



Join the March/
Concert on Human
Rights day
21 March 2010
for School Libraries

1 school 1 library 1 librarian

campaign for
school libraries

“The most fundamental challenge we face is the need to improve the quality of education in our schools. Many tests, both national and international, show that our children lag behind their peers in other countries, including developing countries. In particular, a big effort needs to be made to provide libraries, laboratories and computer facilities to schools. Statistics from 2006 show that 67.9% of schools had no computers for teaching and learning, 79.3% had no library space.” - Blade Nzimande (now Minister of Higher Education), Cape Times, 29 Jan 2009

Why are libraries important?

- **Reading literacy:** Children need to learn to love reading to develop literacy skills for academic work
- **South African Education Curriculum:** Requires resources for projects and portfolios
- **Information literacy:** Learning to source information is a critical skill in the global knowledge economy
- **Place to Study:** Young people need safe, well-lit social spaces
- **Access to information:** Libraries are places where young people can find out about opportunities, careers and risks like HIV/AIDS

Libraries improve teaching, learning and academic performance!

International research shows that student performance increases by 10 to 25% when a well staffed, stocked and funded library is added to a school.*

* Lance, K.C., Rodney, M.J. & Hamilton-Pennell, C. (2000).

What is a functional Library?

A functional school library is a place where learners can source information and find books to read for pleasure. It is well-stocked and has a librarian or library administrator who supports learners and teachers with finding the information they need. Teachers see the library as a resource for themselves and their learners. A functional school library is not used as an extra classroom, as a room for storing books, or for a feeding scheme.

The Facts:

Currently only 7% of schools in South Africa have functioning libraries. 25% of schools in the Western Cape have functioning libraries, with most of these in suburban fee-charging schools*. In Khayelitsha there are less than 5 functional libraries in the community's 53 public schools**.

Since 1994 there have been five drafts of a National Policy on School Libraries, but still no policy exists.

Support EE's demands for a National Policy on School Libraries which provides for:

- **A library for every school**
- **Human resources:** A trained librarian or library administrator, working full time
- **Books and Equipment:** Expand QIDS-UP library project nationally to provide shelving, computers and 3 books per learner
- **Operational Funding:** Legislate for 10% of Learning Teaching Support Materials (LTSM) funds to be dedicated for libraries
- Teachers, parents, learners and SGB members to be **work-shopped** on the value of school libraries

* The Library and Information Services Transformation (LIS) Charter, adopted by the Departments of Education and Arts and Culture in 2009.

** Independent research conducted by Equal Education in Khayelitsha.

Contact Equal Education!

Speak to Zingisani Nkanjeni:

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“Communities must be the eyes and ears of the Department. Your best allies in education are the parents and learners in terms of making sure things run well. We want parents and learners to take responsibility for their education and to take a stand when their rights are being violated.” Angie Motshekga, Minister of Basic Education, Interview in Sunday Times, May 17 2009

A call to the nation to act!

It is time for all of us in all corners of the country to be active in ensuring that our children and teachers experience quality learning and teaching regardless of their class background.

This active involvement includes:

- Collect signatures for the petition for a National Policy for School Libraries.
- Write to the President, Minister of Basic education and your provincial MEC for Education. We can provide you with their contact details.
- Hold **peaceful** and **legal** demonstrations for the provision of School Libraries in your area, particularly on Human Rights Day, 21 March 2010.
- Create public debate about school Libraries through opinion articles and letters to newspaper editors.

What you can do to support the campaign

- Add your name to the 15 000 signatures already collected by signing the **petition** at www.equaleducation.org.za
- **EE Book Drive:** Donate your favourite children's and teenager's books to a School Library. Deliver them to Old Charly's Bakery, 18/20 Roeland Street, Cape Town, 8000. Or put them in the post! We only want books in good condition. Call Rich Conyngham for more info @ 076 593 9310.
- Join the **March/Concert for School Libraries** in Cape Town on Human Rights Day, 21 March 2010



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**EQUAL
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