

Cyril Ramaphosa

EDUCATION TRUST

MINI NEWSLETTER

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Bi-annual Holiday Programme



In January, Cyril Ramaphosa Education Trust (CRET) hosted the first of its bi-annual holiday programme for 2024 for new and returning students.

The event provided teambuilding opportunities and, through alumni and other stakeholder interactions, offered insights into topics such as gender-based violence, mental health, mentorship, and academic success.

The holiday programme forms part of CRET's holistic bursary and youth development programme with wrap-around support.

CRET Enhances Holistic Offering with Visual Support Programme



CRET enhanced its holistic student offering in January 2024 with the introduction of a visual support project. In collaboration with optometrist Dr Dire Thomas, 41 students were examined, of which twenty-eight were found to have eyesight limitations. Spectacles were provided for those in need. Poor sight can create barriers to learning and academic success.

Alumnus, Cyril Madiba, joins Cyril Ramaphosa Foundation as CFO

We are pleased to share that Cyril Madiba, a CRET alumnus and former chairperson of the CRET Alumni Advisory Board, has been appointed as Chief Financial Officer at Cyril Ramaphosa Foundation. Cyril began his tenure in April 2024, replacing outgoing CFO Raymond Kevan.

Cyril is a prime example of the “arc of life” that the programmes of Cyril Ramaphosa Foundation span. He joined the CRET programme in January of 2005 as an 18-year-old aspiring CA(SA). Just shy of 20 years later, Cyril has entered the same doors as the new CFO of the organisation that supported his studies.



Cyril Madiba as a new candidate on the CRET programme in February 2005.

Cyril has led a successful career in the banking industry, including secondments to India and the USA, and has been involved with numerous youth development initiatives as a board member, founder, donor and mentor. He was recognised by the South African Institute of Chartered Accountants (SAICA) as a top 35 under 35 finalists in 2020. In 2021, the Mail & Guardian recognised him in its annual Top 200 Young South Africans list.

In 2020 Cyril was appointed chairperson of the inaugural CRET Alumni Advisory Board.

“My story is one of many that showcase how this great organisation has impacted many people’s lives for the better across the aspects of education, small business development and community development”, he said. “I look forward to making my contribution as we work together to foster an inclusive and empowered society.”



Meet Dr Sazi Nzama, CRET's Alumni Advisory Board Chairperson

Medical doctor Sazi Nzama is the chairperson of the CRET Alumni Advisory Board and has been part of the CRET family since 2014 when he received a bursary to study medicine. Today he is a Surgical Medical Officer at Greys Hospital in Pietermaritzburg.

Born in Amanzimtoti, KwaZulu Natal, to a family of six siblings, Sazi was diagnosed with childhood asthma while in primary school.

“This is one of the worst conditions to grow up with,” he says.

After several encounters in and out of hospital, he was motivated, at an early age, to become a medical doctor and help those that suffered as he did.

Growing up with a teacher for a mother, Sazi believed education to be the most crucial tool to have in life.

“With time, I understood that the knowledge acquired through education and reading is the most invaluable resource that I can possess”, he says.

Sazi’s advice to young people is that they should remember that we all come from different walks of life.

“It is safe to say we are all unique individuals. Remember that this is not a race or a competition. Start well and finish strong!”