

VALHALLA ARTS

"When the burning flame of spirit is ignited, it will transform any soul - no matter what the circumstances."
(MUSA E. ZULU, 1999)

INDIMEZULU Trust **(Educating Students with Disabilities)**



In 2009 I joined forces with an old friend Vusi Ndimeni, to start a bursary program for students with disabilities to further their studies at tertiary institutions of education in KwaZulu-Natal.

We registered this venture as a Trust, established a Board of Trustees and named it the 'INDIMEZULU Trust'. We then set out on an exciting journey to identify, profile and compile a database of illegible students with disabilities in need of financial assistance. INDIMEZULU is a name born out of the combination of both our surnames NDIMENI & ZULU. In Zulu language 'INDIMA' is a field where

you plough and sow seeds. 'E'ZULU' translates into 'something deep and wide'. INDIMEZULU thus means is a wide field where we aim to sow seeds deep into the hard soil and nurture their growth into towering trees of THISABILITY.

To educate a child with a disability is not only to assist them but to allow them to unveil themselves. It is to tap deep into their potentials and allow their 'imprisoned and latent' abilities to escape into the open where they are enabled to open their wings and fly with the winds. 'Assisting' is holding someone by the hand whilst 'unveiling' is to liberate. Our responsibility as a society is to resist at all costs creating dependents out of people with disabilities but to provide a platform which enhances their sense of worth. As INDIMEZULU

Trust we strongly believe that the fundamentals of disability sector empowerment are balanced in the scales of teaching, practicing and entrenching this philosophy in social disability awareness culture – which is why we chose education as our priority focus.





Silibamba Lishisa!!

INDIMEZULU Trust was established with three main objectives:

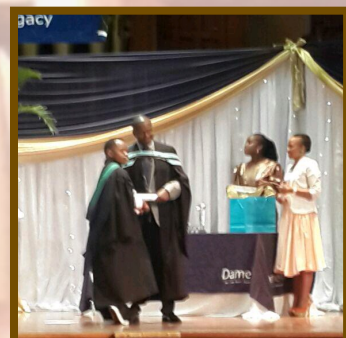
- To raise funds for bursaries.
- To implement an outreach program for the mobilization of people with disabilities to access various available development initiatives, and
- To research and compile a comprehensive database of students with a disability, particularly those that are in their final year of study at schooling level together with those graduating in various tertiary institutions of the province





In 2011 INDIMEZULU Trust established an 'Agreement of Undertaking in Respect of Funding' with the KwaZulu-Natal Department of Economic Development & Tourism that has been our principal funder. Each year, since then, the Trust submits a funding request to the Department which then allocates enough funding to pay towards tuition, accommodation (and meals), stationery and assistive devices' needs of students with disabilities that INDIMEZULU Trust has identified as qualifying beneficiaries for assistance. Continuous funding (until they complete their 3-year Diplomas and Degrees – or wish to go further to post-graduation studies) is guaranteed as long as beneficiaries maintain a 60% pass rate in their academic subjects.

Over the last five years (2011 -2015) INDIMEZULU Trust has identified and allocated funding to 35 tertiary education students with disabilities in KwaZulu-Natal. Today we boast 10 candidates who have climbed up the podium in various institutions of higher learning to be capped as proud graduates.



Viva Academia!!!!