

## Reaching out to the Society

# Dublin Based Patrick Maphoso follows Oprah Winfrey's footsteps in South Africa

**By Lylian Fotabong**

The new Shopping Mall on the Moore Street in Dublin houses offices including that of one of Ireland's based South Africa's most generous donor, Patrick Maphoso. He is dedicating time, energy and



**Patrick Maphoso**

money to help fund football teams in four primary and two secondary schools in Pampierstad, Kimberly, South Africa, in an effort to take children off the rough and horrendous streets of some South Africa's suburbs.

"We can make a Difference with the little we have" is the ideology behind this now settled Dubliner who, since his childhood, has fought for an equal and fairer society. The struggle to transform and improve the lives of this vulnerable age group has brought him home to where he provides jerseys, sporting equipment including trophies to six schools in his city of origin. He buys some of the jerseys and sporting equipment from charity shops in Ireland with some support from the St. Vincent Society and with no source of funding. With these provisions he created a setting in which pupils and student come together to share talents and it saw the birth of a yearly Sporting Tournament in which these schools come head to head in sporting competitions.

The tournament, called the MAPHOSO TOURNAMENT and named after this Dublin based Security Trainer for his good works, witnesses an exhibition of sporting talents from very young pupils to adults who otherwise, will be on the harsh realities of South Africa's cruel roads and dark sites. The efforts of these pupils/students are rewarded and encouraged by the awards of tro-

phies and medals to award categories ranging from Certificate of Appreciation and Participation, to Best Player. The tournament goes on for one day but Mr. Maphoso now dreams of a bigger tournament that will run for two days beginning next year. "To see kids this happy because they have not played any football or rugby for a long time is extraordinary.... my joy of their experience was out of this world, he said".

"I am doing very little but if this means grooming this ingenious children who, otherwise, may be raised by masters of ambush and disorder, then, I am ready to go the extra mile; Indeed, I have already started", Mr. Maphoso told the African Voice. The children back home needs our help and support and the little we give makes a difference. He called on Africans to help their communities that so much need their help and in this way; people's lives will be improved and will be made better and acceptable.

Mr Maphoso has been living in Ireland for about seven years and lives a quiet life with his family but his presence in Ireland has not gone unnoticed. He arrived in Ireland on a work permit in a Security Company to develop himself and earn more money. He is a qualified trainer with a London based Institute training centre and assessed by the Irish Training Security Association and Security Institute of Ireland. He has also acquired a Certificate in Health and Safety from UCD and this to him is a great highlight with the training he gives to his students. Now with his own business and in collaboration with the Irish Security Training Association, he offers training to those who aspire to become security officers in Ireland. Basic English is a necessity/requirement and the course fee is €350 (covers registration, training materials e.g. manuals) and runs for eight hours a day for two days on Saturdays and Sundays, at the Teacher's Club, No 36 Parnell Square, Dublin.

According to Mr. Maphoso, he, not only offers security training to his students, he helps some with immigration and social issues. His students come from different backgrounds, races, colours and cultures such as from Poland, Pakistan, India, Africa and Ireland and he admits that it is a big chal-

lenge teaching some whose first language is not English. He, however, describes his experience of this diversity as so enriching, and terms his relationship with his students as "perfect and interesting".

Coming from a background of Apartheid, he is only too aware of the dangers and the decadence of

tions. He hopes to put his name forward in next year local elections as a councillor and refuses to be drawn on the fact that one African Councillor (based in Ennis) and an Ex- Mayor (Portlouse) are enough on the diverging Irish political landscape.

A "Rosa Park" in the Hail Days



lack of freedom and education, inequality and discrimination to the society and has been vocal on issues that threaten these differences in our now new Irish society. Patrick has contributed ideas on burning immigration issues in Ireland on the media such as the TV3 Late Late Show, Ireland Am, to News Talk, 106 FM and several other local sta-

of Apartheid in South Africa, he said "a firm and profoundly No" to be considered inferior because he is Black. His history and struggle for recognition and equality gave him the courage to buy groceries by going through the shop doors meant for White South Africans and as opposed to going through the shop windows meant

for Blacks. Looking back in time, he is only too proud that South Africa has witnessed a peaceful transition from the deadly range of Apartheid to Democracy; a thing, he stated, "Has never before happened anywhere else in history". He is an active supporter of the African National Congress (ANC) party in South Africa and strongly condemns the tyranny of President Robert Mugabe. He also condemns the lukewarm approach of the President of South Africa, Thabo Mbeki who is the negotiator of peace between Mugabe's ZANU PF and the opposition Morgan Tsvangirai's MDC.

The Security Trainer refused claims that South Africa is as unsafe as the world media portray it to be stating that, what goes on in the South African Rainbow Country is not very different from other countries of the world; "there are bad and good people all over the world, you only need to know where to go and not be at the wrong place and at the wrong time". He believes that the 2010 World Football to be hosted by South Africa will bring the world to a standstill and added that, if the Cricket and the Rugby World Cup were successfully held in South Africa, there is no fear that 2010 will not witness one of the world's greatest sporting event ever.

