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RECONCILIATION AWARD FOR EDUCATION

By Chevon Booysen
Photo : Chevon Booysen
2014-11-23 00:00
Professor John Volmink and Dr Louise van Rhyn from Symphonia for South Africa.

The Institute for Justice and Reconciliation (IJR) recently presented their Reconciliation Award to non-profit organisation Symphonia for South Africa (SSA) at Steenberg High School.

Beneficiaries and stakeholders gathered at the school, which is one of the beneficiaries of the NPO, on Tuesday 11 November for the handover.

The flagship programme Partners for Possibility by SSA has a bold vision for quality education for all children in South Africa by 2022.

The programme is driven by the idea to enhance the quality of education, improving school environments and encouraging engagement between parents and teachers.

It has been implemented in 180 schools nationwide, impacting 6800 teachers, 140000 parents and 136000 pupils.

Emeritus Archbishop Desmond Tutu, as a patron of the IJR, did the handover and said he was delighted to present the award to the organisation because of its efforts to effect change in the country.

Each year the IJR presents the Reconciliation Award to an individual or organisation that has contributed to nation-building and reconciliation in the country. The award is intended to highlight and celebrate the recipients' approaches to enabling reconciliation while inspiring others to play their part in helping to build a reconciled country.

Director and founder of SSA Dr Louise van Rhyn said during her acceptance speech that the organisation strives to "change the face of education".

"Receiving this award gives us energy for the next year. We are excited to make changes to the face of education in the country," Van Rhyn said.



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