

2. PRESIDENTIAL REPORT



It is my privilege to present this 74th Annual Report of Blind SA. I have served the organization as the President for 16 years and it is time to hand the baton to Ntshavheni Netshituni who is President-elect and will take over the reins at our 74th General Assembly.

The Advocacy and Information, Braille, Education and ECD, Employment, Legal and Constitutions, Youth committee, and FHR Committees also held their meetings, and highlights are recorded in this Annual Report.

Meetings

The EXCO held monthly skype meetings, zoom and physical meetings on:

12 April 2019, 14 May 2019, 25 June 2019, 27 July 2019, 10 September 2019, 15 October 2019, 12 November 2019, 5 December 2019, 11 February 2020, 14 March 2020

Blind SA hosted the 73rd General Assembly which was held at the Sierra Square Hotel, in Johannesburg on 24-26 October 2019. Eleven voting Member Organisations and attending as observers were ten Member Organisations and the five Vice-Chairpersons of the Standing Committees.

The Executive Committee approved the reports from the Advocacy and Information Committee; Braille Committee; Education and ECD Committee; Employment Committee; Finance and Human Resource Committee; Legal and Constitutions Committee; and Ad Hoc Committees. The Youth Committee was confirmed on 26 March 2019 and inaugurated on 13 April 2019

Member Organisations

Capacity Building Workshops were held as follows: -

Mpumalanga on 18 July 2019

Gauteng on 17 August 2019

Limpopo on 5 September 2019

Western Cape on 8 October 2019

General Assembly on 24 and 26 October 2019

The KZN Workshop was held on 24-25 January 2020

Financial Training Workshops were scheduled for non-compliant Member Organisations beginning from January 2020.

Support for Member Organisations

Member Organisations were allocated a grant of R500 to assist them to operate a bank account. Braille paper was given to the Khuthala Association for the Blind.

New Member Organisations

Lethabo Centre for the Blind in Fochville
Empowerment Centre for the Blind in Hammanskraal
Eastern Cape Hope of the Blind in Eastern Cape
Changing Life Visually Impaired and disability in Daveyton

Projects and Campaigns

Blind SA has initiated several projects which are listed below:
Educate Me Campaign
Copyright Campaign
Banking Accessibility Campaign
North West University South African Library for the Blind Minilabs Project
Givaudan Flavors and Fragrance Project
Transport Month and International White Cane Day Awareness Project
World Read Aloud Day Project
Second Chance Matric Programme Project
Blind SA Bookshare Library Project

Conclusion

I take this opportunity to acknowledge my appreciation to all members of the EXCO, members of governance, management, staff, volunteers, and our donors.

Ms. Cathy Donaldson

President

3. MESSAGE FROM THE CEO



The year under review was very eventful as Blind SA was able to increase its visibility in the media and on social media, which was one of the resolutions adopted at the 72nd General Assembly. One of the activities was the campaign undertaken by Meropa Communication which reached over seven hundred and fifty thousand people through our Facebook promotions and over a million viewers on the various DSTV channels and at the SterKinekor cinemas throughout the country. The advocacy, lobbying, and self-representation campaign also ensured greater recognition for the organisation by various Government Departments and Entities as well as by the corporate sector and other stakeholders in the NGO sector.

There was an increase in our services with braille training to educators for the Department of Education in Free State, Eastern Cape, North West, Northern Cape, Mpumalanga, and KZN; the Orientation and Mobility training in Gauteng for the ETDP SETA; and an increased number of unemployed blind and partially sighted people onto our Placement database added to an increase in the number of beneficiaries assisted.

The NSF Project saw the Braille Grade 1 training in all Provinces being completed together with the O&M training in Limpopo and Free State finalised. The Start and Improve Your Business (SIYB) training of the first phase being completed and the fourteen trainers undertaking experiential learning and assessments to be finalised in the new financial year.

Braille Services also achieved a record production level since 2014. The three-year contract from GCIS to produce the Vuk'uzenzele magazine and the production of fifty-seven CAPS textbooks for the Department of Basic Education added to a favorable production of accessible publications.

In order to ensure financial sustainability, the organisation had to rationalise our human resources and seven staff opted to take the voluntary severance package in July 2019. The stringent financial management and intensive fundraising resulted in Blind SA earning a small net revenue for the financial year.

The reports that follow highlights the comprehensive services provided and the large number of beneficiaries that were reached.

Jace Nair

Blind SA CEO

3. REPORT ON THE FINANCE AND HUMAN RESOURCES COMMITTEE



Mr Derick Greeff
Finance and Human Resource Committee (FHR) Chairperson/Treasurer

Committee Members

The FHR Committee was elected by the Executive Committee on 27 October 2018.

Members are:

(Chairperson) Mr Derick Greeff

Ms Cathy Donaldson

Mr Ntshavheni Netshituni

Mr Christo de Klerk

Mr Jace Nair

Ms Ria Vermaak resigned July 2019

Mr Godwin Ndimera appointed July 2019

Committee Meetings held.

Three committee meetings were held on 26 July, 27 November 2019 and 15 March 2020.

They were all physical meetings.

Committee activities:

During the year members attended to the monthly and quarterly statements and important matters were communicated to the Executive Committee.

The items below were amongst the more important items discussed and dealt with:

Approval of the Annual Budget 2019 on 15 March 2019.

Approval of the Audited Financial Statements 2019 on 26 July 2019.

Review and adjustment of the insurance on 26 July 2019.

Review and adjustment of the Embrio Direct Mail Project on 26 July 2019.

Review and adjustment of the Half Year Review on 27 November 2019.

Approval of the Budget 2020 on 13 March 2020.

HUMAN RESOURCES

Voluntary Severance Package (VSP): A review of the organization's financial sustainability was undertaken and negotiations were held with CEPPWAWU and staff during April until July 2019. Seven staff opted for VSP and their services were terminated by 31 July 2019.

This action resulted in a saving of R1 M thereby improving the financial position of the organization. Finance Department restructuring: The organization restructured the Finance Department and appointed a Senior Bookkeeper and a Bookkeeper from the middle of the year.

Salary and other employee benefits: The annual salary increment of 5% was implemented with effect from 1 July 2019. A salary grading system using the peromnes was adopted on 13 March 2020 and staff whose salary that was below the medium had their salary adjusted with effect from 1 April 2020. Performance bonus were paid out in June 2019 and a 50% bonus was paid to all staff in December 2019.

Mr Derick Greeff (Treasurer)

4. GOVERNANCE



Advocacy and Information Committee *Chairperson Mr Andre Vosloo*

Members

Chairperson: Mr Andre Vosloo

Vice Chairperson: Mr Raymond Mabuza

Secretary: Ms Susan Webber

Members: Mr Lekhatla Likhoka, Christo De Klerk and Tommie Lehmkuhl

The idea of the portfolio system is to ensure that all members of the committee have responsibilities and thereby ensuring that the work load gets spread equally. The following portfolios are currently in operation:

Portfolio Leaders

Access to Government Services, Policy and Legislation: Ntshavheni Netshituni

Access to information/ICT: Mr Christo de Klerk

Social media and publications: Mr Andre Vosloo

Access to the built environment and Public Transport: Tommie Lehmkuhl

Women/GBV: Ms Cathy Donaldson

Consumer Matters: Ms Susan Webber and Lekhatla Likhoka is portfolio member

Preamble

The period under review has been a very busy time for the AIC. The work load of this committee is increasing, showing what an important role advocacy and information plays in the lives of visually impaired people. In this report I will try to highlight some of the activities and also suggest some plans for the way forward.

