

UK pupils in SD for cultural exchange

BY KHULEKANI NENE

SITEKI - There are 19 girls from two schools in the United Kingdom (UK) in the country for a 17-day cultural exchange programme.

The girls are from St Helen and St Katharine in Oxford, UK.

The programme is funded and facilitated by Sense Africa, a tour operation company based in the UK that works closely with the Swaziland Tourism Authority (STA) in bringing tourists to the country.

Jenny Bowen, who is the Director of Sense Africa said the main objective of the programme is to give the pupils an African experience and to also work on a school project.

"The programme is part of the company's volunteer tourism projects that aims to give people exposure to various cultures, skills and lasting memories. Our main aim is to give people a chance to see the other side of the world and know how other people live," she said.

Bowen said her company has been bringing

tourists into the country for the past 10 years, something which connected the company with the Swaziland Tourism Authority.

She further stated that in 2010 the company brought a group from the UK which worked with the Shewula community in some community projects.

Bowen also promised to bring a boys group next year. Since they arrived in the country the girls have been staying at Mabuda Farm Lodge in Siteki but have now moved to Mbuluzi game reserve.

They will also visit Hlane and Malolotja Game Reserves before departing for the UK at the end of the week. Clarissa Luxton, who is one of the visiting girls, said the experience has been quite amazing since arriving into the country.

She said one of the things that excited her is the different traditional dances and traditional dishes.

She further described Swazis as kind and respectful people. Nokwanda Dlamini-Masuku, Swaziland Tourism Authority Marketing Manager accompanied the group to Mayenjani care point last Friday.

Dlamini-Masuku confirmed that STA has been working closely with Sense Africa in marketing the country abroad.



The pupils pose for a group photo with officers from the Swaziland Tourism Authority and staff from Mayenjani Care Point.

... girls donate E45 000 to Mayenjani Care Point



Senior Pastor at Christian Family Life International Laselette Duarte cuts the ribbon to officially launch the construction of the multi-skills centre as the volunteers look on.

SITEKI - The 19 girls from the United Kingdom who are in the country for a cultural exchange programme have donated £3 800 (E45 000) to Mayenjani Care Point at Lonhlupeko.

Each of the pupils donated £200 to the care point which feeds close to 300 orphaned and vulnerable children on a daily basis.

Besides the donation, the group also spent close to 10 days assisting in the construction of a multi-skills centre which is situated next to the care point. Jenny Bowen, Director of Sense Africa, the company that facilitated the visit, said participating in the project is part of their programme during their stay in the country.

"We had planned to spend 10 days here at Mayenjani care point before proceeding to Mbuluzi game reserve where we will also embark on some projects," she said.