

SchoolNet South Africa

Using ICT Skills and Digital Resources for Hospitality Studies Teaching



Ms Buba assisted by facilitator doing her first PowerPoint presentation.

Sun International in collaboration with the Department of Basic Education has sponsored a programme for hospitality schools that includes a teacher laptop, projector, whiteboard and a content access point for offline content and with 4G capability. The initiative sponsored the development of media-rich digital content aligned to the curriculum and is hosted in a zero-rated platform on the Vodacom network, and includes teacher professional development and research on the theory of change. Teacher professional development was hosted in the eight provinces where Sun International has operations and this report captures the journey of one teacher who attended training in the Eastern Cape.

Ms Buba is a FET phase Hospitality and Life Orientation teacher at Vulindlela Comprehensive High School is one of the teachers who attended the basic ICT skills workshop on the use of the digital curriculum content on the Sun International Portal.

Vulindlela Comprehensive High School is situated in Bizana on the Wild Coast of the Eastern Cape. This school, although very rural, is well-resourced with hospitality equipment due to continuous support by the Wild Coast Hotel and Casino. Despite being a very practical and enjoyed subject, the student enrolment is on the decline with 67 learners currently at the schools completing Grade 10-12 studies.

Ms Buba reports that her “learners are so passionate about hospitality that they hardly make time to study other subjects which results in them failing core subjects” This results in students repeating the grade and over time learners drop hospitality to join subject streams that are deemed more “important”. The decline in hospitality study learners is an ongoing concern for Ms Buba because they have beautiful resources, capable learners and full support to make the subject enjoyable and a success both for her learners and the community at large.



Kitchen equipment sponsored by Wild Coast Sun

Ms Buba's spirit, however is not deterred as she continues to utilize the resources sponsored by the Wild Coast Sun Hotel and Casino in creative ways. After attending the teacher professional development workshop at the Boardwalk Hotel and Casino (5-8 June 2017), Ms Buba feels more comfortable with technology. This workshop focussed its efforts on basic ICT skills and integrating the digital curriculum content available on the Sun International Portal. The workshop was very practical and allowed her to create lessons that she will be using with her learners and she has learnt ways to make her school administration easier.

Though her ICT skills are not yet excellent, Ms Buba realizes the important role that ICTs play in the classroom and is excited about the newly discovered ways she can make teaching and learning more exciting for her learners.

Mrs Buba's next steps is on how to present all her lessons using PowerPoint – for a first time computer user Mrs Buba managed to keep up with educators who are fairly skilled and she was excited.

After training Ms Buba was asked to share what she had learnt during training and below are her thoughts,

-Learners will have better understanding of the subject content especially with the practical videos that have been shared.

-Learners will get an opportunity of viewing demonstrations of various cooking methods using the equipment sponsored.

-Having access to the Sun hotels learners will be exposed to the world of work

Mathapelo Sehume