Committee Meetings

The AIC had a physical meeting on the 18th of July 2019 at Blind SA Head Office. The meeting was attended by all members. A meeting that was to take place during May 2020 had to be cancelled due to Covid19 lockdown restrictions. The work of the committee however continued making use of electronic and other communication methods.

External meetings/workshops/conferences

As stated, the committee has been very busy with various activities which will be listed below. Meetings were attended by most portfolio leaders and portfolio members. Input to government and other stakeholders were also submitted timeously. Several members and the CEO were interviewed on various national and local radio stations, as well as on TV and by newspapers and other media.

Committee activities

NPE 2019:

this was a very busy time for Blind SA. The AIC had meetings with the IEC, conducted interviews on radio and TV and conducted voter education sessions. A brochure was compiled by Christo De Klerk explaining the rights of the visually impaired voter. This brochure and other materials were published widely in magazines as well as on social and other media. I would like to thank all members and staff who assisted during this period and acted as observers on Election Day. Unfortunately, all did not go as planned, however that was by no means due to a lack of planning on the side of Blind SA. It just goes to show how much work we as visually impaired voters still have to do ensuring our constitutional right to have a private and confidential vote.

COPYRIGHT AMENDMENT BILL:

The AIC lobbied with CAPEAD for the President to sign the proposed changes to the CAB into law, thereby ending to book famine for visually impaired people. At the date of writing this report, Blind SA approached the constitutional court to get the President to do his duty as stated by the Constitution.

EDUCATIONAL MATTERS:

The AIC assists the Education and ECD committee as well as the other standing committees with matters pertaining to the education of visually impaired people. We are involved with matters concerning the Rivoni School and together with the resolutions task team.

COVID19:

Who would have thought that we would wake up one morning and everything will be changed forever? The AIC sees to it that information about Covid19 is circulated to all visually impaired people in accessible formats. We are also looking at ways to carry on with our work and assisting blind people using technology such as Zoom and other programs. Here it is very important to see that all blind people are empowered and able to access technology in order for them not to be left behind. More liaison will have to be conducted with member organisations in this regard.

Closing remarks

I would like to congratulate all the new member organisations of Blind SA with all the advocacy and empowerment work you are doing. Some of you are overcoming very difficult circumstances, but you do not let that get you down. The work you are doing is strengthening Blind SA on ground level and is showing the world out there what we are capable of achieving.

Secondly, I would like to thank all my colleagues on Exco for your support. As stated before, the AIC is extremely busy and your help and support makes my life a lot easier.

Lastly, to the CEO Jace Nair for his advice and guidance. It is very nice to work with you and the work you are doing for Blind SA is very commendable and heart-warming.

Mr Andre Vosloo

Advocacy and information Chairperson

CAPEAD COMMITTEE



CAPEAD Committee
Chairperson Mr Christo de Klerk

Committee members:

Chairperson: Mr Christo de Klerk
Vice Chairperson: Mr Eric Gama
Secretary: Ms Heaven Botma
New member: Mr December Nkosi

Ex Officio

President: Ms Cathy Donaldson
Vice President: Mr Ntshavheni Netshituni

Preamble.

The report covers the period 1 April 2019 to 31 March 2020. The General Assembly in October adopted the constitutional amendment making the new name of the committee official.

Committee Meetings

The committee did not have a physical meeting during the year under review. Its business was handled via e-mail.

External meetings/workshops/conferences

Detailed reports were submitted for each of the below workshops/conferences attended:

Copyright indaba was held on 2 December 2019 where the chairperson of CAPEAD committee shared a presentation about the copyright situation, the need for the Copyright Amendment Bill to be signed into law to pave the way for the Marrakesh Treaty to be acceded to by government.

On the 24 February 2020, CAPEAD chairperson joined the picketing/protesting for the CAB to be signed by the President and Marrakesh Treaty to be ratified by SA.

In March the CEO Mr Jace Nair and chairperson of CAPEAD committee attended a meeting with the US Trade Representative about the US government's threat to withdraw trade benefits to South Africa, should President Ramaphosa sign the CAB into law.

On 7 August 2019 attended a workshop on decolonising copyright.

On 2 August 2019 attended a workshop on the CAB arranged by the firm of attorneys, Adams and Adams, who oppose the signing of the CAB.

Towards the end of July 2019 attended a workshop with the Examinations Council of Lesotho concerning braille related matters in respect of examinations.

On 18 July 2019 attended a copyright workshop in Randburg arranged by SACIA.

On 19 June 2019 attended the South African Cultural Observatory capacity building workshop at Constitution Hill.

On 15 April 2019 attended a meeting about the CAB with the Ministers of Trade and Industry and Arts and Culture held in Pretoria.

Worked with The CEO, Jace Nair, Susan Bam, Chairperson of Education and ECD and Denise Frost, Admin Assistant on writing a library manual for the Northwest University and province commissioned by the SA Library for the Blind in Makhanda where it was my task to contribute in respect of assistive equipment. During the writing of the manual we attended workshops in Northwest with librarians and blind users in September 2019 and a workshop at the SALB in November 2019.

In August 2019 underwent accredited braille grade 1 training.

In October 2019 presented braille grade 1 training in Nelspruit and in February presented braille grade 1 and grade 2 training in Durban.

In March 2020 participated an Assessor's course together with Michelle Louw and Lina Ndlovu from Braille Services, Palesa Maleka from Skills Division and Deena Moodley from Unisa, to be trained to become an accredited Assessor in future training courses.

On 16-17 May 2019 attended the SABA General Assembly and on 18 May its Exco meeting in Worcester in my capacity of Exco member of SABA. Other committee members also attended in their different capacities.

Committee activities

I have been involved with Blind SA's negotiations with Benetech in the US to set up a Bookshare facility for Blind SA. We have had several communications via telecoms and the process is ongoing. This is an extremely exciting project we are embarking on.

The Daisy project is to the extent that all magazines are produced in Daisy format, but not much else currently. This will change once Bookshare is in place, as it will provide an excellent repository for the Daisy material we produce.

Braille Services got the tender to produce braille ballot templates and documentation for the 2019 elections and committee members acted as observers at polling stations.

Tatrapoint braille's: This project is progressing well and the machines are proving to be rugged and reliable.

BrailleMe braille display: The import and distribution of BrailleMe devices from 'Innovision' in India is going well. A few devices had issues with dots not popping up or getting stuck. It is believed that these teething problems have been resolved. Those who now own units in good order, are extremely happy with them. I still administer an e-mail list for discussions and support in respect of the BrailleMe. I tested several batches of new Braille-ME's. An

extremely worrying aspect that needs attention, is the fact that despite many promises and undertakings from 'Innovision' the next upgrade which was promised to include many improvements has not yet seen the light after many months. Since the 2019.3 upgrade to NVDA the BrailleMe no longer works with the latest versions of NVDA and the promised compatibility update from 'Innovision' is still not forthcoming, despite them having been aware of the NVDA update well in advance.

Blind SA was approached by the mother and publisher of a 12-year-young author, Stacy Fru to produce her two latest books in braille and Daisy. The launch of the book in print and accessible formats took place simultaneously and it was my privilege to attend the launch together with Jace, Faniyas and the visiting Prof. Gunther.

