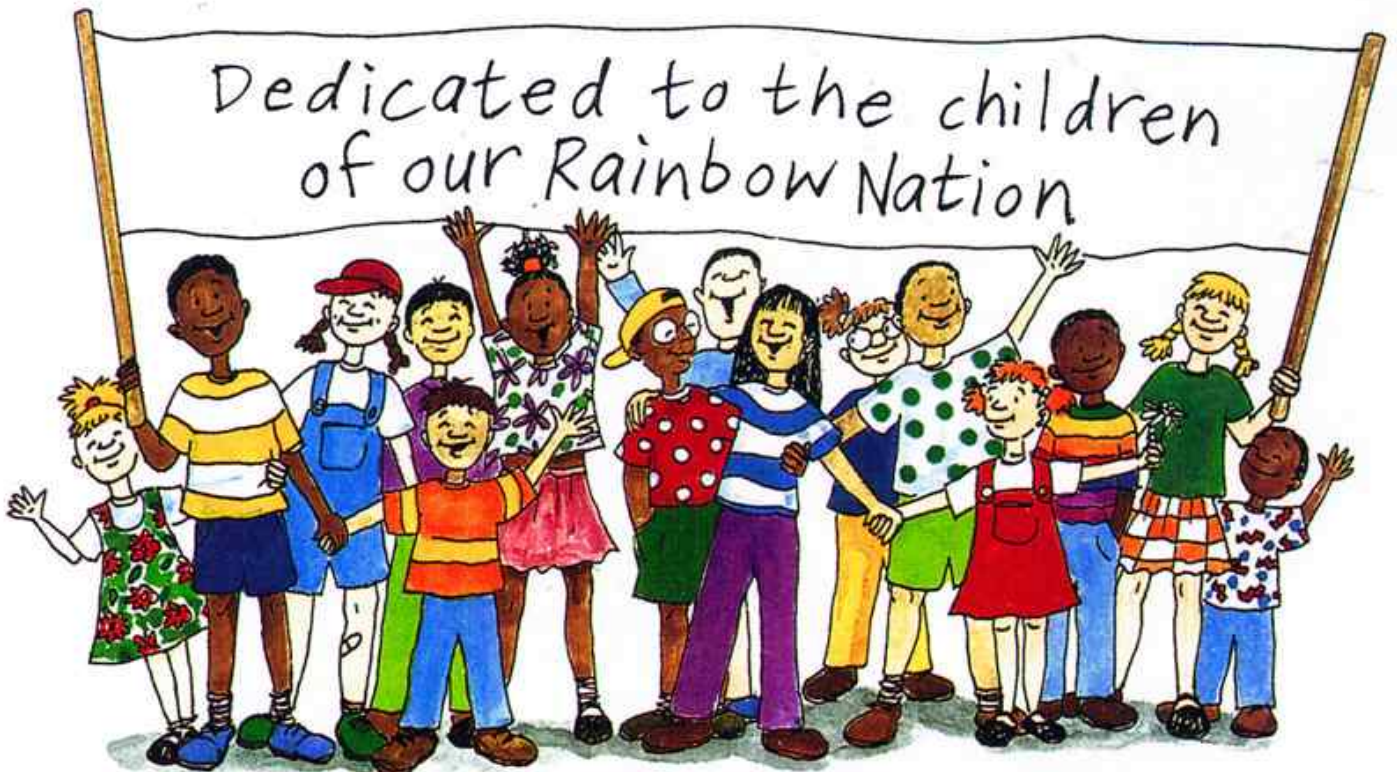




Edu-peg

# THE SACTWU EDUPEG PROJECT

## 1<sup>st</sup> TERM REPORT 2009



*"The Youth of our country are the valued possession of the nation. Without them there is no future. Their needs are immense and urgent."*

Nelson Mandela - From his address to the House of Parliament, Cape Town, 24 May 1994.

Compiled by: E.A. Swersky - Project Manager & National Coordinator



**THE SACTWU  
EDUPEG PROJECT**

**1<sup>st</sup> TERM REPORT  
2009**

**BOTSWANA**



We put plans in place to have Jason Knott, our resident Botswana trainer, to travel to Cape Town to work alongside our Western Cape trainers, Shirley du Plessis and Ingrid van der Spuy, in the Robertson cluster, in early February 2009. This proved to be a very positive training experience and there was very good interaction, cross-pollination of training ideas, styles and methods. This is a process that I will look to repeat.

We were also able to purchase and set up a laptop for Jason, which he will pay off by mid-year. This will give him much more reliable computer access, as previously he had to rely on the internet café in Maun.

Training in Botswana began in January, and Jason spent some time at most schools, tidying and checking up on our resources. In some schools these resources had been totally re-organised and at Boyei Primary School, Jason needed to "rescue" our materials from the store room, following the collapse of the ceiling due to the accumulated weight of bat faeces.

Jason has used the Edupeg resources to demonstrate lessons in various standards at all of our schools. In all instances, the children have responded very positively, and they have enjoyed using the programme as part of their set activities. It is encouraging to note that the educators all appear to be well pleased with the content and level of the planned lessons, and all seem keen to try to incorporate our books in future lessons. Some of the schools that we support, have very high pupil enrolment, and some classes are conducted in "outside classrooms", under the trees. Some school buildings need restoration and maintenance, and certain schools also need new and/or additional desks and chairs.

It would appear that all of the required school stationery, and text books had not arrived at schools in time for the commencement of lessons this year. Additionally the Botswana system of teachers being placed on transfer has resulted in quite a number of teachers not being in their 2009 positions. This is obviously very challenging, as many of the classes commenced the academic year without a teacher. Some classes are doubled up, to try to alleviate this problem, but the amount of pupils, desks and chairs squashed into a classroom, and the pressure on the single teacher, are all detrimental to good quality teaching.

Bana Ba Letsatse continues to run efficiently and effectively, and Jason is a much valued weekly visitor to this amazing establishment. This little project, which has grown substantially over the years, is truly testament to what can be achieved with passion, planning and commitment.

Bana Ba Metse, up on the Okavango pan handle, also continues to function well. The young volunteer there, Mr Falmer, is an Edupeg devotee, and he incorporates Edupeg in both Maths and Language activities. He and Jason co-teach during Jason's

**REGION:** Botswana  
**DATE:** 21 Jan - 28 March 2009

Name of school	Pupil enrolment	Teachers & Principal
Letsholathebe Primary School	939	28
Boyei Primary School	1020	33
Moremi Primary School	195	12
Botswelelo Primary School	448	16
Bana Ba Letsatse	21	2
Gxhabara Primary School	920	31
Etsha 13 Primary School	929	26
Nxamasere Primary School	522	16
Bana Ba Metse	44	2
	<b>5038</b>	<b>166</b>





visits, as well as run extra classes for learners who are struggling. These two men work together with mutual respect and support of each other. Botswana has a specific "Games" period in Mathematics, and I purchased a number of resources that Jason will include in this time-tabled slot. It is my plan that the fun type of activities in Edupeg will be included during these sessions.



I also purchased some chess sets, with the idea of Jason starting a chess club one afternoon as well, at each of our Maun schools. My objective is to improve concentration, thinking skills and strategy. Jason has begun these clubs, which have been well attended, which are popular, and where already some competent chess players have been identified. Jason has also been involved in developing study skills with the Standard Seven classes, to assist these pupils to become better prepared for their year end examination.

I am well pleased with what we have achieved to date and thank The Wild Foundation for their generous funding, which has made possible the upliftment and support work we conduct in our schools in Botswana.

