

Itlhabolole Community Learning Centre, Letsatsing Science High School, Mmabatho, Mahikeng

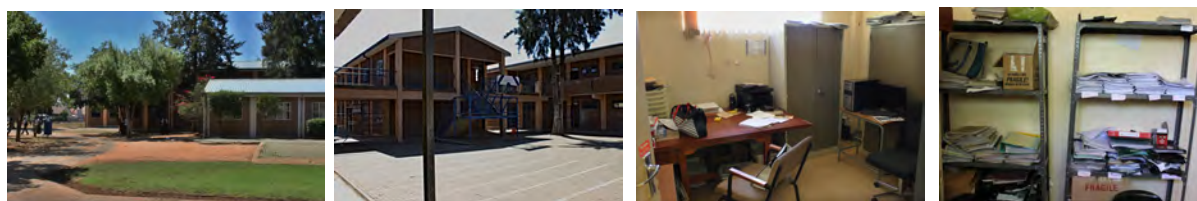
John Aitchison

The Centre

The Centre was first opened in 1983 and the current Centre Manager, Ms D. Eliza Mazwembe, has served there since 2006. The Centre is housed at the Letsatsing High School in Mmabatho. The school is well kept and tidy, with a suite of administration offices. It has full time security. The school has been very supportive of the Centre and there is a written agreement. The school provides free electricity, etc. though in the past up till 2013 the Centre sometimes made a small contribution towards this from learner fees.

They have the use of a small office with two desks, two cupboards and some open shelves. From student fees in 2014 they have purchased an inkjet printer/copier and a Sahara desktop computer.

They had use of ordinary classrooms after hours and they were clean, with suitable desks and chalkboards, if rather bare and functional.



The educators

There are five staff :
Ms D. Eliza Mazwembe
(Centre Manager)
[\[dmazwembe@gmail.com\]](mailto:dmazwembe@gmail.com)
Ms Philda Thejane
Ms Yvonne Bahide
Ms Seipati Beverly Tiro
Mr Elvis Seleke



Five staff members and one of the interns

All these staff have some sort of adult education qualification, usually a Diploma or Diploma and ACE and are SACE registered. However Ms Mazwembe says that they would all rather become full time permanent school teachers (because of their current temporary, no benefits status).

There are also three interns who are doing a National Diploma in ABET (2 years) through Regensys arranged by the Department of Education through the ETDP SETA. Once completed that are classified as REQV 12. One of the educators previously, in 2008, been trained through the same system and, to be classified as REQV 13, had to do a Higher Certificate in ABET through UNISA (which seems odd as it merely duplicates the first year of the Diploma she did!)

They are:
Tshepiso Motsamai
Kagiso Leseyane
Lesego Letesele

Therefore all the staff have some sort of adult education qualification.

They asked what plans the DHET had to enable them to upgrade their qualifications.

They are all capped at teaching 7 hours a week and the centre Manager has another 3 hours added to that.

Programmes

The Centre currently only runs ABET levels 1 to 4 and most learners are in ABET level 4 (and they were busy writing examinations for the GETC on the day). They teach from 2:30 pm till 5 pm Monday to Thursday (that is ten hours a week).

No recruits ever came from Kha Ri Gude (which they had heard was meant to forward its graduates to the Centres). They were very vague about Kha Ri Gude.



Previously they had run Senior Certificate classes but this was abandoned when the provincial department decided it was doing ABET only. However, students continued to register for the exam at the centre and write the exams at the Centre until this year when there has been a reduction in the number of examination centres for the Amended Senior Certificate and they now register and write examinations elsewhere.

The learners would like more skills training options, computer training and there is a big demand for the Senior Certificate.

Materials

They have received workbooks in Mathematical Literacy and English for the students in level 4. They collect them back from the learners (if they can).

These are:

Mathematical Literacy Level 4 Workbook [Stimela, 2009] They received these in 2009 and the books were better than the other maths book received in 2014,
Mathematical Literacy ABET level 4 [SAADA, 2007]

They also had:

Effective Communication ABET Level 4. [SAADA, 2007]

In getting these books the Centre Managers were called to a meeting with all the publishers and they choose the books they wanted. However, what they eventually got, in smaller quantities than needed, was not necessarily the books they chose.

In three other subjects they have a very few copies.

They have no readers at all.

Teachers have to use magazines and newspapers for texts.

In January they got a pack of about 20 exercise books and some chalk.

Funding

The salaries are paid and that is it.

They used to charge Senior certificate R100 a year and they charge ABET R70 a year.

Monitoring and support

Previously there was a Coordinator in each district who would visit on a regular basis and call workshops. This system has now collapsed.

The Centre manager used to write a quarterly report. This has now stopped as he doesn't know who to send it to or where to send it to.

Function shift

They were told in a workshop in October 2014 about the impending function shift and they were aware of the 31 March/1 April 2015 transition date.

The Centre Governing Body was not consulted about this transition (something that was prescribed in the amendment to the Act) and they are yet to be told about it – but will be soon!

The Centre Manager was not clear at all to what extent the previous provincial ABET directorate staff, now transferred to the DHET, were still doing adult education support and it was assumed that they were still housed in the provincial Education Department. The DHET regional office (with an Acting Coordinator) is also still there.

They have had a couple of meetings of Centre Managers with the DHET since April.

They have heard that there is a Principal of the new Community College though they have not had a single communication from her. [Though she is meant to be based in Hebron near Rustenburg she apparently is still in Mafikeng.]

There were problems with salaries after the transition. They only received their April salaries in mid-May and they have heard that staff at some other centres have not been paid yet.

There salaries seem to have changed downwards (whether in gross or as a result of a higher tax amount being deducted was unclear).

Before tax the Centre Manager gets R13 800 and the educators get R11475.