World Read Aloud Day: Blind SA partnered with Nalibhali and SABA on 21 February (Mother Tongue Day) to promote a culture of reading at schools for the blind. Exco members and members of the Education and Early Childhood Development Committee and this committee were requested to participate in the project and, where possible, to be present at schools in their areas. It was a great success again with 17 schools for the blind and one mainstream school with blind learners participating. Stacy attended at the mainstream school where she read one of her stories.

It is with huge relief that I can report that at long last we received orders for braille textbooks from the DBE and several provincial departments of education in the amount of over R3 million. Apart from this being very good news for Braille Services, more importantly, blind learners will eventually after many years of unnecessary waiting have braille textbooks.

Braille Services succeeded in winning back the tender for the production in braille of the government magazine, Vuk'uzenzele. This secures significant funding for the 3 years of the tender. Braille Services was also successful in obtaining two additional beneficial contracts: one for the braille of Pick 'n Pay's magazine and one for the creation of a number of books in electronic braille for the SALB.

Together with Philip and Rudolph of Braille Services and Jace we visited two businesses dealing with 3D printing to look at the possibilities it might offer us. We will monitor the development of this technology, as it has great potential.

Due to what Blind SA considered to be the unreasonable delay of President Ramaphosa to sign the CAB, Blind SA decided to institute litigation in the Constitutional Court to force the President's hand. I was involved in that process doing much lobbying through media interviews, social media postings and the like as well as in teleconferences with our legal team. The Braille Instructor presented various braille training sessions to teachers of schools for the blind.

Matters that requires attention of the Executive Committee

As indicated above, 'Innovision' delay of software updating rendering the BrailleMe incompatible with new versions of NVDA is a major cause of concern which will have an extremely negative impact on product sales and might even cause the demise of the BrailleMe. This needs to be followed up seriously and urgently with 'Innovision'.

Closing remarks

In conclusion I wish to thank my committee members and the Braille Services staff for their ready support and their commitment in the cause of braille. It is gratifying to report on such a significant improvement in the position of Braille Services. But then came Corona.

Mr Christo de Klerk
CAPEAD Committee Chairperson

EDUCATION AND EARLY CHILDHOOD DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE



*Education and ECD committee
Chairperson Mrs Susan Bam*

Committee Members:

Chairperson: Mrs Susan Bam

Vice-Chairperson: Mr Eric Gama

Secretary: Ms Heaven Botma

Member: Mrs Mpini Letlhage

Member: Ms December Nkosi

Co-opted Member: Mr Christo de Klerk

Ex Officio

President: Ms Cathy Donaldson

Vice President: Mr Ntshavheni Netshituni

Preamble.

The report covers the period 1 April 2019 to 31 March 2020. The General Assembly in October adopted the constitutional amendment making the new name of the committee official

Committee Meetings

During this time two skype meetings were held by the committee on 28 August, 2019 and the 29th of January, 2020.

External meetings/workshops/conferences

SABA Annual General Meeting was held in Worcester, on 16 and 17 May, 2019. SABA and the Council will work together to put up a Braille museum and it will be called the Josie Wood Museum.

The President Cathy Donaldson, Johnson Mdluli and Susan Bam visited the ECD School in Orange Farm and the school on the 4th of July 2019. The meeting was attended by principals of ECD Schools Lerato Duma and Pricilla Rapoo. They wanted to take in ECD Learners with different disabilities. We visited them again on the 22nd of August. Principals of different ECD Centres were present. We brought them in contact with High Hopes and Nerina Nell to help and advice with training.

Kids Campus: a private school in Bloemfontein. We visited in August, 2019. This school has a class of 13 learners with special needs. We donated a Brailleur to the school

In August we visited Tshimologo Centre in Thaba Nchu, circumstances have improved at the centre. We donated books in Braille and on audio books.

11 September 2019 Givaudan Workshop held a workshop on how to develop fragrances with learners of Sibonile school for the Blind. Another meeting was held on 16 October, 2019 to discuss the future workshops with other schools.

A meeting was held with Prinshof school for the blind on the 31st of October, 2019. To discuss what work opportunities are there for visually impaired learners in Givaudan. And On 20 February 2020 Givaudan held a workshop on how to develop fragrances for learners of Prinshof school for the Blind.

Givaudan Foundation donated 13 laptops to Blind SA.

Givaudan Foundation donated R460 000 to Blind SA to use for mattresses and linen for Rivoni School hostels.

12 September, 2019 to discuss the resolutions of Inclusion Conference held in 2017.

26 February, 2020, to further discuss the resolutions and to present a progress report of the resolutions.

15th of November A meeting with Section 27, to discuss challenges faced by Rivoni School and Prinshof School

26 November 2019, The department of Higher Education held a workshop. A presentation was done on visually impairment on challenges of different disabilities.

29 November 2019 we attended a conference on economic and social problems of learners with disabilities.

29 January 2020 meeting with Holy Family College in park Town to discussion project of inclusion. School has 5 visually impaired learners.

3 February 2020 a press conference was held about the memorandum to the DBE at the Head Office of Blind SA.

4 February 2020 a memorandum was handed over to the Director on Inclusion of the DBE, Mr. Jabulani Ngcobo. In the memorandum contained information on concerns of ECD programs and schools for visually impaired learners, Braille textbooks and the safety of our special schools.

12 February 2020 we visited the Assumption Convent Primary School in Pretoria North. The purpose of the meeting was to assist a Grade learner who is losing her sight.

21st of February 2020 was World Read aloud Day. 17 special schools took part and also Holy Family College.

25th of February 2020, we attended the NCPD Offices in Edenvale. RAF handed assistive devices to Tiyani Mbenzani from Rivoni School who was the best matric learner for the year 2019. He received a laptop, Bluetooth earphones, a modem and a few flash drives. He obtained 5 distinctions. He is studying Law at UJ.

Committee activities.

Leamer Assistance

Adult Learners

Nombumulelo Khoza needed advice on adult centres

Lasarus Maroga, adult learner wanted to re-write some of his G12 subjects

Lucas Siyabulela, needed advice on bursaries.

Megan, UNISA student, needed advice for learners who wanted to write G12.

Mamahlubandile Mgidlane needed advice on Adult Centres.

Leamers school going age:

Moses Ndhlovu father of a boy of 11 from Lusaka Zambia looking for a school for his son.

Andiswe, G5 wants to stay in Assumption Convent School in Pretoria North.

Gloda, friend of mother of Witrivier needed advice on schools and assistive devices for daughter of friend. Learner in G11.

Coleen Mngomezulu, Bafana's mom needed advice with schools.

Lebo Pheloane, Palesa' mom needed advice about schools.

Andiswe Mdakane' mom, from Newcastle, needed advice about schools.

Ofentse Molefe from Sibonile school for the Blind, his home circumstances are not good. A social workers want to try and rehabilitate the mom.

Pre-School Learners

Mbali Nkosi's mom was brought into contact with Prinshof school for the blind for a home program by Cathy.

Mom of Hlompho Radebe, 5 years, needed transport to Prinshof school for the blind.

Mom, of Nkosi Gya needed transport to Holy Family College in Park Town

Mom Sonto of Kuhle Mnguni, from Soweto needed O and M training and pre-school centre.

