

Time Travel, Promosa, Abrams Road 1971

Goal

- Promote fellowship and unity between different areas of Potchefstroom, in this case especially between Ikageng and Promosa
- Increase the knowledge of the forced removal and how it affected people in Potchefstroom

Facts

Apartheid was a way of dividing people in South Africa. The Group Areas Act was passed taken by the South African parliament in 1950, and the Black Urban Areas Act in 1945, and these two acts were implemented over several years. The acts assigned racial groups to different residential areas, the most developed areas were restricted for whites only and other racial groups were moved to different locations. In Potchefstroom one location was set up for the “blacks”, Ikageng, one for the “coloureds”, Promosa, and one for the “Asians”, Mohadin. People were moved from the old location Willem Klopperville (Makweteng) on the borders of the white part of town, with a very low compensation, first the “blacks” to Ikageng, then the “coloureds” to Promosa. Everybody preferred to stay in Klopperville/ Makweteng, with a mixed population and closer to jobs and service, but there were few chances to protest. Some whites complained about the “mixed interaction” in Klopperville. As people were forcefully removed all over the country support for protest movements like the ANC, PAC and the Black Consciousness Movement was growing gradually

The first houses in Promosa were built in 1969; two-, three- and four-roomed houses, and the first families were moved from Klopperville. During a period of about fourteen years hundreds of people were moved to Promosa from Klopperville, but also from Ikageng. Most people worked in town, and in the beginning there was one bus in the morning and one bus coming back in the evening. The first school in Promosa was built in 1971.

All blacks over the age of 16 were required to carry pass books, dompas, as soon as they went outside Ikageng. If they failed to show their pass when asked by the police they might be arrested. The coloureds had ID-books specifically for “coloureds”.

Winstonia Hendricks was born in Ikageng in 1958 by a black father and a coloured mother. Her grandparents lived at that time in Willem Klopperville. After only a few years the father died. Because of the relation to Klopperville Winstonia went to school there. Winstonia’s mother met a “coloured” man that had been moved to a four-roomed house in Promosa in 1969. They married and in 1971 Winstonia and her mother moved into this house on Abrams street. Winstonia started in the new school in Promosa. Winstonia kept her bonds with Ikageng, and Willem Klopperville, and continued to meet her old friends as much as she could.

Winstonia still live in the house on Abrams street where she moved in 1971.

Scenario, Saturday afternoon braai at Abrams Road in Promosa 1971

It's Saturday afternoon and people in Promosa begin to relax for the coming weekend. This is the time to meet with friends, eat, drink and socialize. Several persons in Promosa have friends in Ikageng and are expecting those friends to come and visit.

Winstonia Hendricks moved to Promosa only some months ago and still most of her friends are in Ikageng. She hopes they will show up for a braai in her garden. Maybe also some of her new neighbours will come and they will have a nice time together.

Promosa is like a settlers' village. Two years ago the first trucks arrived with people from the old location, Willem Klopperville. The authorities want people to be separated, one place for whites, one for blacks, one for coloureds, one for ... This is hard to understand for most.

There are many frustrated and disappointed people coming to the new houses in Promosa. Why do we have to settle here? Eight kilometers from town, far away from jobs, far away from service. Many of the new houses are already cracking and the walls are so thin in the semi-detached houses that you can hear your neighbour talking. Why did we have to leave the old location? We were not even consulted. It is unacceptable!

All over South Africa people are moved away from their homes to new locations. It is difficult to protest, the police brutality is well known. But some try anyway and support for the protest movements such as ANC; PAC and the Black Consciousness Movement is growing.

Everybody is looking forward to the braai at Winstonia's place in Promosa: old friends walking all the way from Ikageng, new school mates and neighbours from Promosa. As always several adults are curious to see what the young ones are up to. Winstonia's mother emphasizes that the garden has to be cleaned and prepared for the weekend. And the house already needs some repairs. But most of the youngsters find it more enjoyable to sing, play and dance. Hopefully the police won't interrupt. Big gatherings are not easily allowed. And if they check the pass books, what will happen?

Roles

Some learners are friends from Ikageng, other learners are neighbours and schoolmates from Promosa

The adults are people who have moved into Promosa, some are from Ikageng, everybody has stories and memories from Willem Klopperville

Winstonia, 13-14; her mother, stepfather and grandmother

Key Questions

- Do we accept to be divided? How are we going to stay together?
- What is the way to promote togetherness and fellowship?

Activities

- Braai meat/ sausages
- Clean the garden
- Make a vegetable garden
- Make a flower bed
- Putty the windows
- Sew/fold new curtains for the kitchen
- Make a small bench
- Play games – throw ball in a ring, hop skotch, play tins, stone game, skip rope
- Sing music/ guitar – church music (Lord I give you all my heart, If he could carry the weight of the world), pop, jazz
- Reading/discussing news (Newspapers?)

Time Plan

- 10.00 Prepare the site
- 12.00 Gathering in the park
Welcome, scenario, roles (names), rules
- 12.40 Initiation, walk to the site
- 12.50 Activities start
- 13.50 Meal, discussions
- 14.30 Ending ceremony
Reflection, way forward
- 16.00 End

10 March 2013

Ebbe Westergren, Kalmar läns museum/ Bridging Ages together with the Potchefstroom Time Travel Committee

List of Props

Ask learners and adults to bring some clothes for themselves that look like the 1970s

50 stickers/ nametags, pens

Braai – firewood, matches, pieces of meat and sausage, spices, grid, tools etc

Drinks, cups, bread, jam

Clean the garden – sack or box for the garbage, 3-4 rakes, 2 brooms, 3-4 scissors

Make a vegetable garden – 3-4 spades, a hoe, small gardening tools; seeds to plants

Make a flower bed – as above; flower seeds/ bulbs

Putty the windows – putty, tools

Make a bench – pieces of wood, 3 hammers, nails, one saw

New curtains – cloth, needles and thread

Play games – tennis balls, homemade balls, chalk, 3-4 empty tins, skipping rope

Sing music/ guitar – music from 1960s and early 1970s on a tape or CD plus a tape recorder/
CD-player, guitar and guitar player, text to church songs (Lord I give you all my heart, If he
could carry the weight of the world)

Copy of old newspapers?

20 copies of first page in a dompas