

Why this topic

The topic of this oral history project is the selfless work done by a group of young men in the rural Batlharos Community approximately 19 kilometers from Kuruman in the Northern Cape Province. Kuruman is approximately 300 kilometres from Kimberley, the Provincial capital; it is also the seat of the Kgalagadi District Municipality.

The group of young men that was interviewed assist the local community every weekend with the digging of graves for deceased family members. They do this completely voluntarily, using their time and own materials.

I chose this topic simply because I felt that these unsung Community heroes need some kind of recognition if not appreciation. These young people have taken the responsibility and the initiative to help their Community without expecting anything in return. As a member of the Community, I feel that it is about time that these young heroes become recognized and appreciated for the good work that they do.

My second reason for this topic is that I felt that I needed to understand why these people are not recognized enough to a point that they should be paid. At most churches on Thursday, women from the church come to comfort the family of the deceased, these women are well taken care of in terms of food and treatment, there is no fault to that, but the poor grave diggers only get a plate and a simple thank you.