Other Matters

Ishmael Nelufule, needed advice where to get experience of teaching Maths and Science to visually impaired learners.

Our Parents Network Letter is still playing a major role in giving advice and information about visually impaired children. We thank Retha Stassen for the hard work she is putting in to make this letter a success.

Resolutions/Recommendations adopted by the Committee.

Eric Gama and Sabelo Hlophe are responsible for Adult Learners.

Mpini Letlhage and Susan Bam are responsible for School Going Learners.

Cathy and Bawinile Mdunyelwa are responsible for ECD.

Christo De Klerk and Ntshavheni Netshituni are responsible for documents and advocacy.

December Nkosi will see to the lending of manuals to learn Braille and lending of assistive devices.

Second Chance matric, the Committee decided the following:

That the learners be encouraged to place pressure on the Department of Education to provide the study material in the format they prefer.

That Blind SA should monitor the centres to see if they are working. If not, that Blind SA would place pressure on the Department to provide study material.

That learners who register for the programme should keep in touch with Blind SA to monitoring of the programme.

That a blind legal team being put together to get more interest in the Prinshof case.

the support group of Katlehong did not give any information about the parents of learners who are not going to school. It was decided

That if there were people who Blind SA could assist; assistance should be provided.

That it should be suggested to the member organisations that if they know of blind learners in need of schooling, they should put those parents in contact with the Department of Education in their area and copy the Education Committee in those messages.

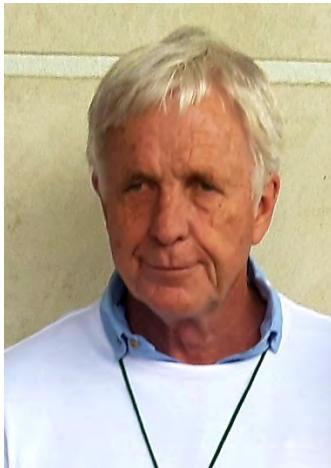
Closing remarks

I want to thank my Committee, the EXCO, the CEO and his staff and Braille Printers for always trying to help and give advice. I am blessed to have people like you around me.

Susan Bam

Education and Early Childhood Development Committee Chairperson

ECONOMIC EMPOWERMENT COMMITTEE



*Economic empowerment committee
Chairperson Mr Tommie Lehmkuhl*

Members

Chairperson: Mr Tommie Lehmkuhl
Vice chairperson: Ms Mpini Letlhage
Secretary: Abraham Allies
Member: Mr December Nkosi
Member: Mr Lekhatla Likhoka
Member: Ms Susan Webber

Ex Officio

President: Ms Cathy Donaldson
Vice President: Mr Ntshavheni Netshituni

Portfolio Leaders

Learnerships: December Nkosi
Skills training: Mpini Letlhage
Start and Improve Your Business (SIYB) and cooperatives: Tommie Lehmkuhl
Employment: Public and Private Sector: Abraham Allies
Sheltered and Protected Workshops: Lekgatla Likhoka
Employment Awareness, Advocacy and reasonable accommodation: Cathy Donaldson

Preamble

It is indeed a pleasure to submit the report of the Employment committee for the above-mentioned period.

Committee Meetings

A physical meeting of the committee was held on 28 September 2019 and a Skype meeting on 3 March 2020.

External meetings/workshops/conferences members participated.

TOPIC	ORGANISER	DATE / VENUE	REPRESENTATIVES	MATTERS
Meeting with Department Transport	T Lehmkuhl and Ms A Gibberd	23 March 2019	T Lehmkuhl	Discussion regarding Public transport in Tshwane
Meeting with Department Transport	T Lehmkuhl and Ms A Gibberd	30 April 2019	T Lehmkuhl and J Nair	Discussion regarding public transport in the metropolitan municipalities in Gauteng
Meeting with OSDP	T Lehmkuhl and Ms A Gibberd	15 May 2019	T Lehmkuhl and J Nair and various staff members	Discussion regarding awareness raising with metropolitan councils in Gauteng
A Re Yeng experience day with Blind SA	Blind SA, Tshwane council	12 July 2019	T Lehmkuhl, J Nair, Cathy Donaldson and various staff members	Awareness raising day regarding the visually disabled community and public transport
Visit with sheltered workshop: clothing manufacturing	Blind SA	13 November 2019	T Lehmkuhl, Jace Nair, Busi Monyamane, Susan van Wyk, Parishna Ramluckan'	Investigation regarding representation of visually disabled in sheltered workshops
Employment indaba Right to Employment of Persons with Disabilities in Higher Education	UNISA	21 November 2019	T Lehmkuhl	Employability of people with disabilities in higher education institutions
Stakeholder consultative dialogue on a social compact for social cohesion	Department of Arts and Culture	9 December 2019	T Lehmkuhl	Discussion iro the inclusion of people with disability in a social compact
EPWP QOLLOQUIUM	Department of Public Works	23-24 JANUARY 2020	T Lehmkuhl and Ms I Mashele	Addressing the inclusion of Women, youth and People with disability in the EPWP programmes of Government
National social compact convention	Department of Arts and Culture	06-07 FEBRUARY 2020	C Donaldson, N Netshituni, T Lehmkuhl	The inclusion of people with disability in a social compact
Quarterly Gauteng Disability Forum	Gauteng Disability Rights Directorate	18 February 2020	P Ramluckan'	Gauteng government's disability policy
Gauteng disability Summit	Gauteng Disability Rights Directorate	26-27 February 2020	P Ramluckan	Education and Economic Empowerment of people with disability
National Disability Forum meeting	Airports Company of South Africa	28 February 2020	T Lehmkuhl	Resolution of challenges that people with disabilities experience when travelling

Committee activities

Database of job seekers

The database stands at 530 job seekers.

Private and Public Sector placements

The unemployment rate among persons with disabilities in general, and visual disabilities in particular, in the formal sector is reaching disastrous proportions. It is estimated that the unemployment rate among people with disabilities is 97%, only three out of every Hundred disabled people are therefore employed in the formal sector. Annually a large number of blind and partially sighted learners graduate from schools and tertiary institutions with no hope of finding employment.

The report on the provision of reasonable accommodation and assistive devices for employees with disabilities in the public service issued by the Department of Public Service and Administration (DPSA) reflecting the position on 31 March 2019 reveals extremely concerning figures. Out of a total workforce of 1,375,952 employees only 12,375, or 0.90 percent, were disabled. This position was attained After more than two decades of striving for a two percent representation in the Public Service workforce.

Enquiries and anecdotal evidence among municipalities, the private sector and the Expanded Public Works Programme (EPWP) give no reason to believe that the position in these sectors would be any more promising.

This position provides clear evidence that the Government and Public Service do not take section 9 of the South African Constitution regarding discrimination towards people with disabilities seriously.

The committee's portfolio on public and private sector placements has suggested strategies in an effort to mitigate the negative consequences of the situation as set out above:

To advise blind and partially sighted employment seekers of the different options available to register their CV's for possible placement in the Public Service, including placement services at Blind SA, the Department of Labour - nationally and provincially, Youth Employment Services (YES) the EPWP and offices of the Premiers in the 9 provinces.

To empower blind and partially sighted employment seekers to self-advocate regarding their rights in the workplace, including the right to reasonable accommodation. Placement services at Blind SA will be able to supply various tools and interventions in this regard.

