Adult Learning & Literacy for Democracy & Citizenship

It's your right to be literate

THE TIME IS NOW!

As we celebrate 10 years of democracy, South Africa in partnership with the UNESCO Institute for Education is hosting International Adult Learners’ Week 2004.

This annual campaign aims to "open the doors of learning" and contribute to the challenges of investment, employment and poverty facing our country.

Adult Learners’ Week is a lobbying and advocacy campaign which involves all levels of government, business, labour and civil society. This partnership adds immeasurable value to the promotion of literacy in our country and enables us to reach and communicate with our communities. In this manner, Adult Learners' Week becomes a catalyst for change, enabling us to challenge and address the imbalances of the past and build on our successes.

We have a legacy of literal oppression and denial of access to equal education. The challenge is simple: 4.5 million South Africans, especially women and youth cannot read or write. Adult Learners' Week as a vehicle seeks to support the fulfillment of the right of every individual to learn.

It is the government's promise to rectify the inequities of the past and honour the peoples' contract that the "doors of learning" will be opened. Thus, government, business, labour and civil society seek to consolidate a point of departure to honour this contract through the Adult Learners’ Week vehicle, to enable us to meet the needs of the 21st century. It is this broad-based approach to embrace Literacy and Lifelong Learning, which enables our people to climb the ladder from ABE & T, HIV/AIDS, life-skills through to IT, Media and HE.

On the 6th-11th September, in Cape Town, government, business, labour and civil society role players will meet to provide a platform to celebrate our successes, talk to the challenges and seek to fast-track the process of human resource and skills development to achieve "a better life for all."

*This will be implemented through the ideals of:
  - equity,
  - job creation,
  - ownership and participation
  - cooperation and partnerships,
  - social support,
  - and a social wage with emphasis on women, youth and people with disabilities

"10 years of democracy, and we are proud of it. The future looks bright, and we invite you to come walk along with us, towards building a foundation of a better life for all."

Extracts from
* The Freedom Charter
* The Growth and Development Strategy

Strive to be literate.
It's your right!

International Adult Learners’ Week

Cape Town, South Africa
6th - 11th September 2004
www.alw.co.za

For further information, please contact:
the project manager, Jacky Thomas
Tel: +27 21 447-1219
Fax: +27 21 447-1217
E-mail: capable@afriica.com

in partnership with