

May 2019

# THE EQUALISER

Equal Education  
official newsletter

South African Elections Edition



8

May is the day  
South Africans  
cast their vote!

### Also in this issue:

Facilitators and Equaliser Leadership Committee members share their reflections on this year's provincial camps.

## POLITICAL PARTY MANIFESTO SUMMARIES

### ANC

Among other things, the ANC promises to:

- Prepare to make two years of ECD compulsory, and make the Department of Basic Education (DBE) responsible
- Appoint qualified teachers, develop their skills and enforce accountability
- Amend the curriculum to prepare learners for the 4th industrial revolution
- Continue to replace inappropriate school structures and sanitation facilities
- Continue to improve access to higher education with the goal of free higher education for the poor and missing middle
- Ensure the TVET and Community College sector is adequately funded
- Ensure special efforts by the private sector to work with the training authorities to develop the skills needed in the workplace

### DA

Among other things, the DA promises to:

- Introduce specialist Teacher Training Colleges for primary school teachers
- Review the curriculum to prepare learners for the 4th industrial revolution
- Reverse cuts to the school infrastructure budget
- Introduce measures such as metal detectors in schools in crime hotspots
- Principals and deputy principals will be unable to strike without prior notice
- Provide comprehensive bursary packages to students from low-income families
- Modernise syllabus and staff composition of TVET colleges, and revamp management and administration to eliminate corruption
- Increase involvement of companies in training apprentices to provide on-the-job training and internship programmes

### EFF

Among other things, the EFF promises to:

- Make ECD enrolment compulsory (free ECD) and provide ECD practitioners with pension benefits
- Provide scholar transport for all learners who stay more than 2km from school
- Ensure safe flushing toilets in all schools by 2021
- Appoint two social workers per school by the end of 2021
- Abolish the 30% pass mark and increase it to 50%
- Pass a law that will zero-rate all educational apps and content on electronic devices
- Cancel all student debt and introduce education and training taxes on all private companies with a turnover of R50 million and more, to be used to fund fee-free quality education

## REFLECTIONS ON 2019 FACILITATOR CAMPS

*Q&A with Limpopo Community Leader, and former Facilitator, Sibongile Teffo*

What did you learn?

To work with people who have different views on issues affecting the country, to be able to facilitate those debates and conflicts better. I have learned more ways to make sessions fun and fruitful, I realised that working as a team makes a good Facilitator and highlights your roles and responsibilities as a Facilitator. Experience is important, having to facilitate a group that had no one from my province in it, or speaking the same language as me. It was difficult but challenged me to be more flexible and accommodating as a Facilitator.

What could be improved about how the camp was structured?

The duration of the camp was too short, therefore there was no time to process the content and have further discussions about the content. The Facilitators should have got a chance to lead the discussions and learn to work with different kind of people so that they can use that confidence in front of Equalisers. We should have had discussions about issues affecting Facilitators and come with solutions together, but we didn't have time.

### Whistle-blowing

To report any wrongdoing at Equal Education, anonymously, phone the toll-free number 0800 117 111 or SMS 33490 or visit [equaleducation.org.za/whistle-blowing](http://equaleducation.org.za/whistle-blowing)



# 2019 LC CAMP REFLECTIONS

*Q&A with with Western Cape LC members Inam Sebezo and Likho Mandiss*

**What was your experience of LC camp?**

**Inam:** We had time to experience new things like how to be a better leader, It was very educational and we were taught how we must not listen to respond.

**Likho:** We were taught how to control our own egos, and how to mobilise beyond our schools and EE is an intersectional movement.

**Why do we think training is important for LC members?**

**Inam:** We must be able to practice what we preach to other fellow learners, training gives us time to reflect and be prepared to lead. We are taught how to work with other Equalisers.

**Likho:** These camps allow us to be able to manage conflict among our peers.

**Message to Equalisers:**

**Inam:** We must all work together, no one must feel like they are not welcomed at EE.

**Likho:** Have a good working relationship with everyone.

## VICTORY! REBUILDING OF VUKILE TSHWETE SECONDARY BEGINS!

Construction of a new school for Vukile Tshwete Secondary learners has finally started, due to five years of pressure from EE members! We demanded action from the Eastern Cape Department of Education (ECDOE) and the school infrastructure implementing agent, Coega Development Corporation - we held pickets, marches, night vigils, and pursued meetings with these two key stakeholders.

