

## **The French Presence in PMB/KZN : La Route du Prince Impérial, Louis Napoléon :**

A cultural tourism research development project incorporating community outreach through its NPO 080-140 Amis Siyakhula (Friends we are growing together)

The idea for this project was conceived in 1993 and developed from 1994. From 1994 until April 2010, the project leader, Glenn Flanagan, ran the project under the banner of the Durban University of Technology, Pietermaritzburg campus. Since April 2010, the project runs under the banner of the NPO 080-140 Amis Siyakhula.

From March 1995, the project's community outreach was extended to the poor rural community of Uqweqwe that lives next to the Prince Imperial monument in Zululand. This community benefitted in small, but significant ways over all these years:

- 4 Classrooms
- Raintanks
- Fencing
- school gate
- water pump
- A French teacher for two years through the British Voluntary Overseas programme a series of French volunteers and their associated skills (IT, French language teaching, vegetable garden creation, social grants' education, and donations
- project outreach of school building maintenance from Reunion Island's International Youth Exchange and the Lycée Julien de Rontaunay, Cité Butor, Ste Clothilde
- funding for the Prince Imperial Interpretive Wall – a recognised KZN « museum » from the latter Lycée
- sewing machine donations from France, Rotary, the French Embassy and local donors (47 in all)
- endless donations of clothes, shoes from the French Embassy and other supporters
- endless donations of books from publishers and the French Embassy and local donors
- co-operative input from various local tourist guides and associations

Since November 2010, the community outreach in the area of the Prince Imperial monument has been directed to

1. The community that lives across the Jojosi River at the Prince Imperial monument – the Emaphayiphini area. So far, they have received
  - two footballs
  - jerseys for a football team, the Napoleon City team
  - a Bernette Bernina sewing machine, worth R 2 690.00
  - football team outfits for the Empress Eugénie female football team & two footballs
2. The Zamimpilo Drop In Centre and Crèche, France, Pietermaritzburg. This Centre, established in 2005 by Ma Bongwiwe Virginia Msomi, is some 9 kms from the Pietermaritzburg CBD. It is a remarkable testimony to Ma Msomi's entrepreneurial skills, courage and forbearance, but it still needs a lot of support – practically, financially and morally.

Since teaming with Zamimpilo, this project has

- obtained a bursary for a three month beading / art and craft course at Project Gateway for the community
- donated various household items/ craft items / clothes on several occasions
- facilitated donations of school material and clothes from Reunion Island's Lycée Professionnel Julien de Rontaunay, Cité Butor, Ste Clothilde. Money donated by this school has gone towards the construction of much-needed toilets
- been instrumental in obtaining charts etc. from the KZN Provincial Library Services for the Centre
- welcomed four groups of visitors to Zamimpilo, so far: visitors from Reunion Island, visitors from France on two occasions, visitors from the Comores, visitors from Hilton College
- employed a plumber / builder, Raymond Easthorpe (chairperson of the KZN Friends of St Helena Society) to connect their rain water tank to the guttering of the Centre etc. so that rainwater can be directed to the vegetable garden
- obtained the assurance of agricultural assistance from Reunion Island's, Lycée d'Enseignement Général et Technologique Agricole Emile Boyer de la Giroday, for vegetable growing
- obtained eye-testing for the children, from Spec Savers
- obtained the partnership of Trees for Tourism. Unfortunately only indigenous trees were brought and not fruit trees

- obtained the Community Outreach participation of Hilton College
  - obtained R 1000.00 from Mesdames Kleinenberg and Deisel from their annual Christmas lunch donation for charity. R 700.00 of this money is available. R 300.00 was paid to Raymond for transport and plans.
- obtained R 300.00 from Mme Bev Ellis from a donation from her friends
- obtained the offer of a fundraising « art project » from Mme Jeanine Panteix, a Parisian artist
  - obtained an agreement from Mr Oupa Mandi, graphic artist, to mentor one person from the Zamimpilo community and to donate 5% of sales of his joint Amis – Siyakhula / Heritage Preservation Art 'n Craft / Heritage education development products to the Emaphayapini and Zamimpilo community fund as held in the NPO 080-140 Amis Siyakhula bank account
  - obtained a donation R 1000.00 ( R300.00 of which went to the plans of the toilets) from Dr Alleyne Deysel and Ms Mary Kleinenberg and their annual Christmas function
  - obtained donation of baby layettes from Drs Alison and Adrian Furnham and their son Benedict
  - obtained R 4 000.00 towards community upkeep from Drs Alison and Adrian Furnahm and their son Benedict (our project's "Petit Prince")
  - obtained a donation from Dr Sagoodira and Eliane Sagoodira for the community infrastructure
  - obtained numerous donations of household effects – including a second –hand fridge, stove, washing machine

**The NPO's banking details for community outreach:**

**NPO 080-140 Amis siyakhula**

**ABSA**

**Branch code: 632005**

**32 Day account: 9239948654**

This account is administered by the Managing Members of Amis Siyakhula:

Glenn Flanagan

[gflanagan@webafrica.org.za](mailto:gflanagan@webafrica.org.za)

0826779997

and

Diane Gaskin

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and

Siphiwe Sossibo

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The Centre needs all manner of assistance in all sorts of ways.

Urgent needs of the Zamimpilo Drop In Centre and Crèche

- toilets for the children (so far only one toilet for some 100 little people)
- septic tank construction

Both of these projects have now been started !

- ECD training for the Careers
- a teacher for the Grade Rs
- Dustbins – recycling education
- Roof tiles
- A second rain tank
- Arts & Craft and Tourism Centre
- Tourist guide training for one member of the community – including learning of an international language
- Co-operative establishment for the community

On a broader front, the French Presence in PMB/KZN project carries on with its annual programme of events and commemorative ceremonies for the Prince Imperial.

2012 will celebrate the 19th year of this endeavour to highlight and develop this significant and colorful component (our French Presence in KZN) of our rich multicultural heritage in this province.

The starting point, all those years ago, the unique and poignant story of the Prince Imperial, Louis Napoléon (see the website [www.princeimperial.co.za](http://www.princeimperial.co.za)) has been the platform from which the project is driven. Where else in the world did an English Queen order and pay for a statue for a French prince killed by Zulu warriors?

This tale, together with further discoveries of this province's French Presence, that emerge through the ongoing research, are cultural tourism catalysts to bring benefits to all the communities that are touched by the progress of this project.

G.Flanagan

4 September 2011

Updated :

25 October 2011 & 8 February 2012 & 7 May 2012

Zamimpilo Drop – In Centre & Crêche

Zamimpilo means we are working together to improve our lives!

The Zamimplilo Drop in Centre and Crêche

4656 France

France Foxhill Phase 1

Pietermaritzburg