

Department of Education

Media Statements

Kha ri Gude training for blind facilitators

August 18, 2008

The Kha Ri Gude South African Literacy Campaign will be training blind facilitators to teach blind illiterates from 16 August to 20 August 2008 at the St George Hotel Irene, Pretoria.

As part of its mass outreach, the Mass Literacy Campaign, Kha Ri Gude, is currently training 80 blind unemployed matriculants from all nine provinces to teach basic Braille literacy to blind adults who have not learned to read Braille. The majority of the target group of learners will be in the rural areas where historically little or no provision was made to accommodate blind children in schools which could cater for their special needs. Some of the target group will comprise of those South Africans who went blind and have not been able to learn to read Braille.

Over the five-days workshop, blind facilitators will be trained on how to prepare a blind learner for Braille reading, and on the approach to teaching Braille to "illiterate" blind adults. Each blind trainer will be coupled with a volunteer teaching assistant who will attend to classroom logistics and administration such as registers and ordering of materials needed. They will in turn be linked with Campaign supervisors and coordinators in their respective provinces to assist them with identifying and recruiting blind learners.

This is one of the first large-scale programme ever to use blind facilitators to take on the challenge of teaching the blind in a mass literacy programme.

The materials used for the Kha Ri Gude South African Literacy Campaign have been adapted and transcribed into Braille to ensure that blind learn to read Braille while at the same time be exposed to social issues and lifeskills about their rights, democracy, health education and HIV/AIDS, etc

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Further information can be obtained at [www: kharigude.co.za](http://www.kharigude.co.za)

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