



SONGA MBELE FOUNDATION

NO LIMITS

FOUNDATION PROFILE

Transforming Individuals, Families & Communities



Songa Mbele, (a Swahili phrase meaning “Moving Forward”) is a Non-Profit Foundation with the vision of bringing transformation to rural schools and communities in Southern Africa, through the implementation of sustainable initiatives that will bring hope and enduring change to our people.

Nelson Mandela said, “Education is the most powerful weapon that we can use to change the world”.

We believe that education is the foundation of society and that transformation must start with our children.

Introduction

South Africa is riddled with deeply ingrained disparities and inequalities, which we have tried to overcome in the past 25 years of our democracy. It is indeed a sad state of affairs as we find ourselves still faced with large majorities of people who are unemployed, uneducated, malnourished and homeless. These are the basic needs which every human being should be able to access in a growing economy such as ours, however the reality we face today is in stark contrast to what we hoped and believed we were building towards post 1994.

There are many initiatives that enable or invite participation and collaboration between Government, the Private sector and ordinary citizens of our country, there are a few critical questions we need to ask before we evaluate the impact they have made.

Firstly, are the initiatives we participate in, perpetuating a mentality of entitlement and laziness or empowerment and hard work? Secondly, do these initiatives create dependency and reliance or independence and self-sufficiency? Lastly do these initiatives benefit only a few or can they benefit all members of society.

We believe it is our responsibility to contribute in creative and innovative ways by helping the helpless and bridging the gap between those who want to effect positive change and those who need to be empowered and uplifted by this change. We also understand that if we do not address the root causes of our problems, we will not bring effective and lasting change.



About Songa Mbele

Songa Mbele, (a Swahili phrase meaning “Moving Forward”) is a Non-Profit Company or Foundation with the vision of bringing transformation in to rural schools and communities in Southern Africa, through the implementation of sustainable initiatives that will bring hope and enduring change to our people. Nelson Mandela said, “Education is the most powerful weapon that we can use to change the world”. We believe that education is the foundation of society and that transformation must start with our children.

As a foundation, Education, Unemployment and Poverty are the primary focus areas of our initiatives to empower individuals, families and communities. Technology and Skills Development will be key drivers of success and will underpin each initiative. We cannot achieve this alone and need to partner with Private and Public-sector business and Government in order to achieve our goals.



Songa Mbele espouses these values:

Integrity
Humility
Generosity

Our Challenges

Rural Schools

South Africa has 33000 schools in the Basic & Higher Education Sector. Only 7000 of these schools have infrastructure and basic needs such as water and electricity. 26000 South African schools do not have proper classrooms, equipment, water, electricity, toilets and feeding schemes. They also do not have the budget to afford these things. The lack of teachers and adequate educational resources adds to the difficult circumstances faced within these schools. Many children receive only one meal a day and cannot concentrate in school due to malnutrition.



Rural Communities

The Rural communities in our country are faced with the following challenges:

- Poor rural communities are struggling to feed, clothe and educate their families which in turn makes their children poor and the cycle repeats itself.
- The rural communities are not producing or manufacturing anything to help them build wealth due to a lack of infrastructure and know-how.
- Due to the poverty and lack of infrastructure, children are not being properly educated and perpetuating the cycle of poverty
- There is very little or no title deed to the land in the rural areas in SA
- There is very little or no skill-transfer to rural community's adult population
- Two-thirds of the total SA population is based in the rural areas
- Three-quarters of the total land mass of SA is rural
- The rural area has very limited infrastructure like roads, hospitals etc.
- The SA rural areas produce one-tenth of the per acre income produced in the urban areas
- The crime rate (especially murders) are equal to the urban areas but often not reported

We believe that we can address the above problems and challenges, through the implementation of self-sustainable projects specifically suited to the rural areas. Technology and Skills Development are both critical success factors that will ensure continuity and stability long after implementation.

Our Purpose

Transforming disadvantaged communities by improving education, creating employment and alleviating Poverty.

