

LILIAN NGOYI HALL



2019 HALL REPORT

INTRODUCTION

Similar to 2018 we started 2019 on a very shaky note as a hall, for, we were still subjected to uncertainties regarding a Hall Administrator. This is such that only a week into the year our acting hall administrator's term was unceremoniously terminated. Spate of administrator changes continued for the rest of 2019 until we learnt in the 4th quarter of the year that Vacancies Committee had approved the filling of the Hall Administrator post. This was a huge relief to the hall as a whole as it was shared in the last Hall Committee meeting. As such we are closing the year with the process of recruiting a suitable Hall Administrator being underway.

ACADEMIC EXCELLENCE

All our residences implemented various academic excellence programs that ranged from academic talks, mentorships, academic extravaganza to reducing on social activities. However, these initiatives were not coordinated centrally, but sporadic and at times haphazard. As a result, this saw the standing of the hall regressing by one spot in the June results standing.



COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

Hall activities were very successful, and events included partnerships with Ikhaya Losizo, campus Give 5, and many students headed the call when encouraged to join Team Lee program. The hall also run classes for grades 11 and 12 over two weekends. This started with fun games where students and learners interacted, and culminating into subject areas that hall students rendered to the learners. Ruth First House closed the year by collecting clothes from students with the aim of distributing these to a community engagement partner at the beginning of 2020.



DIVERSITY

The Hall organised various cultural games representing nationalities – which were fun filled, yet educational event. We also witnessed our hall choir formed in 2018 gaining prominence. The choir brought the hall together as just by chance it became a conglomerate of all our students from various



corners of the continent participating and songs rendered represent the very diversity that exists in our Hall. Sport has also played a significant role in brining about cohesion within our hall. We organised this year few sporting events that included social

sporting activities among our residences.

ENVIRONMENTAL AWARENESS

All Hall Environmental reps were active. They were so preoccupied by the safety of the grey water that students are meant to collect and use for flushing. Other area was regular testing to the rain-water from our tanks. More challenge this year was the fact that most tanks run dry for the better part of the year. However, when the water truck got called environmental reps continue to test the water and gave feedback to their respective residences.

WELLNESS APPROACH

Hall has generally been doing okey. But it is worth mention that the campaign #amINext did trigger some of our students. Our wardens promptly intervened by organising girls-nights where students plays and had fun together in an effort to support each other. Towards the end of the year we witnessed a spate incidences of students with anxiety attacks. Such students were appropriately referred to the sanatorium, Students Counselling and hospital.

STAFFING

As if having to change Hall Administrators was not enough, our Hall lost Ms Christelle Hutchinson in July – who had to leave the country. We were therefore required to hunt for a suitable replacement and in we consider ourselves very lucky in finding Ms Kelly Solomon who became a replacement warden at Ruth First House. Few weeks after that we regrettably received a resignation from Dr Jiwaji who was a warden at Victoria Mxenge House. This occurred right at a time when we were preparing for 2020 subwarden interviews. Dr Jiwaji was however kind enough to work together with the stand-in warden Ms Baloyi-Mokwena in the process and took time to induct her.

CONCLUSION

Spirits in the Hall are high and looking forward to 2020 – hoping that we shall the year with a permanent Hall Administrator. Our hall was not immune with water challenges faced by the town and rest of other residences. But, we feel that we were hit more severely. We sadly witnessed period of about 5 consecutive days without water and had to rely on the kindness of nearby residences from time-to-time. Our Hall, together with some residences in the Nelson Mandela Hall was threatened by raging fires which resulted to residences being evacuated as a safety precaution. Our Hall remain grateful to all residences and off campus / oppidan, that hosted our students for the night. We are equally grateful to many other departments and divisions that came in their numbers to land a hand in all sorts of manner.