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There's hope for the 800k drop-outs in SA

Apr 3, 2014 | Razia van der Schuur

Every year 1, 150 000 grade R learners enter the schooling system in South Africa but only 550 000 attempt matric. Only 380 000 pass. We lose $\frac{3}{4}$ of a million children along the way. Every year.

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How many gems go unnoticed? How many future 'Nelson Mandelas' could have been cultivated if they had the possibilities of a good education?

"But there's hope, there is light at the end of the tunnel for the public education sector", Barbara Creecy said to a forum panel at the Gordon Institute of Business Science Campus on Wednesday, who were very interested in the topic of improving the state of education in South Africa.

Creecy says that the Department of Education are constantly met with challenges in schools that hinder the progress of transformation in education which includes:

- educators have very low-confidence to teach, especially when there are curriculum changes being introduced to the education system.
- lack of safety in schools
- poor hygiene
- poor maintenance of infrastructure
- substance abuse and violence amongst kids
- school disruptions
- lack of parental support

Jane Tsharane, Principal of Makgatho Primary School says that there are no schools where principals can learn how to be principals.

"We are all just teachers. I have no-where to go. Government wants me to perform, teachers are looking to me for answers, learners are looking to me for solutions.

"A day in the life of a principal is very hard. I would have loved if someone said to me - I will help, I will support, I will contribute towards your productivity".

Symphonia for South Africa came up with a programme, 'Partners for Possibility', to train overwhelmed and under-equipped principals by partnering them with experienced corporate leaders.

By using the programme, the MEC had noticed that with this method, change is possible and is convinced that corporate leaders have the potential to assist by sharing their knowledge and experiences with principals that would allow them to manage their responsibilities with confidence.

If you are a corporate leader who would like to share your expertise, please email: pfp@symphonia.net or logon to www.qe4sa.org for more info.

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