

Editorial

Light in the Darkness

Einstein's theory of special relativity says that time slows down or speeds up depending on how fast you move relative to something else. COVID seems to have come to disturb our sense of space and time. While it feels like only yesterday we entered lockdown, the truth is that a year has passed since the President first decided to shut South Africa down for our "common good".

In the past year, the world has changed completely, and for many, it will never be the same. Many have lost their loved ones, and the human tragedy inherent in the world pandemic cannot be lost on even the coldest individuals. Our Community did not stay immune to this dreadful horror. We lost our fathers, our mothers, our children. One good thing did come from the horrible ordeal, though. Once again, we proved that we can unite for the common good, and think of strangers as brethren as we connect to help those less fortunate than us. That's exactly what the Social Solidarity Food Drive that took place on the 17th of September aimed to do, and it is more than evident that what was aspired to was achieved. This week, the Portuguese Forum handed over the last load of the 400 tons that had been promised to the South African governmental food banks. This is besides the 300 tons which were used to directly assist our Community and that of all those who decided to join us on that fateful day to once and for all cement the Portuguese Forum's place as the link between our Community and the South African Authorities.

In a time when the Politics of the Belly have dominated our nation for the best part of two decades, initiatives such as the one undertaken by the Forum have to be praised. Where many politicians have promised and then pocketed, the Portuguese Forum not only promised, but delivered. We have proved that real politics and Community involvement has nothing to do with words spoken, but rather with time spent, resources utilised correctly for the greater good.

And when you look around you and see the devastation that has been left in the wake of COVID, do also see the beauty that came about through the synergies created through difficulty, and in the strength we as people, and as a Portuguese Community, display over and over.

Roberto Silva

Portuguese Forum promises and delivers

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and 400 tonnes was just too much.

Undaunted, the Forum called on not only the Portuguese Community, but also several other groups, and the result was that on the day, there were 21 tents from different charities and countries that in turn called on their people to show support. The response was overwhelming, and more than 700 tonnes of food was promised, either in donations or in actual produce, much of which was only to be collected



Manuel Ferreirinha addresses those present



Cidália Jordão Olivier



Consul-General Graça Fonseca

over time, as it soon became apparent that actually distributing all this would be a near-impossible task. Again, the Community did not let us down, and we found motorcycle groups delivering all over the country, we found people offering trucks to help move the produce, and in the end, not only was food sent to all

the charities, but that 400 tonnes that were promised was delivered to the Food Banks.

Today, on the 3rd of March 2021, the last promised delivery to the food banks was made, and the final 21 tonnes of butternut and maize meal stood by in silent testimony to the power of Community while the MEC, the Portuguese

Deputy Ambassador, the Consul General of Portugal in South Africa, and a very proud Chairman of the Portuguese Forum made their speeches. The way that all this happened, the way it became possible, is through the good hearts and undaunted spirit of the Community (continues in page 3)



Vice Head of Mission Manuel Grainha do Vale



MEC Morakane Mosupoye



JORNAL MENSAL DA COMUNIDADE PORTUGUESA FUNDADO POR MANNY FERREIRINHA EM 2003.

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