



TRAC and Penreach boost literacy

There can be no greater gift to a child than the gift of reading and comprehension. To this end, and in fulfilment of our CSI strategy, TRAC partnered with Penreach in 2015 to bring the non-government organisation's Asifundze Literacy Programmes and Reading Camps to the Nkomazi region.

As an organisation, Penreach focuses on education from early childhood to Matric for learners, teachers, and school management alike. Being a self-funded entity it relies on social investment partnerships to reach beneficiaries. Since its early days Penreach has achieved remarkable results and is not only viewed as a catalyst for improving the quality of education, its approach and ideology has earned national acclaim as a model for educational excellence.

Since its inception, the Penreach Asifundze Literacy Programme and Reading Camps have been a huge success. By 2016 they had achieved significant results in 35 primary schools across four circuits in the Ehlanzeni District due to the programme's multi-faceted approach, which is based on four levels of intervention namely individual learner, school, community, and district.

The programme is aimed at the foundation phase and involves the following:

- Weekly in-class coaching to teachers;
- Book Banks at schools and in communities;
- The establishment of Community Reading Camps which are there to encourage and support reading. They also serve to keep children off the streets after school.

Having full confidence in the initiative, TRAC kicked off the project with Penreach at Kaapmuiden Primary School. The project was so successful that the following year it was extended to two schools in Matsulu, namely Sukumani and Funindlela Primary School. Today the partnership continues to prosper, focusing on foundation phase learners, providing weekly in-class coaching for teachers, book banks at schools and community centres and five community reading camps in Matsulu.

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