Blind SA should use and create opportunities to lobby Government as a whole, individual Government Departments, local government and relevant bodies in the private sector to remove all discriminatory processes and to ensure that people with disabilities are able to play their rightful role in the workplace.

Entrepreneurial training

As a result of the high unemployment rate in the country and the lack of visually disabled candidates finding employment in the formal employment sector Blind SA has decided to venture into the entrepreneurship field with the aim of empowering job seekers to start small businesses and become economically self-sufficient. To this end a grant was received from the National Skills Fund to obtain training in this regard.

The Start and Improve your own business (SIYB) train the trainer workshop was Conducted at the Val Verde Lodge in Johannesburg from 20 July to 2 August 2019 with 14 delegates. The aim of this training was to empower members of Blind SA to gain

accreditation as trainers with the International Labour Organisation (ILO) and to train prospective entrepreneurs to enable them to start their own businesses. The accreditation process is facilitated by a master trainer of the ILO and it is expected that the process will be completed by 30 March 2020.

As part of the accreditation requirements, prospective trainers had to present one of the three SIYB courses to trainees. The three courses are, Generate Your Business idea (GYB), Start Your Business (SYB) and Improve Your Business (IYB). The master trainer would observe the training and give feedback thereon.

Five Trainers have completed training courses involving 9 trainees and have been observed and assessed by the master trainer. Four prospective trainers have completed training sessions involving 27 trainees which have not yet been observed and assessed by the master trainer.

The observations and assessments by the master trainer was scheduled to be done by 30 March 2020, but due to the Covid19 pandemic and the resultant state of disaster and lockdown this process could not be completed.

Two trainer has met all the accreditation requirements of the ILO and is awaiting the finalisation of the accreditation process.

Employment in sheltered workshops

A visit to a sheltered workshop under the auspices of the Department of Labour revealed that possibly one person of the ninety-five working in the workshop might be visually disabled. This confirms earlier enquiries that revealed that seemingly blind and partially sighted persons are not employed in sheltered workshops run by Government. This is extremely concerning and an urgent commitment on this committee to investigate further and to intervene.

Placements

Many positions were identified and CV's submitted. Four candidates were placed permanently.

Full-time placement officer

The placement officer has conducted various awareness raising and sensitization sessions. Companies were assisted with reasonable accommodation measures in respect of their visually disabled employees.

Name change of the committee

As a result of the challenges highlighted above regarding employment in the formal sector and the committee's change of focus to become more involved with small business creation the General Assembly decided to change the name of the committee to the Economic Empowerment Committee.

Mr Tommie Lehmkuhl
Economic empowerment Chairperson

Youth Committee



*Youth Committee
Chairperson Mr Thakhani Masuka*

Preamble.

ON 13 April 2019, the introductory meeting was summoned by BlindSA executive committee. The purpose of the meeting was to elect the office-bearers who would serve in the BlindSA youth committee. The meeting was attended by the following members:

Cathy Donaldson: President
Ntshavheni Netshituni: Vice President
Jace Nair: CEO
Thakhani Masuka: BWO Orion
Irene Mashele: Now is the time
Sabelo Hlophe: South African vision for the Blind
Disky Lebese: Success Association of the blind

The four young represented people made their presentations in response to the challenges confronting young persons with visual disabilities, thereby providing strategies on how such challenges can be resolved. The meeting fulfilled the elective responsibility as one of the objectives with which it was convened, and members were elected into their positions as follows:

Chairperson: Mr Thakhani Masuka
Vice chairperson: Mr Sabelo Hlophe
Secretary: Ms Irene Mashele
Additional member: Mr Disky Lebese

Priorities: The newly elected youth committee has identified the following five priorities:

- Access to business opportunities
- Recruitment of young persons to join Blind SA
- Orientation and mobility
- Sporting codes
- Academic opportunities

Access to business opportunities

The chairperson, Thakhani Masuka outlined how the committee should enable young persons with visual disabilities to acquire business opportunities from institutions in the private and public sector. It was indicated that the committee should liaise with relevant officials in various institutions for the purpose of ascertaining business programmes that economically empower young people, thereby ensuring that such programmes are inclusive of young people with visual disabilities. Unisa is the first institution which young people with visual disabilities got incorporated in the programme called Enterprise and Supplier development, a CFO's project. The programme has been designed to train Small and Micro Medium Enterprises (SMME's) and give them business opportunities as they arise. In November 2018, 6 blind persons participated in the Unisa ESD training and from such entrepreneurs, 3 are loaded on the Unisa Database, whereas some could not submit all the required documents.

The youth committee is on the process of proposing to convene a partnership meeting with NYDA. Many attempts have already been made to convene such a meeting, but the outcomes were negative as a result of the NYDA contact person who is forever not available. However, further attempts are being made to ensure that the meeting takes place. The partnership is intended at pursuing the business aspirations of young people with visual disabilities in terms of funding and other benefits which young people are entitled to acquire.

Furthermore, the youth committee embarked on a process of compiling a list of young entrepreneurs with visual disabilities to be on the database of BlindSA, and 8 young entrepreneurs have already been incorporated in the list which was sent to the skills and development division.

Recruitment of young persons to join BlindSA

As one of the objectives of the committee, the youth committee is on a continuous process of ensuring that more young people are recruited to join BlindSA through member-organisations. In July 2019, Irene Mashele visited 2 schools in Bela Bela to conscientise learners about BlindSA. At this stage more than 70 members have been recruited to join BlindSA. In January 2020, Ms Irene Mashele has sent 70 completed application forms to the head office via post office.

Orientation and mobility

Orientation and mobility remains one of the priorities of the youth committee. Therefore, the youth will go further in terms of obtaining people who need orientation and mobility and liaise with BlindSA for training. This is the passionate responsibility that the youth committee will continue to undertake to ensure that the mobility of young people with visual disabilities is guaranteed.

Employment

Unemployment is one of the critical challenges confronting young persons with visual disabilities. In response to the stated challenge, the committee has applied certain measures intended at assisting young persons with visual disabilities to find employment opportunities. On 18 June 2019, a meeting was convened with Gauteng Department of Labour at BlindSA head office to discuss employment issues affecting young persons with visual disabilities. All issues were raised, and the representative from the Department of Labour undertook the responsibility of responding to some of the issues and promised to approach the relevant senior officials in the department for the purpose of convening a follow-up meeting wherein young people would be invited to raise their employment issues with such officials. Unfortunately, there is no communique from the Department of Labour in response to our issues, ever since the meeting was held. In terms of the employment database, the forms of 14 unemployed persons with visual disabilities have been sent to BlindSA head office.

Academic opportunities

- A young boy from Thembisa at the age of 17 years was denied the right to education by his parents. A matter has been brought to the Chairperson of Education Committee, Mrs Susan Bam by the secretary, Ms Irene Mashele for further investigation.
- R20,000 bursaries were allocated to Ms Meagan Chauke, a female blind student who is pursuing her studies with Unisa.
- An academic programme of action will be outlined in order to present the activities that would enable the committee to establish relationships with various academic institutions to assist students with disabilities.
- It is alleged that a young lady was expelled from Sibonile school for the blind, as a result of allegedly suffering from autism. The matter was brought to the attention of the education committee in the period between June and July 2019.

