

SETHULE NEWSLETTER

August, 2021

SETHULE BIRTH CERTIFICATE TEAM CONTINUES TO SCORE

AUGUST MAIN STORY

From the Director's desk

I bring you the Sethule mid-year newsletter and hope that it would give you insight into what we have done so far in 2021. The Sethule programme strives to change lives of many orphans & underprivileged children positively in many communities in Zimbabwe.



Mrs. Thabbeth Cotton

Established in 2005, Sethule Orphans' Trust, has grown enormously. Our values however remain centered on these principles:

- **Love**- Which is one of the most cherished values
- **Perseverance**- Which drives people's eyes towards the goal
- **Humanity**- Which connects us all
- **Cohesion**- Which ensures a greater utopian outcome for all

*Doing for others
requires putting
their needs as a
high priority*

SETHULE SKILLS CENTRE: A PLACE OF POSSIBILITIES

The Sethule Skills Centre marked its second session since its commencement, only this time with a better number and more advanced skills activities. The Skills Centre is our vision, seeking to boost confidence and moral astuteness of our students, who come mostly from rural backgrounds. This initiative sought to equip students who had no chance to acquire modern life skills in their rural environments and prevent them finding themselves socially inept. Our project has engendered a lot of support, and it has seen our vulnerable children acquiring new interesting skills such as baking, cooking, carpentry, gardening, ICT and even music theory.

When the media department had an interview with one of our children, she said “Switching on an electric stove could be seen as a very silly thing, but to me it was not as I had never



switched on an electric stove in my entire life, since we have always been using firewood”.

Basic life skills such as sewing, making a bed, crossing a road safely with traffic, planning a journey, managing money, shopping in a supermarket, are taught. These may seem self-evident to a city dweller, but to a child from a rural background all these tasks represent a novelty. After some sessions at our new skills centre, our achieving students therefore no longer feel intellectually that they belong at boarding school but also that they belong socially. Thus they feel truly at home in their new situations.



“If skills are essential for all, then we must all embrace them for our own children to become competitive and fit into the advanced world”

SETHULE SCHOLARSHIP STUDENTS ALL SET TO GO BACK TO SCHOOL

Our girls and boys have embarked on another academic journey back to school; this was finally after the government of Zimbabwe had declared a lockdown on schools due to the deadly COVID-19 pandemic on 4th June 2021. Schools were reopened on 27th August, 2021, in phases.



Our Sethule Scholarship Fund ensured that our students got to school in time to be ready and prepared for another journey into the school term. Skills centre children benefited from Zoom lessons and extra tuition from tutors especially engaged by Sethule.

SETHULE CONTINUES ITS FIGHT AGAINST CHILD RELATED HUNGER

Our food distribution project since Lockdown in January fed over 250 families, particularly targeting children within these families. Regardless of stringent COVID-19 control measures put in place by the government, we managed to obtain special permission to deliver food parcels. We thus accomplished our target of feeding the needy known to us in many rural areas in Matabeleland North and South in particular. The Orphan Care team profiled each family as it collected its food package. The project is still in progress as, despite good rains, harvesting has still been problematic for many. Most families in rural areas find it hard to cope in the best of times. In the wake of the prolonged economic turmoil caused by the COVID-19 pandemic, their plight has been terrible. The families see Sethule as a beacon of hope in their lives.



The Sethule garden provides supplementary food for our orphan and underprivileged children. Our gardener and his family supervise the plot.

The garden still thrives, despite Covid, and actually, because of good rains, there was been an ample crop. We have also been able to provide vegetables to families completely stranded during the lockdown.

The irrigation system needs replacement soon since its destruction in floods.

SETHULE BIRTH CERTIFICATE TEAM CONTINUES TO SCORE

The birth certificate team has amazed us with their sterling efforts to ensure that as many children in the districts they visit are registered with the Registrar's office. This initiative was re-born in late October 2020 with specific funding; over 200 birth certificate applications having been processed by the team, and 173 birth certificates obtained to date, mostly in the last 5 months.

*“Sethule
advocating for
the legal rights
to identity for
all children in
Zimbabwe”*



The spotlight has fallen on Sethule Trust as practically the only and the key organization currently running this sort of project. Our chief coordinating officer said, “The progress so far is impressive, as this project is just starting; we have been working intensively to ensure that children in rural areas are notified of the importance of registration, and their guardians understand how vital this is. We have used our technological advantage also to reach out to as many authorities through social media platforms.”



Sethule Orphans' Trust | [sethule_trust](https://www.sethuletrust.org)

“SETHULE TRUST IS LEADING THE DISCUSSION ON DEVELOPMENT”