



Vaal River City, the Cradle of Human Rights

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Dear Sir/Madam,

As the Executive Mayor of Emfuleni in the Vaal Triangle, South Africa, I had the great pleasure of visiting Stephanopark Conference Centre and the Pont de Val Estates on the 4th of July 2019 to learn more about the Christian Youth Development Program (CYDP) program.

The Christian Youth Development Program (CYDP) is run by Brunstad Christian Church South Africa (BCCSA) in collaboration with the Upriver Group of Companies.

This program is funded with foreign donations and combined with other foreign investments provides job opportunities for about 340 local residents. By November 2019 it will increase to about 450. Taking into account the indirect impact of this program and the dependency ratio in the Vaal, this program supports over 2000 people in the Vaal. The Municipality has a population of over 800.000, of which 60 percent is unemployed, mainly young people of between the age group of 15-35years.

This program is a catalyst for youth development and will have a positive impact on our community. The vision of this CYDP program is also well aligned with the AU- Agenda 2063 (See <https://www.un.org/en/africa/osaa/pdf/au/agenda2063.pdf>), that seeks to promote regional integration and foster social cohesion.

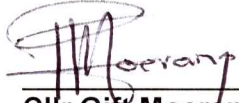
This program involves:

- Identifying young people from sub-Saharan Africa, currently predominantly from South Africa, Kenya, Cameroon, Malawi, Congo, Tanzania, Uganda & Ethiopia, who have a limited economic outlook without intervention – but a positive attitude and a willingness to learn.
- Allowing them to become participants in the CYDP program.
- Giving participants the opportunity to gain on-the-job training, soft skills and real work experience through a combination of workplace placements both in their own country and in South Africa for the duration of the program.
- Supporting participants in finding meaningful employment on their return to their home country – typically through property development and hospitality projects in their countries.

In my opinion this is one of the best programs involving collaboration between South Africa and other African countries. It has proved to have potential to help young people to help themselves, by becoming economically and socially self-sufficient. This program is also fulfilling the wish of our President, that the private sector should partner with government to create job opportunities for young people, as expressed recently in his State of the Nation Address.

As the Executive Mayor of Emfuleni and a proponent of social justice I am extremely grateful and encouraged by the objectives of this program which promotes the values of the African Union's anthem encapsulated in the line *"Let us all unite and toil together to give the best we have to Africa"*. I therefore recommend to all relevant departments and South African representatives abroad to support this program.

Regards,



Cllr Gift Moerane
Executive Mayor