. Social capital, employment opportunities, and connections with like-minded communities and individuals may help them develop their career and life pathways.

## Collaboration with Southern Labs Institute of Technology



Eleven Cyril Ramaphosa Education Trust (CRET) student beneficiaries recently registered for a Southern Labs Institute of Technology upskilling programme, where they took part in courses such as Applied Software Development and Low Code Mobile App Dev.

From the 11, five were selected, based on their excellent performances, to visit the Huawei HQ Exhibition Centre and Innovation Lab in Shenzhen, China.

Besides further network training, students were privileged to experience several local tours, including to Window of the World and the China Folk Culture Village.

CRET congratulates the students on their selection for this wonderful educational experience.

## Teaching students to be money savvy

Together with the National Credit Regulator (NCR), CRET hosted a financial management session to further equip students with knowledge on how to budget, save, invest, manage side hustles and their academics, and how to build a good credit score.

# CRET Alumni Advisory Board Fundraising Event



Cyril Ramaphosa Education Trust (CRET) Alumni Advisory Board hosted a 2023 Alumni Fundraising and Networking Cocktail Event.

The purpose of the evening was to celebrate the accomplishments of previous CRET bursary recipients, experience their development in the professional space and to encourage alumni to share their ethos of “paying it forward”. Donations by CRET Alumni have already supported the studies of three students.

Above all, it was an evening to remember.

## TAX DEDUCTIONS AND BBEE

Qualify for a tax deduction of up to 10% of your taxable income by donating to the Cyril Ramaphosa Education Trust before your financial year-end.

Do you know that the Skills Development Element of the BEE Codes of Good Practice allows for bursaries to count towards Skills Development points on your BBEE Scorecard? Your contribution will help cultivate people of excellence and integrity to lead in southern Africa.

Also, sponsorship of bursary students and skills development initiatives under CRET count towards Skills Development points on your BBEE Scorecard.

## HOW CAN YOU SUPPORT CRET TODAY?

- Make a once-off or regular donation on our direct payment platform and receive a Section 18 A certificate.  
<https://www.cyrilramaphosafoundation.org/donate/>
- Partner with us to earn BBBEE points and take ownership of moulding our future youth outcomes through skills support initiatives
- Host a work readiness/job shadowing day at your organisation
- Donate soft skills training opportunities to students
- Book an info session with students (banking, car ownership, selected brand ambassador opportunities)

Contact [coosthuizen@cyrilramaphosa.org](mailto:coosthuizen@cyrilramaphosa.org) for further information.

## **SHARE YOUR VIEWS WITH US!**

Share your views and updates with us at [info@cyrilramaphosa.org](mailto:info@cyrilramaphosa.org)



To donate as little as R50 in support of CRET, please scan the QR code and donate

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EDUCATION TRUST