Our Vision

Transforming disadvantaged communities, including its citizens, schools and small businesses, by empowering them through self-sustainable opportunities that improve quality of life and stimulate economic growth.



Our Objectives

- To support the disadvantaged rural schools by securing funding and sponsorship, to meet social development, nutritional, infrastructure and technological needs.
- To render assistance to rural schools by providing sponsorship for basic and educational needs.
- To provide monetary aid and humanitarian services to rural communities, in which we work, when needed.
- To promote moral education, charity and general welfare of the people, within the rural communities in which we operate.
- To provide funding for the setup and operation of training laboratories for the running of community development projects within rural areas.

Our Recent Successes

Yakhani Project

Songa Mbele Foundation in partnership with HBS Technologies, started the Yakhani School Project in 2017. The main focus of the project was to provide a web platform for schools, to expose them to potential sponsors who would open their hearts and give towards the upliftment of the schools. Since the inception of the project, we have registered 1028 schools out of the 26000 rural schools, and each school has its own website. The website shows potential sponsors the imminent needs the school is facing, so that they are able to match their CSI initiatives to the different categories of needs. It also serves as an accountability platform for sponsors to monitor how and where their sponsorship has added value to the school and the children.



Yakhani Roadshow

In November 2017 the team visited over 250 of our schools across all nine provinces of South Africa. The roadshow was a huge success with many tribal and community leaders showing support for the Yakhani Project and enthusiasm for the change that this initiative would bring to their community.

Some of Our Websites

www.agangthutopprimary.co.za
www.bhalitiprimary.co.za
www.bhekuzuluprimary.co.za
www.celukwaziprimary.co.za
www.masokaprimary.co.za
www.moemanengcreche.co.za



Next Steps

The second phase of the project will be to connect the potential sponsors with the schools to create the channel of delivery for the sponsorship. This is a very exciting part of the project for us as we aim to incorporate local suppliers, across all industries, into the sponsorship supply chain to the schools.



Our Approach

Our approach to addressing the many problems facing the rural communities is the concept of AGRI-INNOVATION. This concept combines the disciplines of Technology and Skills Development and Training with Agriculture, to provide a holistic solution to any rural community. The info-graphic below highlights the first three AGRI-INNOVATION projects that we aim to begin with depending on the rural area:



Technology Services

- School Website
- Sponsorship Platform
- School Management Systems



Agricultural Innovation

- Aquaponics
- Chickens
- Meat
- Hatchery
- Fertilizer
- Vermiculture
- Bee-Keeping



Skills Development

- Skills Competency Profiling
- Initial & Refresher Training
- Mentoring & Coaching
- Work Integrated Learning Programs

Training

Partnerships For Success - Get Involved Today!

School Sponsorship

School Infrastructure:

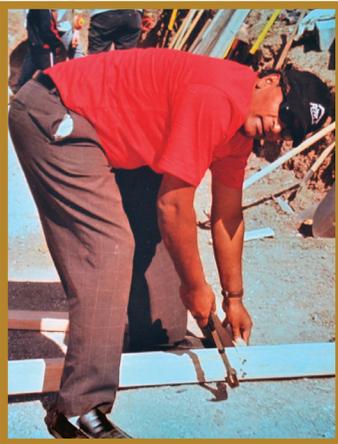
- Toilets
- Paint
- Furniture
- Equipment
- Computers
- Stationery
- Non-perishables
- School Web platform
- School Feeding scheme
- Internships
- Teacher Development
- Learner Training



New Venture Creation Sponsorship

The following ventures can be sponsored with raw materials or financially:

- Manufacturing
- Construction
- Plumbing
- Electrical
- Training
- Aquaponics
- Chickens
- Beekeeping
- Vermiculture



Unemployed Youth Sponsorship

Training of unemployed youth in the following areas:

- Trainers/Facilitators
- Manufacturing of equipment for small business
- Technical Support Workers

Contact Songa Mbele

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