

MRYE MEMBERS TRAVEL ACROSS FOUR PROVINCES TO MOTIVATE LEARNERS AT RURAL SCHOOLS

The DST-NRF Centre of Excellence in Tree Health Biotechnology (CTHB) funded four outreach ventures by Mpepu Rural Youth Encouragement in 2016. The team presented to more than 40 schools in the Eastern Cape, Limpopo and North West provinces.

The first trip was to Rathoke village, Limpopo, on 11 March and the team visited four schools. Learners in the district were writing term test and the team had to wait for the learners to finish writing before presenting. Though members were frustrated at not having pamphlets and information brochures to hand out, they were still able to present and answer the learners' questions. Michael Shabangu wrote: "I will make it my priority to make sure I mentor the learners until they make it in life."



MRYE's visit to Matatiele in the Eastern Cape in March was the group's most challenging. Twenty members travelled in two minibuses and had arranged to visit 21 schools. Cancellations, long distances between schools, miscommunication between schools' representatives and bad roads however resulted in delays and the teams eventually visited 15 schools. Though the team relied on a circuit manager to facilitate meetings with the

principals at the schools, his involvement at times caused confusion and frustration. They resolved to liaise with the schools directly so that they could be in charge of their own schedule. The team also considered acquiring branded jerseys for when it was too cold to present in their MRYE T-shirts. Members had to stay in Matatiele an extra day when two tyres punctured in one of the minibuses on the day they were supposed to drive back to Pretoria.

Eight members travelled to Makapanstad, in the North West province in May and visited four schools. Members agreed that this was one of their most successful trips with the least hiccups. They were however concerned that most learners took Maths Literacy instead of Mathematics because this limited the degrees they qualified to study at most universities.



MRYE presented to 20 schools in Matipane, Limpopo, in July. Their visit coincided with winter school camps to help learners, especially those in Grade 12, prepare for their final year examinations. At one such camp, MRYE presented to more than nine schools in one day.

MRYE members grow in confidence and dedication to underprivileged learners and the running of their organisation with every trip. They are often asked to return and this has given them the determination to continue with their mission. We wish them success in all their endeavours.