

8 October 2017

Ms. Morag Naylor,
For the Trustees, Abe Bailey Trust
Mr. Phil Court,
Teacher and Liaison, Diocesan College Boys School, Cape Town
Ambassador Sheila Camerer
Chair, SAIIA Western Cape Branch

Report on the 2017 SAIIA Interschool Quiz on International Affairs

Dear Quiz Partners,

The 25th Annual SAIIA Western Cape Interschool Quiz on International Affairs was held on Wednesday, 17 August, at Bishops (Diocesan School for Boys), and featured Moeletsi Mbeki as keynote speaker and Africa Melane of Cape Talk Radio as Quiz MC. La Rochelle Girls High of Paarl took first place, followed by Oracle Academy of Ottery and Rhenish Girls High of Stellenbosch. Tied for fourth place were Sans Souci and Maitland High. St Cyprians's garnered the Cape Times trophy for 'Most Improved'.

On behalf of the Quiz Committee, we wish to thank the Abe Bailey Trust, our major funder for the 2017 quiz, as well as the Cape Times and the many other donors who made the quiz possible. A hearty thanks goes to Bishops for the provision of venues and technical support, for both the quiz and pre-quiz workshop.

A full report on the 2017 quiz follows.

Best wishes,

Martha Bridgman
Quiz Committee Chair

Pippa Segall
Quiz Coordinator
SAIIA Western Cape

2017 SAIIA Interschool Quiz on International Affairs

SUMMARY

Since 1993, the SAIIA Western Cape Branch has offered an opportunity to high school learners in the Cape Town area to learn about international affairs through the annual interschool quiz. Specifically designed to draw learners of all backgrounds from among the schools in the Western Cape, and to encourage them to read world news – especially news and analysis about South Africa’s international affairs – the quiz has developed an effective formula as it celebrates 25 years in operation.

Invitations go out annually to a wide range of schools and, except for several reserved spots for new or developing schools, respondents are accepted on a first-come, first-served basis. The quiz manual, updated and simplified in 2017, was distributed to all schools in the weeks prior to the quiz. In addition, a pre-quiz workshop on 20 May gave less-resourced schools, and especially schools who did not fare well in the previous year, an opportunity to receive coaching. Romy Chevallier, a senior researcher in SAIIA’s Governance of Africa’s Resources Programme based in Cape Town, introduced the learners to the field of international affairs and Quiz Chair Martha Bridgman, with the support of Pippa Segall and quiz committee members and volunteers, ran a mini-quiz for these participants. A dozen school teams took part in the event.

In the run-up to the quiz, Pippa visited both Silikamva High in Hout Bay and Hector Peterson High in Kraaifontein in response to requests for further guidance. At Hector Peterson she met with over 30 learners from grades 8-12, and their teacher gave a moving testimony about the importance of the school’s involvement in the SAIIA youth programmes, stating that the SAIIA programmes are very inspiring to the learners and are part of a larger ‘international’ programme with teaching volunteers who come from all over the world.

The 2017 quiz took place on Wednesday, 17 August 2017. A total of 43 schools (172 learners) took part. This year, due to some overlap with the Argus Quiz, schools’ founder’s days and various other reasons, slightly fewer schools responded to the invitation. This will be noted going forward. Hot soup and sandwiches were provided before the quiz, along with snack packs at the tables.

The participants were tested on their reading of nine days of the Cape Times plus two articles produced by SAIIA researchers for the website (saiia.org.za). There were 20 questions, several of which included two or three parts, for 65 points total, set by international affairs specialists in the fields of academia, policy research and the diplomatic corps. The schools’ feedback commended the questions as ‘well-balanced from easy to challenging so every group could score’. Another noted ‘the required questions to sift the good from the excellent were also there’. The spirited responses

from the audience as the Quiz Master called for answers to the questions, once all answer sheets were in, testified to the strong teacher and parental involvement in the preparation for the quiz.

In the end, the ten top-scoring schools were as follows: (Prize money goes to the school represented.)

La Rochelle Girls High School	61 points (1st prize, R7500 plus tog bags for the learners)
The Oracle Academy	57 points (2nd prize, R5000 plus tog bags for the learners)
Rhenish Girls High School	54 points (3rd prize, R3000 plus tog bags for the learners)
Maitland High School	53 points
Sans Souci Girls High School	53 points
St Cyprians High School	51 points
Spine Road High	50 points
Wynberg Girls High School	49 points
Belgravia High School	48 points
Reddam High Atlantic Seaboard	45 points
Rustenberg High School	45 points

The prized SAIIA Trophy was awarded to La Rochelle for the year, while St Cyprians's took home the Cape Times trophy for 'Most Improved', having moved up from 33rd in 2016 to 6th this year. The winners will also receive a gift voucher for a trip to Robben Island. In addition, the winners are invited to a mooted national conference for youth focused on sustainable development in Johannesburg. Remaining funds in the quiz budget are reserved to support airfare and accommodation for this four day conference.

Africa Melane of Cape Talk Radio did an excellent job for the sixth year as Master of Ceremonies, providing spot prizes during breaks, as well as his famed 'dance breaks'. Advocate Murray Bridgman returned with his clear delivery for another excellent performance as Quiz Master. Moeletsi Mbeki, political analyst, author and entrepreneur, as well as the Deputy Chairman of SAIIA, delivered a compelling keynote address, adjuring the learners to recognise their role in the future of South Africa, a future that he outlined as by no means secure in view of current political upheaval.

The quiz ended at 9:15 pm, with the learners singing a hearty 'Happy Birthday' to Africa Melane as the Quiz committee presented him with a cake for his 40th birthday. Each school was welcomed up to receive a set of books for the school library, and each learner also took home a drawstring bag from the Cape Times and a coffee flask.

Subsequent to the quiz, we were contacted by a representative of the Amy Foundation, which runs aftercare programmes for youth living in challenged and vulnerable communities within the Western

Cape (Gugulethu, Nyanga, Philippi, Bonteheuwel and Khayelithsha). They heard about the quiz and asked how they might enter some teams in the future. We think that's a great idea! We have encouraged them to put teams together, and will keep them posted on how to sign up in 2018.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The Quiz Committee is deeply grateful to the Abe Bailey Trust for its grant of R150,000 which provided the majority of funding for the 2017 quiz. Several smaller donations were received, both in cash and in kind, from many donors, including the Cape Times who supplied free newspapers for all learners and question-setters as well as gifts for all the learners. All donors were noted in the quiz programme.

A special thanks must go to Phil Court of Bishops who organised the venue and related logistics, both for the quiz and the pre-quiz workshop. Thanks are due as well as to the audio team and the staff at Bishops who assist with set up, catering, security and clean up, as well as the volunteers who served as runners, technical support and general liaisons.

Thanks are due to the many other volunteers who assist each year, whether in drafting the questions, setting up the hall the day before the quiz, collating the books for donation, or marking and scoring the answer sheets on the night of the quiz. SAIIA WC committee members also lent their support on the night. The steadfast work of the Lee family in running their bespoke SAIIA Quiz computer scoring programme was again invaluable.

Quiz Coordinator Pippa Segall was once again the dynamic force that pulled the details together. Feedback noted the superb organisation of the quiz, with one survey respondent commenting that 'this year's quiz was one of the best ever.'

And as with every such event, it is to the learners and their teachers that we must express the greatest admiration. Their enthusiasm and hard work in preparing for the quiz make it all worthwhile.

Martha Bridgman
Quiz Committee Chair

Pippa Segall
Quiz Coordinator

SAIIA Western Cape Branch, Cape Town