



Climate, Food and Solidarity – Empowering Learners to Address Global Concerns

11 July 2023

Mandela Day is a global call to action for citizens of the world to take up the challenge and follow in the formidable footsteps of Madiba, a man who transformed his life, served his country and freed his people. Its objective is to inspire individuals to take action to help change the world for the better and, in so doing, build a global movement for good.

The focus of this year's celebration is climate, food and solidarity, which are global concerns. Thus, the celebration calls on leaders and individuals to make deliberate efforts to address these problems.

The 18th of July 2023 would have marked the 105th birthday of our icon, Nelson Mandela, and now, more than ever, we need to look at climate change, persistent and increasing levels of poverty as well as inequality. We need to ask ourselves if we are living up to the legacy Nelson Mandela has left us.

What is the link between sustainability, climate crisis and food insecurity? Which practical and measurable interventions are initiated by Educators to address the negative consequences of climate inaction and food insecurity?





These are the questions that the last year's National Teachers Awards (NTA) Winners Mr Ali Alfred Mokgalaka from Hoërskool Frans du Toit in Limpopo and Mr Adil Shaik Mungalee from Gauteng's Yusuf Dadoo Primary School, are tackling through helping the youth have a meaningful role in addressing global challenges.

They are endeavouring to make this connection through engaging events and initiatives that help to increase young people's civic participation and, ultimately, lead to a feeling that youth can be key actors in a global conversation about development and social causes.

Mr Adil Shaik Mungalee, who is described as the 'community champion' because of his involvement with the community, does food security projects at his school with community members in the area as well as teach young people fishing skills.

Hunger and food insecurity can be ended within a generation. For this to happen, however, more concerted efforts are required; thus, the work of Mr Adil cannot go unnoticed.

Mr Ali Alfred Mokgalaka's involvement in extra-curricular activities such as soccer and the film industry has also made a huge impact. Through his initiatives, players were identified to be part of the Baroka FC Development Team, and learners were inspired to be part of the film industry and to excel in this field through the Annual Marula Film Festival. He opens up doors for learners in the industry and is a role model for aspiring actors to achieve their goals.





Mr Mokgalaka is not just a teacher but a mentor, a community leader, and a change-maker. He is also a Metro FM award RnB artist winner, a filmmaker, and a soccer coach. He inspires learners to become their best selves and to strive for greatness, not just in their academic pursuits but also in their personal lives.

To achieve the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), the world needs to leverage the full potential of all generations. Solidarity across generations is key to sustainable development. We must collaborate to foster successful and equitable intergenerational relations and partnerships to ensure no one is left behind.