In terms of pursuing the objectives of the committee, members allocated themselves to work with different standing committees:

Mr Thakhani Masuka-employment committee

Mr Sabelo Hlophe-editors and social media forum

Ms Irene Mashele-Education and ECD

Mr Disky Lebese-advocacy and information

Ms Irene Mashele was co-opted to serve in the GBV committee

Mr Thakhani Masuka was co-opted to serve in the Special Economic fund committee, responsible for assisting visually impaired entrepreneurs during the lockdown.

In January 2020, Mr Thakhani Masuka was invited to attend the conference on the establishment of Independent Monitoring Mechanism (IMM) which was held at SAHRC Head Office in Johannesburg, wherein he formed part of the youth representation.

Mr Thakhani Masuka

Youth committee chairperson

5. OPERATIONAL REPORT

BRAILLE SERVICES

The Braille Service division of Blind SA started life in 1953 as the Braille Transcription Bureau of the then South African Blind Workers Organisation, renamed Blind SA in 2004. It is not only South Africa's largest braille production facility, but the only producer of all our official languages in grade 1 (uncontracted) and grade 2 (contracted) braille.

Braille Production

Master Page Production

During the past year we produced 54794 new master pages (2018/19: 59921 pages; 2017/18: 63644 pages), a decrease of 6% on the previous year. This is made up by the following main categories:

Braille Magazines (Brailorama, Braille Trumpet, Blind SA News, Vuk'uzenzele (GCIS))	1610p
Students & Individuals:	12242p
Special School Text Books:	13871p
Commercial Printing: Government brochures, menus, annual reports, etc	14928p
Blind SA Administration	7334p
Other work	4809p

Duplication Page Production

Duplication pages showed a 50% increase to 2493637 braille pages. This is due to the higher school text book output and the Vuk'uzenzele magazine, produced for Government Communications and Information Systems. The statistics for the past few years are as follow:

2019/20	2493637
2018/19	1616950
2017/18	1550014

Paper Sales

Blind SA is a major supplier of braille paper to our special schools for the blind, blind individuals and government departments, and companies employing blind persons. Paper sales showed a marked increase due to a number of export orders to Uganda, Zimbabwe and Mozambique. The final figures are:

Paper Grade	2019/20	2018/19	2017/18
Perkins flat-sheets (kg)	12332	6808	7851
Computer (boxes)	395	357	343

Braille Magazines

This year Blind SA realigned its magazine offering and we combined some magazines: Brailorama and Braillorette merged under the Brailorama name, while the youth magazine Young Stoners merged with the Braille Trumpet. We landed the tender to braille, print and distribute the Vuk'uzenzele, GCIS's magazine, produced twice per month. We also produced various other annexures that were included in our magazines, for example the universal ballot template instructions, an updated booklist, braille calendars and an information leaflet on the Corona virus. All these magazines and annexures are supplied to readers free of charge. (The previous year's figures appear in brackets.)

Magazine	Subscribers	Master Pages	Duplication pages
Brailorama	223 (208)	826 (822)	181738 (190828)
Blind SA News	243 (265)	280 (254)	70874 (68938)
Braille Trumpet	402 (268)	758 (706)	271006 (197700)
Vuk'uzenzele	592	1562	1032426
Annexures		63	46550

Business Cards

Braille business cards are very popular and this year we produced cards for 285 persons, totaling 81850 cards.

Braille Calendar

The 2020 braille calendar was produced with 1700 pocket and 750 standard-size copies distributed to schools, organisations and individuals. We are currently the only producer of braille calendars in South Africa.

Conclusion

Braille production reached a 4-year high in 2019/20 and we look forward to 2020/21 to fulfill our mandate to “supply quality braille to blind people in the language of their choice at an affordable price”. The influence that the Covid-19 pandemic and subsequent nationwide lockdown will have on service delivery is still unknown, but we trust that we shall overcome this challenge!

We must acknowledge the leading role played by our Executive Committee and especially our CEO, Mr. Jace Nair, CAPEAD (Committee for Accessible Publications, Equipment and Assistive Devices), as well as the hard work performed by our dedicated staff. Special mention must also be made of the continued support we receive from the National Department of Arts and Culture. We must also express gratitude to our Heavenly Father who made this all possible.

Philip Jordaan

Manager: Braille Services of Blind SA



Producing braille is time-consuming and expensive! Pictured is Linah Ndlovu, data typist, preparing text for braille translation



Braille proofreading of translated text. Pictured here are Victoria Mtshali (print copy holder) and Nomsa Mukwevho (braille proof-reader).



High-speed braille reel embossers are used to duplicate braille literature - at Braille Services we use two Interpoint55 embossers, imported from Belgium.



After embossing, the books are collated, bound into volumes and are ready for distribution. Pictured here are school text books for the Free State and North West Departments of Education.

SKILLS DEVELOPMENT AND TRAINING

The Primary objective of Training and Development is to provide meaningful and quality training to visually impaired persons and to educators, in order for visually impaired persons to contribute meaningfully in the economy of our country. Training provided enables visually impaired person to get employment or become self-employed and become employers themselves, and not rely on government social security grants. Blind SA partnered with different national, provincial and municipal metro government entities to assist in achieving this objective for this financial year. Skills development and training division provides the following services to visually impaired community of our country:

- Braille training
- Orientation and mobility (O&M) training
- Start and improve your business (SIYB) training
- Placement of visually impaired persons in employment.

Projects and Activities

Skills development division was involved in seven 7 projects for the duration of this financial year. This projects were conducted in all 9 of our countries provinces and 1 neighbouring country.



In these pictures on the left, the client was practising a route to the crèche where he will be dropping his child in the morning and pick him back in the afternoon. On the right the client was trained to make his way to the local clinic.

1 National Skills Fund (NSF)



NSF granted Blind SA a two (2) year contract which started July 2018 and will terminate December 2020. This contract allowed Blind SA an opportunity to train unemployed visually impaired persons under the following:

- Braille training: uncontracted (grade 1) and contracted (grade 2)
- Orientation and mobility training.
- Start and improve your business.

1.1 Braille training Grade 1

We conducted 5 trainings from July to November 2019 for 55 candidates. This training was conducted to 8 provinces of our country namely: Eastern Cape, Free State, Gauteng, Kwa Zulu Natal, Limpopo, Mpumalanga, Northern Cape and Western Cape

Assistive Device

Recruited fifty-five 55 trainees were selected from twenty-five 25 member organisations of Blind SA, all twenty-five 25 member Organisations received a Tatrapoint mechanical manual typewriter each.

Leamer Stipends

48 learners were paid stipends for them to be able to conduct experiential training as part of their portfolio of evidence completion.

Collection of Portfolio of Evidence (PoE's) and Remedial Action

We have managed to receive a total number of thirty-eight (38) portfolios of which they all assessed and twenty (20) of them are moderated. All thirty-eight (38) candidates were deemed competent but waiting for external verification from ETDP-SETA to confirm and issue statements of results. A remedial session was conducted during the months of November and December 2019.

Also to assist them in helping on how to continue with the programme. This intervention was successful as twenty (20) PoE's were collected to get to a total number of thirty-eight (38) received.

The table below indicates the number of candidates trained and demographics.

