

**Hilltop Empowerment Centre**  
Registered Non-Profit Organisation  
Registration Number: 015-746 NPO  
Hilltop Empowerment Computer Training Centre  
Accreditation Number: 04 000 899  
Supplier Number: CH 10806242 EC



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## **PLATFONTEIN PROJECT**

31 March 2015

### **DIRECTOR'S REPORT**

The Platfontein training project had a few basic objectives for the first month of operation.

Settling the group from Platfontein, making them feel welcome and at home with all the basic conveniences in one large house – going through an orientation process where they link with the Hilltop environment and the local scenario – coming to grips with the various training elements that had been clarified during their interviews at Platfontein when the selection process was undertaken.

Of course in a training of this nature where communication was always going to be an issue given the huge language divide, we knew this was going to be a challenge but happily we believe that we have not only overcome this obstacle but have witnessed remarkable progress made by the students from Platfontein to the point that after a series of communication classes accompanied by intensive work at the computer centre with most daily lessons from 8am to 8.30pm with some breaks, we are now witnessing the fruits of these efforts. This was evidenced a few days ago when all the students could make a 3-5 minute English presentation with great success. The icing on cake was their results of the end of the month test where they achieved an average of 88%!!! After one session – you will notice from the report that they did a few re-writes during their first test. This one was a full once off session. (See report)

We are extremely grateful for the dedication shown by the all the trainers and the manner with which the students have applied themselves, their self discipline in the studies and their amazing application despite their initial fears a stresses in handling many of the tasks in English, Messages have been coming back from the leaders at Platfontein that they look forward to their skills gained here at Hilltop and have some projects lined up for them when they return including agricultural projects.

Parallel to the training has been the interaction with IDC (industrial development corporation – (See their website: [www.idc.co.za](http://www.idc.co.za)) where after the initial meeting and commitment expressed I sent them a concept document as per our agreement – that they have acknowledged and will be following this up.

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In the new month we expect to continue with the computer training, the life skills personal empowerment programme, English language and communications skills, agriculture – food production, small animal husbandry (chickens, pigs etc) – business skills training will commence after Easter together with the registration of their NGO and some business enterprises in readiness for the IDC connection

We believe and emphasise the deep gratitude that is felt for the amazing intervention of the Swiss donors, who has made this all possible and which is now already beginning to bear some serious fruit. The intensity of the programme and the student's dedication will continue to show good progress.

With much thanks to all whom have and are assisting in our students change their lives and realise their dreams.

Rommel Roberts

**DIRECTOR**

**Hilltop Empowerment Centre**