

LIFELINE FOR THE CLASS OF 2020

12 October 2020, Johannesburg – Matric learners have less than a month before the culmination of their 12-year schooling careers. Described by Professor Ursula Hoadley, of UCT’s school of education as “the most consequential examination of their lives”, the 2020 Final Grade 12 exams are set to kick off on 5 November with English First Additional Language.

At her recent briefing on the developments in the Basic Education Sector, Minister Angie Motshekga said that the late start of the examinations was intended to allow as much time as possible to cover critical curriculum content.

Even with the late start, learners are struggling to cover the year’s curriculum in the short space of time they’ve had, which is why the eduCate #SavingTheClassOf2020 National Matric Math & Science Revision initiative has been oversubscribed since Primestars and YouthStart Foundation made the announcement of its launch, together with the Minister and private sector partners, in August.

The initiative has been a national drive challenging all members of society to play a part in #SavingTheClassOf2020 by providing financial and in-kind support to enable the organisers to accommodate more learners in need. The disruptions to the academic year, due to the Covid-19 pandemic have been devastating, and as a result of South Africa’s socio-economic challenges, the majority of Grade 12 learners in under-resourced public schools have missed out on almost half of their curriculum, because they did not have the wherewithal to access online learning during lockdown.

Since 13 September – thanks to sponsors including Sanlam, Sasria, Bidvest, Omnia, Cell C, Liberty, Standard Bank, PPS, WDB, GFC, Discovery, Ascendis Health, KPMG, BCW, Rohlig Grinrod, Shoprite, Dynamic DNA, Spar, Allan Gray Orbis Foundation, Fundi, SADC WIB – 17 cinema complexes, with 65 screening auditoriums have hosted thousands of eager matriculants on a weekly basis as they work through the full Math & Science curriculum in preparation for their exams. This has all been done with strict adherence to Covid-19 safety protocols.

Nozizwe Vundla, head of the Sanlam Foundation says that the focus of Sanlam Foundation’s Socio-Economic Development programme is education. “The Foundation does this by taking a holistic approach to school support, which includes literacy and numeracy, infrastructure development, leadership and learner support, whilst encouraging community involvement.

“The Sanlam Foundation prides itself for partnering with a range of impact-orientated NGOs that seek to support learners in quintile 1 – 3 public schools. It therefore became imperative that we partner with Primestars on the #SavingTheClassOf2020 initiative as part of our multi-pronged response to the impact Covid-19 has had on the education sector, especially to learners with limited access to online resources. The #SavingTheClassOf2020 does not only align with our strategy, but enables the learners that the Foundation has been supporting throughout the year, to achieve their educational outcomes. In this regard, we supported Primestars with a grant of R2,5 million towards this initiative that 20 000 learners will benefit from.”

Whilst Basic Education Minister, Angie Motshekga has been urging parents to send their learners back to school, the demand from schools to participate in the #SavingTheClassOf2020 revision sessions has remained overwhelming nationwide. Further, schools that could not be accommodated, due to limited programme funds, join a waiting list of over 500 schools nationwide, hoping to be accommodated.

It is for this reason that Primestars and YouthStart, with the support of their sponsors, have been working to launch new platforms to extend the reach and accessibility of the sought after #SavingTheClassOf2020 revision content, and are proud to make the following announcement.

From the month of October, new exam preparation resources will be made available by the #SavingTheClassOf2020 initiative to matriculants across the country - free of charge - through 5 touch points including:

- (1) Cinema
- (2) **NEW** In-school (screenings in rural schools)
- (3) **NEW** Online – visit savingtheclassof2020.ulearningsa.net to access free lessons
- (4) **NEW** Television (Woza Matrics) – our content will be available on Woza Matrics from 26 Oct
- (5) **NEW** WhatsApp – From 12 October Free revision notes will be available for download

Matriculants can message “Hi” to 060 0703213 on WhatsApp and follow prompts for Primestars revision notes.

Tshepiso Chocho, People Management Executive at Sasria SOC Ltd highlighted the commitment of the Grade 12s saying, “It is also just as encouraging to see learners who are determined to have a better future and use opportunities that are presented to them. The Primestars initiative will significantly contribute to the much-needed skills in Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) in our country.”

These are extraordinary times that demand extraordinary responses and we are driving a movement of like-minded individuals and organisations that will step up and help to get our learners back to academic productivity – safely. We invite those that are able to support us to join our movement as Co-investors that will take learners on a journey from Schoolroom to Boardroom – we cannot do it alone.

ENDS

Contact Primestars on 011 430 4740 or email projects@primestars.co.za to find out how you can get involved.