Department	Project name	Province Country municipality	Female	Male	Black	White	Disabled	Total
Braille	NSF Grade 1	Eastern Cape Free State Gauteng KZN Limpopo Mpumalanga Northern Cape Western Cape	25	30	50	5	55	55

1.2 Orientation and Mobility



In these pictures above is Mr Matome Malatjie who was trained to making his way to his aunt's house. This gentleman has been struggling a lot to make his way to his aunt's house before he received independence training. On the right he is pointing out to the O&M practitioner a place which used to give him tough time before he received training.

During this financial year two (2) training sessions were conducted in Limpopo province in April and October to December 2019 respectively. A Total number of twenty (20) beneficiaries were trained for orientation and mobility and daily living skills.

Assistive devices

All 20 beneficiaries received assistive devices that will enable them to be able to live their life independently, those devices are:

- Foldable white cane
- Level liquate indicator
- Mali Bala

Although we were contracted to train twenty (20) beneficiaries, we trained twenty-seven (27) beneficiaries when we include seven (7) that were trained in the Free state province during the last financial year.

The table below indicates the number of candidates trained and demographics.

Department	Project name	Province Country municipality	Female	Male	Black	White	Disabled	Total
Orientation and Mobility	NSF Limpopo	Limpopo	7	13	20	0	20	20

1.3 Start and improve your business (SIYB)

Blind SA appointed Epilepsy South Africa (ESA) to conduct this training as they are an accredited service provider for such qualification. Training took place from 20 July to 2 August 2019, fourteen (14) candidates trained on start and improve your own business.

The table below indicates the number of candidates trained and demographics.

Department	Project name	Province Country municipality	Female	Male	Black	White	Disabled	Total
Placement	Start Improve business	and your Gauteng Kwa Zulu Natal Mpumalanga Western Cape	4	10	11	3	14	14

2 ETDP-SETA



The contract of training fifty (50) beneficiaries on orientation and mobility for 2018/2019 was successfully completed, while on the other hand we managed to secure another contract to train forty (40) beneficiaries on orientation and mobility for 2020/2021 financial year. A total number of fifty (50) beneficiaries enrolled for 2018/2019 programme, only forty-eight (48) beneficiaries completed training and deemed competent, while two (2) dropped-out due to personal challenges.

Assistive devices distributed to beneficiaries

Place	NO: of clients	Blacks	Whites	Indians	Colored's	Females	Males	Youth	Adults
Gauteng	48	45	01	01	01	26	22	12	36
Limpopo	20	20	0	0	0	7	13	03	17
Free State	7	7	7	7	7	3	4	03	04



In the picture above is Mr. Andrew Makuleke who was making his way to the taxi station in Water works near Soweto, on the right hand is Mrs Belinda Ndebele who has been trained to make her way to the local tuck-shop and other destinations of her choice.

3. City of Johannesburg



Pay per services project/City of Johannesburg (Skills of daily living).

The City of Johannesburg PWD-sub unit, contracted Blind SA to train skills of daily living to thirty (30) beneficiaries' in region C, D and G, the programme was conducted from February to June 2019.

On the 22 July 2019 a hand-over event of assistive devices was held in Soweto.

Another contract to train 30 beneficiaries on skills of daily living has been secured for the financial year 2020/2021. The programme started from February 2020 with intention to be completed by end of April 2020. However, this was not realised as we were faced with COVID-19 pandemic in the country.

2020 beneficiaries with breakdown of regions, venues, number of clients and demographics:

Region	Venue	NO: of clients	Females	Males	Youth	blacks	Coloureds	Whites	Age group
C	Blind SA	10	5	5	03	10	0	0	35-55
D	Blind SA	10	6	4	02	10	0	0	22-75
G	Orange Farm skills Centre	10	7	3	02	10	0	0	34-65
C	Durban Deep	10	5	5	0	10	0	0	35-55
D	Jabava Skills centre	10	7	3	0	10	0	0	22-75
F	JHB society for the Blind.	10	4	6	10	10	0	0	17 -34



In the picture above are some of the demonstrations of skills training, the client on the left was practising safely pouring of hot and cold liquids by using a liquid level indicator, while the other one on the right was practising money identification by means of money template (Mali bhala).

4. Examination Council of Lesotho

Blind SA partnered with Lesotho to provide braille training Grade 2. This training was provided to two (2) members of Lesotho examination council during the month of May 2019

5. Department of Education



basic education

Department:
Basic Education
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

5.1 Christiana School for The Blind

An on-going relationship with Christiana school continued even this financial year. Two (2) parallel trainings were conducted from 23 to 28 September 2019 at Christiana School. Trainings that were conducted are braille grade 2 for 11 candidates and technical mathematics training for 4 candidates.

5.2 Mpumalanga Department of Education

Blind SA was appointed by Mpumalanga department of education as a service provider for braille training. Training took place in Mbombela (Nelspruit) from 30 September to 4 October 2019. A total number of 30 candidates were trained in grade 1 braille.

5.3 Free State Department of Education

After two (2) years without providing training for Free State Provincial Education Department (PED) Blind SA was able to resuscitate its relations with the department and was appointed to provide grade 1 braille training for 22 teachers from Bartemia and Thiboloha schools. Training was conducted in Thaba Nchu at Bartemia school from the 20 to 24 January 2020.

5.4 KwaZulu-Natal Department of Education

Blind Sa's efforts to rekindle and resuscitate relations with government departments that previously were provided training bore fruits this financial year. We managed to obtain two (2) training sessions with KZN Department of Education after three (3) years of not providing them with training. Training was held in Durban at Durban station event centre from the 2 to 7 February 2020 for grade 1 braille, while from 10 to 14 February 2020 grade 2 training was conducted. A total number of 30 candidates were trained in grade 1 while twenty (25) candidates were trained in grade 2 braille.

The table below indicates the number of candidates trained and demographics.

Department	Project name	Province Country municipality	Female	Male	Black	White	Disabled	Total
Braille	Lesotho Examination Council Grade 2	Lesotho	1	1	2	0	0	2
	Christiana School Grade 2	North West	8	3	11	0	0	11
	Christiana School Technical Maths	North West	4	0	4	0	0	4
	Mpumalanga Grade 1	Mpumalanga	24	4	30	0	0	30
	Free State Grade 1	Free State	17	7	24	0	0	24
	KZN Grade 1	Kwa Zulu Natal	27	3	30	0	3	30
	KZN Grade 2	Kwa Zulu Natal	23	2	23	2	2	25

6. Braille Day Event



In the picture above is Mr. Ofentse Manyane during a presentation about Braille. This event took place in Soweto at Diepkloof Youth centre.

The City of Johannesburg Social Development Sub unit PWD hosted the Braille day event which was attended by 60 blind and partially sighted persons. Mr Ofentse Manyane conducted the presentation on Braille and its importance.

7. World Read aloud day



In pictures above are some of the children at Christiana School who won the prizes during read aloud event.

The presents given to winners were funded by Blind SA in support and encouragement of reading spirit of books. During the event most children showcased their reading skills, however this event has proven that there is a huge need for children to practice reading.

The majority of them struggled to read fluently both in foreign and their mother tongue languages.

8. SALE OF BRAILLE ME AND TATRAPOINT



Tatrapoint and Braille Me machines were demonstrated at KZN University, South African National Association for Special Education, and Southwest College.

Tatrapoint campaign resulting in sales of.....Tatrapoint

BrailleMe campaign resulting in sales of.....Braille-Me and setting up of the Braille Me on-line list by Chairperson of Braille Committee.

