

## Adult Learning Forum (ALF)

### Who are we?

ALF is a Non-Profit Organisation based in the Western Cape. It was established in 2001 and promotes lifelong learning for all. The Forum has a strong ethic of work and responsibility, demonstrated by our involvement and engagement with a range of organisations and our commitment to accountable non-governmental issues. We are supported and funded by *dvv-international*.

### What do we do?

The forum engages with a range of national issues such as: non-formal learning, strongly supporting and advocating the *REFLECT* approach, social justice, and Lifelong Learning and poverty alleviation. We partner and network with a number of organisations, in both civil society and government. We have been involved in planning and running Adult Learners' Week events for a number of years. We also run plenary meetings and workshops for educators and adult learners on topics of relevance to them, as well as educator forums and adult and youth conferences.



## ALF Events 2013

***Our adult and youth education theme for this year is "Respecting our women"***

- Workshop on Rights and Roles of Women - July 2013- venue in rural areas still to be decided
- Workshop on Education and Awareness of Respect for Women- September 2013 to coincide with Adult Learners' Week

## Provincial Skills Development Forum

ALF was asked to send a representative to participate in the Technical Working Group of the Provincial Skills Development Forum. The Skills Development Amendment Act, 2008 (Act No. 37, 2008) requires of each province to have a Provincial Skills Development Forum (PSDF). Skills development needs to be about acquiring skills that are related to employment, job creation and the business market in the context of social change in order for provincial strategies to be fully realised. The Premier of the Western Cape launched the PSDF on 06 June 2011. ALF also believes that education must be linked with skills development.

## ALF Representation

ALF is represented on the following organisations:

- SANGOCO- South African National NGO Coalition
- Learning Cape Initiative (LCI)
- Adult Education & Training Board (AET)
- Provincial Skills Development Forum
- Khanyisel'Abantu – a national platform for adult and youth learning

## ALF Executive Members

Nomhle Mdekazi- Chairperson  
Farrell Hunter- *dvv international*, observer status  
Jenny Birkett  
Loyiso Ntshinga  
Melvin Esau

Lin Helme  
Emmerentia Goliath  
Mara Geduld  
Nonkululeko Madubula  
Merle Fred

### **Contact Details:**

Merle Fred (Administrative Assistant)  
Tel:021 4474898  
Cell: 0824023293  
Email: [alforum@mweb.co.za](mailto:alforum@mweb.co.za)

Lin Helme (ALF Administrator/Coordinator)  
Tel: 021 851142  
Cell: 0731889540  
[abeshare@iafrica.com](mailto:abeshare@iafrica.com)

**YOU CAN SOON FOLLOW US ON FACEBOOK!**

**PLEASE SEND YOUR COMMENTS TO: [alforum@mweb.co.za](mailto:alforum@mweb.co.za)**

## What is Khanyisel'Abantu and how did it start?

In April 2011 the Adult Learning Forum, Western Cape convened a National Conference at De La Bat School in Worcester on 'Understanding the Current Adult Education and Training Landscape and Charting a 'Way Forward.' Some of the key resolutions coming out of the conference were:

- Develop a representative National body for Adult Learning to advance deliberations
- Educators from various provinces present at the conference to undertake to work with South African ABET Educators for their voices to be heard
- The National body to make direct presentations to the Minister of DHET to carry forward the mandate of the conference.

The interim members met in Cape Town to discuss the terms of reference for such a national body. The national body, finally named Khanyisel'Abantu, meaning *light of learning for the people*. More on this coming in Khanyisel'Abantu newsletter.....

Representatives serving on the interim structure:



*From left to right: Farrel Hunter (dvv-international); Merle Fred (ALF, WC) Vumile Danile (Eastern Cape); Lin Helme (ALF, WC); Thenjiwe Pienaar (ALF Northern Cape); Astrid Von Kotze (Popular Education, WC); Mkululi Vava (Eastern Cape); Selby Nomnganga (Northern Cape); Richard Rangiah (KwaZulu- Natal)*

## Meeting with the Minister Blade Nzimande

On the 6th March 2012 members of ALF and the interim National body met with the Minister of DHET, Blade Nzimande and delegates from his office in Cape Town. The aim of the meeting was to highlight conditions of the adult and youth learning sector and discuss ways to work together, as well as reviewing areas in the green paper on post school education and training. The discussion was open and frank and raised particular issues around adult and youth learning in the non-formal sector. After some deliberations and discussions the following recommendations made by the minister:

- Making funds available to bring the group together
- Engaging the Community Education and Training Centre (CETC) process
- Discuss and engage communities on Green Paper and the CETC process
- To look at short, medium and long term strategy for Youth and Adult Education
- Ways of how to engage with the SETAs

This meeting was followed by presentations made by Khanyisel'Abantu (Farrell Hunter and Yoemna Saint) to the ministerial task team on CETC's in March 2012. Furthermore Khanyisel'Abantu was invited to attend a stakeholders meeting where the task team presented a draft report on the green paper on post-school education.