***** NEXT PAGE*** Messages of support from our Sponsors**

LIBERTY

Nomaxabiso Matjila shares more on Liberty support of the programme "As Liberty, acting with humanity and doing what matters through our CSI is very important. We take pride in supporting education, as we believe it is the key to opening doors for financial and economic inclusion. Partnering with the like-minded organisation like Primestars to help Save the Class of 2020 with a digital way of learning is instrumental to enable learning and prepare learners for the future"

PPS

The #SaveTheClassof2020 initiative, will make a positive impact as the pupils reach the end of their high school career, which also marks the beginning of another journey and milestone in their lives," says Ayanda Seboni, Executive: PPS Brand, Marketing & Communications. "The Maths and Science revision sessions offered to the matric class of 2020 speaks to the important work that can be done by organisations who have the means and the know-how. This platform shows that in helping improve the learners' knowledge in subjects that form part of a deficit and need in our country, we are also contributing to the national agenda by closing current and future skills gap which will contribute to the development of South Africa and the next wave of empowered young graduate professionals," shares Masenyane Molefe, Executive Trustee of the PPS Foundation.

OMNIA

A sound educational STEM foundation provided to the youth of South Africa is essential for building a future ready nation. Omnia is proud to partner with Primestars for the #SavingTheClassOf2020 initiative which supports the advancement of the very people who will take hold of the baton, build this country and drive it forward. This initiative resonated with our focus on education and meaningful youth empowerment, and we are sure that this support will help provide the means for the class of 2020 to reach greater heights.' Says Kavita Pema Group Executive: Sustainability at Omnia Group.

BIDVEST

Alan Fainman, Chief Executive Bidvest Highlighted their commitment to the Cause: "We have supported Primestars and their initiatives to improve education for a number of years. The programmes have always been well structured and organised, and the content is such that the scholars can relate to it. Corporates such as we have a critical role in supporting government in assisting the matrics this year. This Pandemic will pass and so must the matrics"

CELL C

"The STEM education of young learners in South Africa is part of Cell C's DNA, says Juliet Mhango, Cell C's Human Capital Development and Transformation Chief Officer. "From Take A Girl Child To Work Day, to our Data Science Academy and Cell C Bursaries, we make every effort to empower our youth. We're proud to partner with Primestars and YouthStart Foundation on #SavingTheClassOf2020, to help learners complete their final exams in what has been a very challenging year."

FUNDI

In support of the initiative, Fundi is hosting a Fundraiser Fund Run on 27 October.

Mala Suriah from Fundi says, "with the countdown to both the race – and matric exams – officially started, it's time for South Africa to come together to #SavingTheClassOf2020. "You can do so today by donating directly, making a pledge or sponsoring per hour on 27 October when the race is in progress. All details are available on the company's dedicated microsite www.fundifund12for12.co.za," says Suriah. "We invite and challenge individuals, families, communities and corporates to help us positively impact both the lives and results of the matrics writing this year. Let's make this a race to remember – one that touches lives, brings hope and makes a real difference!"

GFC

Desmond Mthembu from The Gauteng Film Commission (GFC) says GFC is proud to be associated with #Savingtheclassof2020 which in our view Audio visual will play a pivotal role in curbing the disastrous probability of high failing rate due to interruption of schooling as a result of Covid-19 pandemic.

KPMG

KPMG has a renewed commitment to serve public interest, of which caring for our communities is a huge part. As a skills dependent firm and a training office, education and lifelong learning are at the core of our strategy and social investment focus. Member firms within the KPMG network across its citizenship programmes have supported the call by UNESCO that learning should never stop. KPMG South Africa has provided its own skills to advance learning and has formed partnerships with organisations that are working tirelessly to mitigate disruptions on the class of 2020. It is indeed an honour for us to contribute towards the development of our youth and future leaders alongside a credible and long-standing champion of Education and Learning such a Primestars. "We see Primestars' model that ensures that learners remain engaged and excited about education and learning as a critical service to our country. Their focus on youth entrepreneurship is also a shared focus area which we are excited to be a part of in future," says Makgotso Letsitsi, Head of People, Transformation and Citizenship at KPMG South Africa.

DYNAMIC DNA

Calvin Mogorosi from Dynamic DNA said: "Dynamic DNA is committed to supporting the digitalization of education in SA and believes that through investing in the youth and education, they are investing in the long-term economic growth and prosperity of the country."

PRIMESTARS

Primestars is a 13-year young, majority black women-owned education organisation that utilises Ster Kinekor cinemas as Theatres of Learning; and runs programmes in Career Guidance, Entrepreneurship, Financial Literacy and Matric Math & Science, to support high school learners from under-resourced communities. The programmes impact an average of 90 000 Grades 9 to 12 learners annually.

YOUTHSTART FOUNDATION NPC

In 2019, the YouthStart Foundation NPC was established to extend the impact of the programmes that have been successfully implemented through Primestars, for over a decade, benefitting over 1 million high school learners over the period. This initiative propagates our collective commitment to strengthening the development of programmes with tangible results and evident outcomes.

The Foundation is fully institutionalized and satisfies all compliance requirements for Non-Profit Companies in South Africa including Section 18A as well as NPO status with the Department of Social Development.