Other Projects

Skills development and training division also conducts projects that promotes and advocate for the rights and dignity of visually impaired persons. This projects enables visually and non-visually impaired persons to be aware of the ways to conduct oneself when meeting or helping a visually impaired person.

Manager: Skills Division
Ms Susan Van Wyk

9. FUNDRAISING

Wherever there is a human in need, there is an opportunity for kindness and to make a difference”
Kevin Heath - Random Acts of Kindness Foundation.

Stats SA: As at 2013 it was reported that there are more than 100 000 registered Non Profit Organisations and an estimated 50 000 non-registered Non Profit Organisations in South Africa. Of all the 9 provinces 32% of the registered NPOs are based in Gauteng meaning that the other provinces together hold the other 68%. With statistics such as these, under normal circumstances the future seems grim for organisations who depend on donor funding to serve their beneficiaries.

However, due to the kindness of our partner donors, we at Blind SA have managed to persevere for another year. In this our 74th year of service to visually impaired beneficiaries, we are forging ahead. Whether it be the humming of our braille printers, our Orientation and Mobility Practitioners rushing out of the office to impart independence skills, our braille literacy trainer ensuring the literacy of learners and teachers alike, and our administration department holding the fort, we are still passionate in what we do.

It is said that if you enjoy your job, you will never work a day in your life, and we can vouch for that.

We face our challenges head on and during the year under review there has been many. We are still standing.

We are just so grateful to our loyal and kind supporters, who have helped us along the way. Without your assistance this uphill battle might have been near impossible.

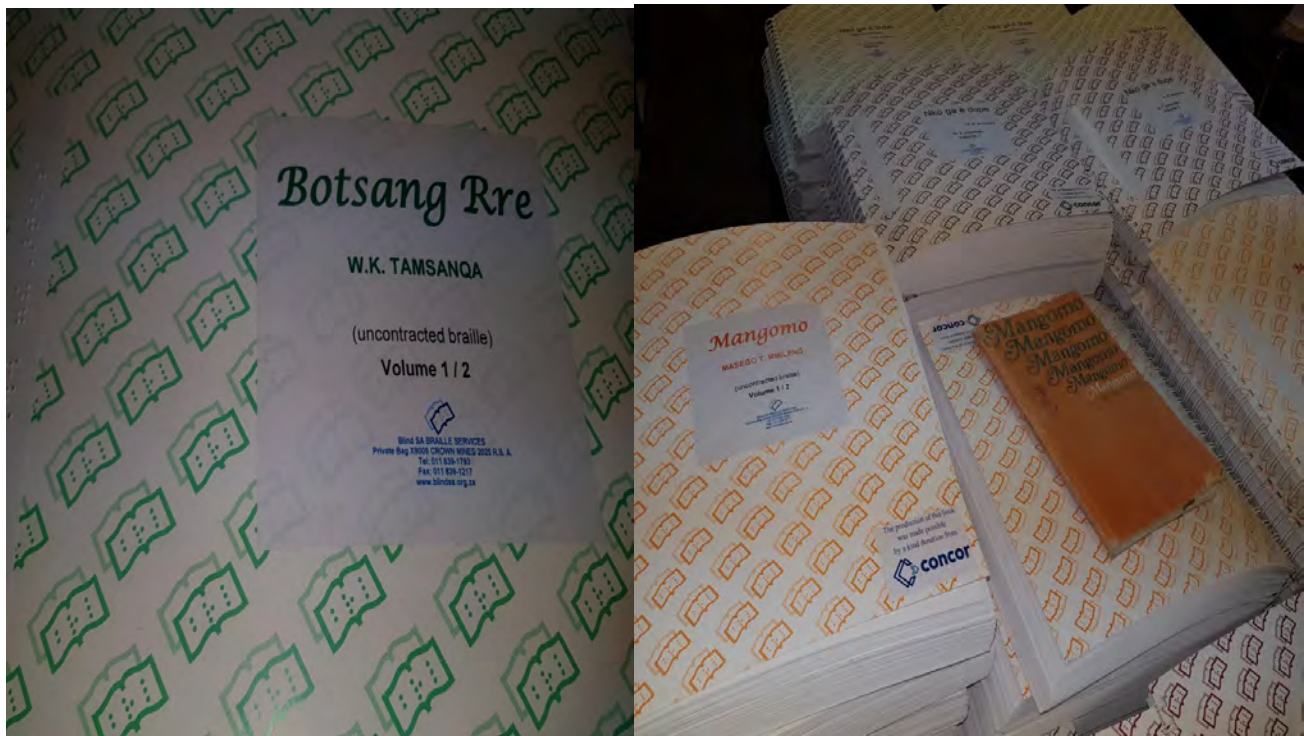
To our donors who have partnered with us, we thank you. Thank you that we were able to depend on your generosity. Thank you for your humanity and sharing our passion for the visually impaired people whom we serve.

Funds raised during 1 April 2019 to 31 March 2020

Corporates	R1 070 789.00
Trusts & Foundations	R362 931.00
Individuals	R265 603.00
Other: Collection tins, Special Events	R9 044.00
Bequests	R11 000.00
Embryo	1 885 816.00

Concor Construction sponsored the following books;

- Mangomo
- Nko ga e dupe
- Di tibang ka tlhogo perseng ga di na boyo (u/c)
- Botsang Rre (Setswana novel)
- Boka re utlwe (Setswana poetry)
- Metsi A Mokgakwana
- Segarona Buka ya Morutwana 11 (Setswana)
- Melodi ya Poko
- Via Afrika Ditlhangwa tsa setso 12 (Setswana)
- Bodibeng jwa Matlhomola (Setswana)
- Basadi, lwa reng?
- Malakabe (Setswana novel)



Givaudan Foundation

Givaudan (PTY) LTD SA and the Givaudan Foundation (Switzerland) provided a grant of R460 000 to Blind SA for refurbishments at Rivoni School for the Blind.

Blind SA to produce 8 CAPS Book namely;

- Oxford: Inkanyesi IBanga 6 Incwadi Yokufunda ISIZULU
- Oxford: Ukhanyo IBanga 6 Incwadi yokuFunda ISIXHOSA
- Setswana Tota Grade 7 Home Language Learner's book SETSWANA
- Via Affika: Mme, ke wena mmo lai w aka SESOTHO Home Language
- Via Afrika: Kgato ya magereng Puiso e lekanyeditsweng go ya ka dikgsto SETSWANA
- Via Affika: Ririmi ra le Kaya Giredi 6 Buku yo hlaya (Reader) XITSONGA
- Via Afrika: Ririmi ra le Kaya Giredi 6 Buku ya mudyondzi (Learner's book) XITSONGA
- Via Afrika: Polelo ya Gae Mphato 6 Padi (Reader) SEPEDI

The Givaudan Foundation also provided 13 laptops for use by staff at Blind SA.

Other sponsored books;

Scorpion Legal Services

- Di tibang ka tlhogo (contracted braille)

Sadmon

- Setswana Tota 12

Memon

- Dipetoho 10
- Mohaladitwe wa Dithota
- Ntlhomole Mmutlwa
- Ntlhabele Ke Utlwe (Setswana folklore)

We look forward to our 75th year with enthusiasm and grateful hearts in the knowledge that we have the support of donors who care as much as we do.

Karin Gouws

HOD: PR, Fundraising & BB-BEE Compliance