Currently, the school is made mostly of wood, and learners must make use of plain pit latrines - even though these are banned by the Norms and Standards for School Infrastructure. #FixOurSchools

## XOLOBENI SOLIDARITY VISIT

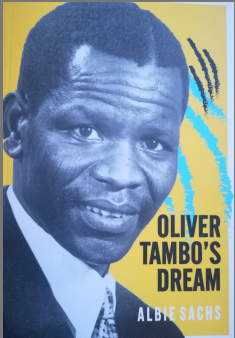
By Head of EE EC Amanda Rinquest, and EC Community Leader Thuli Nkatsha

The EE Eastern Cape team recently went on a solidarity visit to the Wild Coast, to show our support for the Amadiba Crisis Committee (ACC) and the people of Xolobeni in their fight against mining in the area.

For 15 years the community has fought against the mining of titanium on their land. We met activists from the ACC who risk their lives for this struggle, including author and environmental activist, Sinegugu Zukul, and spokesperson Nonhle Mbuthuma - who has to have two bodyguards for her safety. What we saw was beautiful untouched land, a close-knit community that value and love their land, and a community neglected by government.

We visited schools in the area - often these schools were the only source of electricity in the entire village. We met learners who have to walk more than 15km to get to schools with more than 150 learners in classrooms that are about to collapse.

The Equaliser newsletter editorial team: Bayanda Ndumiso (IETU Materials Developer), Leanne Jansen-Thomas (Head of Communications), Angela Bukenya (GP Researcher), Sinohlobo Mrwetyan (EC Equaliser), Lungelo Jonas (WC Junior Organiser), Benedict Matsuang (LP Equaliser), Kgaogelo Leso (GP Facilitator) and Nonkonzo Nxumali (KZN Facilitator).



## BOOK PRIZE!

The first Equaliser to submit a correctly completed word search puzzle, will win a copy of *Oliver Tambo's Dream*. Send us a photo of the completed puzzle, with your name and the name of your school.

E	P	U	L	F	Y	K	U	Y	S	H	T	B	O	J	Y	J
C	N	A	Q	A	W	J	A	Z	R	U	W	Z	E	P	Q	T
E	O	O	G	I	Q	V	R	G	H	C	C	T	W	O	J	K
C	E	E	J	Y	Q	M	A	P	D	M	L	Y	E	L	T	S
A	C	Q	H	Z	D	O	M	O	G	I	V	I	E	I	I	V
R	S	U	Y	B	I	D	Q	V	Z	O	W	Y	M	T	D	N
M	N	A	X	W	E	E	O	E	A	O	Z	U	A	I	Y	I
A	O	L	R	R	E	E	A	R	D	T	F	U	N	C	C	Q
N	I	E	I	L	B	R	O	T	Q	Z	C	F	I	A	A	A
I	T	D	R	Y	R	F	L	Y	C	X	D	F	F	L	R	J
F	C	U	W	R	E	D	K	T	B	R	D	E	E	P	C	N
E	E	C	C	D	T	Z	R	A	L	N	K	J	S	A	O	N
S	L	A	W	A	I	D	C	Y	A	T	H	X	T	R	M	R
T	E	T	Z	W	C	L	U	L	C	J	O	D	O	T	E	M
O	U	I	E	W	A	J	O	D	X	Z	C	V	R	I	D	Y
H	U	O	G	S	N	O	I	T	A	C	U	D	E	E	P	B
U	S	N	S	L	I	K	E	M	Z	D	Y	A	R	S	E	Y

EE MANIFESTO	EFF	DA
Freedom	Democracy	ANC
political parties	land	Poverty
class	race	Equal Education

## (CONTINUED) FACILITATOR CAMP REFLECTIONS

**Gauteng Facilitator Kgaogelo Leso**

It is important for facilitators to be continuously trained in order for them to be able to learn the skill of working with different behaviours of different people and how to control conflict resolution in any space of learning. There should be more practical pieces of training, seminars or workshops on an important part of our work as Facilitators like Youth Groups(YG), and In-School Meetings (ISMs). Delivering content to Equalisers is the most important part that we have to master!

**Western Cape Facilitator Luthando Mtandana**

The purpose of any camp is to learn and unlearn. The camp was quite an inclusive space that accommodated us all in terms of learning and unlearning some stuff so that we remain with a single uncaptured, consolidated common content that will steer the movement in a well-constructed future. A future that will be revolutionised and is within our mission.

Equal Education is a mass influential movement with many individuals who trust us to liberate the South African education system. To do that we need to know what our role is as Facilitators and we need to be educated so that we become clear. The 2019 Facilitator camp served that purpose because I as an individual grasped a lot that I did not know about facilitating.

