



# Future Leaders with One Heart UPDATES

Issue #4

*Cyril Ramaphosa*  
EDUCATION TRUST 



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# CRET – 25 Years of Legacy – A lifetime of change



## 25 Years of Legacy – A Lifetime of Change Empowering Futures, Transforming Lives

"Education is the most powerful weapon which you can use to change the world." – Nelson Mandela

This year, the Cyril Ramaphosa Education Trust (CRET) proudly celebrates 25 years of transforming lives through education and skills development. What started as a simple yet profound gesture, Cyril Ramaphosa using earnings from his public speaking engagements to fund university bursaries, has grown into a movement that continues to empower South Africa's youth.

From its humble beginnings in 1996, when the first group of deserving students received financial assistance, to the official establishment of CRET in 2000, this initiative has become a beacon of hope. Over the years, we have witnessed the extraordinary impact of education, one student at a time, one success story at a time. Today, we stand with a remarkable legacy: a growing hall of fame filled with graduates who have realised their dreams and become highly skilled professionals, thanks to CRET's unwavering support.

In 2004, CRET found a new home under the Cyril Ramaphosa Foundation (formerly the Shanduka Foundation), a partnership that allowed the programme to scale to new heights. What began as an initiative supporting just five students in business degrees has flourished into a robust programme supporting 83 students across diverse fields of study. This growth is a testament to the dedication of our partners, donors, and stakeholders, each playing a vital role in shaping a brighter future for young South Africans.

What sets CRET apart is our holistic approach. Unlike traditional bursary programmes that focus solely on academic excellence, we recognise potential in students who may otherwise be overlooked. We believe that with the right environment, mentorship, and financial support, students can flourish and unlock their full potential. CRET goes beyond tuition fees; we provide tailored support that encompasses accommodation, books, stationery, and even personal well-being, because success is built on more than just education, it is about nurturing the whole individual.

As we celebrate this milestone, we extend our deepest gratitude to our valued partners, the Cyril Ramaphosa Foundation and its partner entities, Adopt-a-School Foundation, Thari Programme, KST, and Black Umbrellas, for their ongoing collaboration and commitment. To our alumni and current students, you are living proof of the power of opportunity. Your success stories inspire us, and we urge you to continue paying it forward in your communities.

Looking ahead, CRET remains steadfast in its mission to break barriers and create opportunities for young South Africans. The past 25 years have laid a strong foundation, but the journey is far from over. With continued support, we can shape the next generation of leaders, innovators, and changemakers, one student at a time.

Here's to 25 years of impact, and a future filled with infinite possibilities!

# Lilitha Legacy Celebration Shines Light on Women's Empowerment and Youth Development



On 11 April 2025, the Cyril Ramaphosa Education Trust (CRET) hosted the Lilitha Trust Stakeholder Appreciation Breakfast, a heartfelt tribute to the donors, partners, and champions who have supported the education and empowerment of young South African women.

Since 2009, the Lilitha Trust, born from a Shanduka Group initiative led by President Cyril Ramaphosa, has invested over R12 million in bursaries for 29 women, offering not just financial aid but holistic support to help them succeed in life and work.

Held during CRET's 25-year anniversary celebrations, the event united corporate leaders, education advocates, and alumni under the theme "Empowered Women, Empowering Women." Inspiring testimonies and video reflections highlighted the transformative power of education, mentorship, and community.

Keynote speaker Dr. Siphokazi Koyana spoke of education's ripple effect and the need to continue championing Black women's advancement. The presence of longstanding social justice leaders like Dr. Joyce Seroke and Ambassador Thenjiwe Mtintso affirmed the Trust's intergenerational impact.

Guests received potted plants, symbols of growth and care, echoing the message from CRET Executive Director Chantelle Oosthuizen: "The next girl is out there, waiting for someone to believe in her."

As the Lilitha Trust concludes its formal operations, CRET invites continued support through donations, partnerships, and network connections to grow this legacy.

## CRET Induction Programme: Empowering Future Leaders

The Cyril Ramaphosa Education Trust (CRET) hosted its annual Induction Programme, welcoming new students and equipping existing beneficiaries for the year ahead.

This four-day programme featured insightful sessions on CRET policies, success-sharing, mental wellness, and team-building activities. Students also engaged in cultural immersion experiences and acts of kindness, fostering empathy and social responsibility.

By promoting networking, mentorship, and personal growth, this initiative prepares students for academic and professional challenges. A heartfelt thank you to all participants who made this event a success!



## CRET Engages Youth at the Working World Expo

The Cyril Ramaphosa Education Trust (CRET) participated in the Working World Expo in Nelson Mandela Bay, Gqeberha, from 18–20 February, engaging with learners on career guidance and skills development.

As South Africa's largest career guidance exhibition, the Working World Expo serves as a crucial platform connecting learners, parents, and key stakeholders with opportunities for post-matric education and employment. This interactive event provides valuable insights into career paths, skills training, and industry expectations, empowering young people to make informed decisions about their futures.

Through its involvement, CRET reaffirms its commitment to equipping youth with the tools and knowledge needed for career success, ensuring they are prepared to navigate academic and professional landscapes with confidence.



## Sharlotte Mkansi's on Kingfisher FM



"This is where I was empowered, this is where I was given the opportunity to change my own life."

During the Working World Exhibition in Nelson Mandela Bay, Gqeberha, CRET's Youth and Skills Development Administrator, Sharlotte Mkansi, shared her insights on Kingfisher FM, reflecting on how education and holistic support shaped her journey. As CRET celebrates 25 years of youth empowerment through education and vocational learning, its impact continues to grow, fostering a new generation of skilled and confident individuals.

Listen to Sharlotte's interview here: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=dB0f5uLtH6w&t=3s>