

CSP interventions

1. Xenophobic incidences

In May 2008, xenophobic incidences gripped South Africa and the world. The incidences occurred in areas that have the predominance of foreign nations, that is, the central business district where there is a concentration of residential accommodation and also in the urban periphery where there are more informal settlements. In the main, the incidents targeted non-South African blacks and in some areas like KZN, included non-Zulu speaking South Africans.

In the Durban north region, a Safe centre was set up at the Verulam Police Station. This centre accommodated all displaced people north of Durban to Tongaat. In consultation with the police Tongaat Hulett donated goods, largely food and blankets, two marquees and toilets, and loaned them two television sets. TH staff requested the opportunity to contribute and such voluntary contributions were collected through the local Human Resources offices.

TH continues to engage with SAPS Verulam to provide support in crime prevention initiatives. This relationship offers TH an opportunity to ensure that security issues in TH development and neighbouring communities receive attention.

2. Arbour Day

KwaMashu's J L Dube High School has gone green! Thanks to a "greening" initiative launched by Tongaat Hulett, Wildlands Conservation Trust and Gagasi99.5fm, this dedicated group of learners will be able to enjoy seeing the

progress of the 100 trees planted at the school, as well as 1000 trees donated to the KwaMashu community.

The initiative has seen over 3000 trees planted in KwaMashu and Waterloo since its inception just over three years ago. The annual Arbour Week tree planting is the culmination of each phase of the programme, in which participants are trained in the identification and removal of alien species, as well as the planting and nurturing of indigenous trees, which they can then sell for profit. Many of these “Trepreneurs” now provide trees for use in new developments and landscaping projects by Tongaat Hulett.

“Tongaat Hulett is committed to sustainability – not only in our natural environment, but also the sustainability our social and economic development,” says Bongani Gumede, Tongaat Hulett Developments’ director: corporate. “Our philosophy of Corporate Social Partnership involves engaging with communities and determining where we can add the most value, in a manner that is most relevant to these communities in the long term.

“The ongoing success of this initiative, which combines a ‘green’ environmental programme with skills development and education, is a shining example of the excellent potential for growth that exists when we take a holistic approach to development.”

[KZN MEC: Education, Ina Cronje was guest of honour at a ceremony held at J L Dube High School on 5 September. She expressed her appreciation for the initiative and joined Tongaat Hulett directors and staff, J L Dube learners and teachers, as well as representatives of Wildlands and Gagasi 99.5fm, in the planting of 100 trees.

In previous years, the greening initiative has had a profound impact on its participants – namely Gozololo Care Centre and Waterloo Primary School and Phase 6 housing– which are bright beacons of hope in KwaMashu and Waterloo respectively.

3. Waterloo Laboratory and Media Centre at Waterloo

In partnership with Waterloo Primary School, TH has embarked upon the building of a lab/media centre that will be open to both the students and members of the community. This state of the art building has been completed and final security features to secure 50 computers that have been installed will be finalised before the end of the year. There will be a launch of this project in Q1 2009.

4. Amaotana Feeding Scheme

Soul Winning Community Project, based at Amaotana, a community situated on the western side of Verulam town has partnered with TH in delivering goods required by the community for effective running of a soup kitchen. This occasion was also attended by His Excellence, the Mayor Obed Mlaba, from Ethekwini Municipality and other community leaders.

Mama Mhlongo, who is a champion behind the project, accepted goods from TH. Goods consisted of 6 wheelchairs, fridge, 2 gas stoves, 50 plastic chairs and 2 water urns.