The JSE remains committed to the Change a Life Trust, which supports crime prevention and youth development initiatives.

ROAD TO TRANSFORMATION

The 2013 Change a Life Nguni Tour was a five-day, 600 km cycle event that tracked Southern Africa’s cultural roots, exploring the migration routes of the Nguni people who formed the dominant African cultures of the region. It raised R3.5 million for the Change a Life organisation, bringing to almost R20 million the...
The JSE has remained one of the key sponsors because the event is an effective vehicle used to support crime prevention.

The JSE sponsored the third day of the 2013 Nguni Tour, which involved a tough 185 km ride over the Lubombo mountains to Mkuzi in KwaZulu-Natal. The Change a Life initiative has helped many causes such as the DNA Project, which achieved a significant milestone in August 2013 when the DNA Bill it has tirelessly lobbied for, was adopted by Parliament. Founded and run by Vanessa Lynch, the DNA Project was one of the first initiatives to receive support from Change a Life.

The JSE was one of the first companies to sponsor the Change a Life Cycle Tour when it was launched in SA in 2008 because the stock exchange identified with the causes that the Mike Thomson Change a Life Trust supports. The JSE has remained one of the key sponsors because the event is an effective vehicle used to support crime prevention and youth development initiatives. JSE CEO Nicky Newton-King, her predecessor Russell Loubser and Bernadette Rheeders, legal counsel at the stock exchange, have been regular participants in the tour since its inception.

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The bill, which governs the use of DNA in criminal investigations, will allow for proper analysis and a national database to help identify and convict repeat offenders. Other Change a Life projects, which have also been championed by powerful role models wanting to give back to society, have also excelled. One example is the Martin Dreyer Academy in the Valley of a Thousand Hills, which has had a particularly good year.

In February, Change a Lifers once again dominated the Dusi Canoe Marathon, with nine of the organisation’s paddlers finishing in the top 27 of SA’s iconic sporting event. Eric Sbonelo Zondi, 25, who grew up in the valley and was one of the first participants selected by the academy. Eric and his Change a Life partner Thomas Ngidi were placed third in the 2010 K2 race. They become the first black crew to win a major canoe race in SA when they finished first in the Non-Stop Dusi, a gruelling one day event covering the same route as the three day marathon.

In 2011, Zondi finished fourth in the Dusi K1 marathon and won the Non-Stop event again, using his prize money to build a home for his family in the valley. That same year he represented SA, with his partner Michael Mbanjwa, and finished tenth in the Canoe Marathon World Championships in Singapore.

Over the past four years, Dusi champion and extreme sportsman Martin Dreyer has extended the reach of his academy to the other sporting disciplines such as running and mountain biking, which are equally suited to the rugged terrain of the Valley of a Thousand Hills.

A highlight of 2013 has been the launch of the RMB Change a Life mountain bike team as part of the academy, in partnership with Rand Merchant Bank. The programme is run from two huts in the valley where cyclists eat, sleep and train.

Another example is the Nemato Change a Life Club, which has taken a step closer to achieving its dream of securing quality education and a better future for the children of the Nelson Mandela Township in Port Alfred. One recipient is Athenkosi Hlekanl. Another example is the Nemato Change a Life Club, which has taken a step closer to achieving its dream of securing quality education and a better future for the children of the Nelson Mandela Township in Port Alfred. One recipient is Athenkosi Hlekanl. Another example is the Nemato Change a Life Club, which has taken a step closer to achieving its dream of securing quality education and a better future for the children of the Nelson Mandela Township in Port Alfred. One recipient is Athenkosi Hlekanl. Another example is the Nemato Change a Life Club, which has taken a step closer to achieving its dream of securing quality education and a better future for the children of the Nelson Mandela Township in Port Alfred. One recipient is Athenkosi Hlekanl. Another example is the Nemato Change a Life Club, which has taken a step closer to achieving its dream of securing quality education and a better future for the children of the Nelson Mandela Township in Port Alfred. One recipient is Athenkosi Hlekanl. Another example is the Nemato Change a Life Club, which has taken a step closer to achieving its dream of securing quality education and a better future for the children of the Nelson Mandela Township in Port Alfred. One recipient is Athenkosi Hlekanl. Another example is the Nemato Change a Life Club, which has taken a step closer to achieving its dream of securing quality education and a better future for the children of the Nelson Mandela Township in Port Alfred. One recipient is Athenkosi Hlekanl. Another example is the Nemato Change a Life Club, which has taken a step closer to achieving its dream of securing quality education and a better future for the children of the Nelson Mandela Township in Port Alfred. One recipient is Athenkosi Hlekanl. Another example is the Nemato Change a Life Club, which has taken a step closer to achieving its dream of securing quality education and a better future for the children of the Nelson Mandela Township in Port Alfred. One recipient is Athenkosi Hlekanl. Another example is the Nemato Change a Life Club, which has taken a step closer to achieving its dream of securing quality education and a better future for the children of the Nelson Mandela Township in Port Alfred. One recipient is Athenkosi Hlekanl. Another example is the Nemato Change a Life Club, which has taken a step closer to achieving its dream of securing quality education and a better future for the children of the Nelson Mandela Township in Port Alfred. One recipient is Athenkosi Hlekanl. Another example is the Nemato Change a Life Club, which has taken a step closer to achieving its dream of securing quality education and a better future for the children of the Nelson Mandela Township in Port Alfred. One recipient is Athenkosi Hlekanl.

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