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CELEBRATE LEARNING

The Fundamentals
Training Centre

www.onlineftc.com

2nd Floor, 7 Anton Anreith Arcade, Cape Town, South Africa, 8000
Tel: + 27 (0)21-4218577. Fax: +27 (0)21-4218636
Web: www.onlineftc.com e-mail: info@onlineftc.com

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SPRING SCHOOL HAS SPRUNG!



Celebration of Learning is Back!

The Celebration of Learning Summer Courses starts in mid-September until end of November 2008. There are some new and exciting courses, as well as some old favourites. These courses are guaranteed to enhance your career prospects in these trying economic times.

See more details on our website: www.onlineftc.com or contact us at the numbers and email address provided above.

Editorial

Welcome to Spring School 2008. The Fundamentals Training Centre (FTC) and University of Cape Town (UCT), in partnership with the Learning Cape Festival and the Adult Learning Forum, are proud to present Spring School 2008. We are offering an exciting range of courses, covering a wide range of topics for individuals, communities and businesses.

Spring School 2008 is firmly located within the Learning Cape Festival theme for 2008: *What do you have to say?*

In response to this theme, our research showed that most people say: "Well I'm not sure" ... "I dunno" ... "Ek wietie" ... "Andiyazi". We believe that the FTC/ UCT Spring School presents a host of learning opportunities which might just solve this question. As an adult learner the training courses on offer will, in a variety of ways, equip you for your life and work.

Spring School 2008 takes place 1 - 5 September at the University of Cape Town's Leslie Social Science Building.

Enrol now for:

Strategic Planning

Leadership and Management

Business English

Assessor Course

Moderator Course

Financial Management for Non-financial Managers

Courses for practitioners and trainees in the film industry

Higher Education and Training Certificate: Development Practice Level 5 (offered as a qualification or a learnership . Both programmes have RPL options.)

We provide leadership and management programmes for corporates, government and communities.



MORE REASONS TO BE AT SPRING SCHOOL 2008!



'INVITATION TO DIALOGUE'

This year a series of dialogues designed to complement the variety of courses available at Spring School will be hosted by civil society organisations active in the Western Cape, under the banner of the South African NGO Coalition (SANGOCO). These lunch time events are scheduled Monday - Thursday (12h30 - 14h00). The daily dialogues will culminate in a mega-event on Friday, 5 September 2008, 10h00–13h00. There is no cost attached to the lunch time programme and mega-event. Everyone is welcome to attend.

The series addresses a rich diversity of issues under the theme: *Rebuilding a Platform for Civil Society*

Engagement.—Challenges and Prospects. The topics for each day are as follows:

Monday, 1 Sep 2008	Collective Identities and Human Rights
Tuesday, 2 Sep 2008	Leadership and Governance
Wednesday, 3 Sep 2008	Building Organisational Capacities
Thursday, 4 Sep 2008	Facilitating Access to Resources
Friday, 5 Sep, 2008	Engaging Key Actors to ensure Programmatic Development and Change in 2009 and beyond



CAN COMMUNITIES SAY ANYTHING ABOUT LIFELONG LEARNING?

Munyaradzi Makoni

The train stops, we stampede to get in and beat the one-minute on transit stoppage time. I squeeze past the armpits of a passenger, a security guard. He tries to snuff life out of me. But, we all got in all the same. Incidentally, we sit next to each other. On closer inspection, we know each other. He guards our neighbourhood.

And, a conversation starts.

So where do you stay, I ask him? "In Khayelitsha," he says. "How is life there?" "Oh! We are surviving my brother. There is poverty, school drop-outs are everywhere but life goes on." he says totally resigned to fate.

That is the painful story.

"The youths in the area have limited opportunities. The temptation is higher for them to drop from school and try to make a living from crime. Some parents don't care either. It's a hopeless situation," says the security guard.

"I would not want my kids to lose out on career opportunities. They have to go ahead with education but I can't afford it," he adds.

This typically exemplifies feelings and situations that one gets in the whole of Western

Cape, especially in downtrodden black and coloured communities. It can be Mitchells Plain, Manenberg or Guguletu. In rural communities, it could be a slightly different story, people might yearn for more education but their ambitions are unusually limited. They have no money? Sometimes they don't know where to go to further their training.

This year's Learning Cape Festival is about 'them', those who seem to think the door is closed to progress with their education. Those who believe without formal education they cannot progress anywhere in life. The clarioncall is: "What do they have to say?"

We wait with bated breath as our attention is arrested with their actions during the festival. What stops people from the desire to pursue further education? Is it sheer laziness? Is it ignorance or is it just plainly a 'I don't care' attitude? Today South Africa battles to find quality football players who can take the country to dizzy heights during the World Cup in 2010, yet vast talent goes to waste untapped due to gangsterism and drugs. During school days one

meets more children of school going age on the streets than in the classrooms. Who is to blame? There are adults who dropped out from school as children and eventually dropped out of learning life enhancing skills. Can't they pick up their laurels again? Learning Cape is itching to know, how are they making it in their lives?

In pursuance with our mandate, to inspire you to learn during the Learning Cape Festival, we wish to know what can we do to make your life better? Your educational self-enhancement becomes a key to a better skilled South Africa.

Contact the Learning Cape at 021-4220923



Munyaradzi Makoni is a freelance writer. He joined the Learning Cape Festival as a writer in 2008