

## **DITP: CHAIRMAN'S REPORT 2020**

Greeting Moms and Dads,

It is said that change is the one constant we must embrace. We have come from an era where planning was key and most of what we have achieved in our personal lives and as an organization can be attributed to a certain level of planning. Recent changes however threw a curveball to many a plan, nullifying some whilst questioning the depth of some. Needless to say the scourge of covid19 threw us into an unparalleled level of change.

Welcome to all our founding members, our current executive committee members, our members, donors, sponsors and our guests. Your presence here today is valued and is testimony to your continued support and partnerships. We appreciate each and every one of you and still make the call to join hands and continue to turn the tide of fatherhood to be a more positive and effective one for our children, their mothers, our spouses, our families and peers alike.

We are all presented with yet another opportunity to shape our organization into a well-managed, well operated and accountable institution. We continue to be a registered non-profit organization, looking to be transparent to our members, donors, sponsors and partners as governed by our constitution. An electronic copy of the constitution is available for you to peruse should you so wish.

As we look back at the 2019-2020 era, one cannot stop but wonder how favoured we have been to have crossed over into the year 2020 and stand to tell the tale. Our tales stretch from the most amazing outings, challenging decision as well as mourning the loss of loved ones. As the country goes through the covid19 pandemic, a secondary pandemic of violence within families and communities has been declared and brings along a number of dynamics. Yes, we have acknowledged both pandemics, though not equally but with the same level of urgency. What has been noted is the growth of the organization as follows:

- ✓ Managed to grow our email database by 10% with mainly men and women coming forward as they become aware of our existence.
- ✓ Our Facebook Group has grown by 10% as well as 5% connections on our Facebook profile.
- ✓ We have maintained the Pro-Fatherhood Moms (Moms In the Picture) group that allows all mothers to interact as well as to communicate directly with us. This however could have grown more, we need to find a mechanism through which it can be publicised.
- ✓ Our twitter following has seen a 20% growth over the last year.
- ✓ Our very active national WhatsApp group has reached a milestone of 100 participants who are committed men of substance.
- ✓ Our website continue to be an effective tool through which we showcase our work as well as share detailed information to anyone who needs it.

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**Email:** [info@dadsinthepicture.co.za](mailto:info@dadsinthepicture.co.za) **Website:** [www.dadsinthepicture.co.za](http://www.dadsinthepicture.co.za)

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**Directors (Effective 2019):** Mr. Meshack N Kekana | Mr. Kagiso Thema | Mr. Zibuse Kunene | Mr. Prince Mamabolo

We are humbled with the amount of **MEDIA EXPOSURE** we continue to enjoy in the form of print, radio and television:

- ✓ We have been hosted on SAFM, Thobela FM, Ligwalagwala FM, Motswedding FM, Radio Veritas and Power FM.
- ✓ We have been profiled in publications such as Pretoria News as well as a number of community newspapers namely Rekord in various cities as well as The Beat in Bela-Bela.
- ✓ Our insight and expertise has been featured on various podcast platforms as well as YouTube channels.

We aren't short of notable **ACHIEVEMENTS** as well. These include:

- ✓ Continuing to be an active member in the industry wide collaborative efforts on matters of positive Fatherhood namely #JustDadIt [www.justdadit.co.za](http://www.justdadit.co.za)
- ✓ The organization has been invited to participate in the South African Mentorship Network (SAMnet) initiative that's spearheaded by SAVF.
- ✓ We continue to be active member of a very beneficial Fathers Network that continue to give us great exposure and access to a number of locally-based organizations.
- ✓ We were honoured with an invitation by the U.S. Ambassador to South Africa Lana J. Marks to attend an exclusive performance namely "Paradise Blue" at the Market Theatre to mark Black Americans Week.

We took part in various **PARTNERSHIP** engagements in line with our plans:

- ✓ We had the honour of taking part in the virtual National Men's Dialogue on Father's Day 21<sup>st</sup> June hosted by SA Parliament in partnership with Department of Social Development (DSD), South African National Aids Council (SANAC) and Takuwani Riime. This all important engagement was facilitated by Deputy Speaker of Parliament Honourable Lechesa Tsenoli as well as Mr Patrick Shai. Not only were we part of this engagements but we were offered a role of opening up the session with daddy Meshack Kekana presenting on the topic of "The role of Fathers".
- ✓ Men's Dialogues were held on GBV in partnership with the Office of the Presidency in their Pretoria, Durban and Cape Town offices respectively. The significance of this was that the sessions were held within the 1<sup>st</sup> citizen's premises and attendance was great. We do believe that future engagement will take place and we intend to take full advantage of these.
- ✓ Our partnership continues to grow with Tswelopele Kids. Tswelopele Kids is an initiative by our longtime supporter and working-team member mme Ayanda Tetyana a parent coach and educational specialist.

We continue to enjoy partnerships with our **INITIATIVES** that are strong and gaining strength year on year.

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- ✓ We once again managed to host our second Men Engage Summit in Vryheid, KwaZulu Natal in January. The initial summit was held in Ekurhuleni, Gauteng in the year 2019. This year's event included involvement of SAVF, DSD as well as civil society. The 3<sup>rd</sup> summit will be taking place in Secunda, Mpumalanga in January 2021.
- ✓ The inaugural Pre-Autumn Dad and Child camp-out was also held in Bela-Bela, Limpopo as planned and was a rousing success. The dads and children alike were thrilled at hosting the acclaimed veteran actor nstate Jerry Mofokeng who joined us and delivered a talk aimed at the children followed by another aimed at the dads. The follow-up Pre-Spring event was unfortunately cancelled due to the Covid19 challenges. This would have been held in Bloemfontein, FreeState during the month of August 2020.
- ✓ The 2<sup>nd</sup> annual Youth Engage Summit scheduled for the month of June was unfortunately cancelled as well. We hope to resume with this in 2021.
- ✓ As the need to interact with members on a 1-on-1 basis was identified in 2019, the proposed Coffee Meet-UP sessions were launched and two held in Pretoria North and Pretoria East respectively. Notable these are still to be explored post the Covid19 pandemic.
- ✓ In response to the escalating cases of violence we have launched the "I am NOT ok" campaign aimed as adding our voice, actions and weight behind the challenges facing our men, women, children and communities, As an organization that seek to build a better tomorrow for everyone through corrective measures, our focus is everyone's safety. In the same breath we support effort at addressing what the country's President Honourable Cyril Ramaphosa has declared the 2<sup>nd</sup> pandemic, that being gender based violence.

It's with a heavy heart to mention that as an organization we **SADLY MOURN** the loss of two dads who have been active participants with one succumbing to a long illness as well the another being taken by the deadly Covid19 virus. Their warmth and contributions will remain with us forever.

A lot of work remains to be done and we are committed to continue the journey by supporting our chosen **OBSERVANCES** as well as all efforts from government and civil society in advancing social cohesion. We continue to ask for commitment from all our members. This commitment will be in the form of:

- ✓ lobbying for the organization,
- ✓ making time to perform organizational tasks where required and
- ✓ supporting all the efforts made by the office bearers in advancing our cause
- ✓ Contributing their resources be it financial, time or efforts.



**Thanks you all for your commitment, support, donations and for making the difference in the lives of our children. We continue to become visible as an organization that isn't fighting for mothers nor fathers but for the Best Interest of Children irrespective of the living arrangements or the relationship statuses of their biological parents.**

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