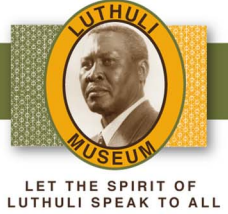




LUTHULI MUSEUM

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PRESS RELEASE For Immediate use

24 May, 2011

THREE DAY CREATIVE WRITING WORKSHOP AT LUTHULI MUSEUM STARTS

Nineteen learners from six North Coast schools have been given the chance to get in touch with their creative writing side at a special three-day workshop at the Luthuli Museum that kicked off on May 24.

For the next two days, the learners from schools like Mavivane, Nonoti, Glenhills, Stanger South Secondary, Lower Tugela and Stanger High will be taught and coached by two retired English school teachers Mike Wood and Richard Parker representatives of the Fundanami Trust and well-known poet and story writer from Shakskraal Mala Gounden.

“We are delighted by the quality and quantity of contributions made by the children on a wide range of topics. They have been humorous, sensitive and sometimes challenging,” said Woods.

The workshop is a partnership between the Fundanami Trust, a non-profit organization aimed at addressing problems of literacy in the North Coast Community and the Luthuli Museum. To date over 20 000 books have been brought in to help establish libraries and reading schemes in the area.

“In addition to providing the venue and hosting the workshop, when the work is complete, the Luthuli Museum will help to fund the publishing of these stories in a special anthology or collection. This will go a long way towards tackling the problem of literacy in our area,” said Luthuli Museum director Brian Xaba.

“We feel it appropriate and significant that this workshop is being held at the Luthuli Museum given the history of Chief Albert Luthuli and his contribution to the development of the country. It is really fitting that the children are now benefitting from the efforts he put in,” said Woods.

“We hope that we are improving their life chances and that this exercise will not just be a three day affair but that it will become something they can take away with them and use for the rest of their lives,” said Woods.



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LET THE SPIRIT OF
LUTHULI SPEAK TO ALL

He said part of the problem of literacy is that the publishing industry in South Africa does not reflect the lives of the local people but rather tells the stories of people in foreign lands.

“Where better to get books about what happens in the local community than from the children themselves,” he said.