

# **Press Release**

## When tiaras and snowflakes are irrelevant!

Imagine being a student in year 5 in virtually any African country across the continent reading stories about tiaras and snowflakes? From Ducere Foundation's experience, most African children do not have access to stories written by their peers, and many classroom books are typically Western content. Now many African children have access to stories written by African children and shared across the globe.

## **Over 600 African student authors**

Ducere has published stories written by over 600 student authors, from more than 5,000 schools across 20 African countries from East Africa to the Horn, from the Great Rift Valley to the island nations of the Indian Ocean.

## The heart of the matter

Story is at the centre of our lives. The Ducere African Children's Stories Collections are rich with myths passed from generations, or tell of the ravages of war and the threat of genocide, while many are from the imagination about loving giraffes and clever baboons sharing the simple joys often lost in the pace of change.

### A rare opportunity

On 12 March the Ducere Foundation will celebrate the publication of its 50<sup>th</sup> collection of stories written by African children, for African children, to be shared across the globe.

### A special edition – the Mauritian Golden Jubilee

The 50<sup>th</sup> Collection celebrates the Golden Jubilee of Independence for the Republic of Mauritius. Over the past months over 320 students from schools across Mauritius submitted their stories as part of a competition, where they captured the stories with their elders who reflected on life in Mauritius prior to independence in 1968.

The 20 chosen stories show us extremes of emotion, experience, aspiration and heartache. The launch of this collection is a rare opportunity for Victorians and diaspora members alike to celebrate an educational initiative which celebrates Mauritius and their African stories.

### An invitation

You are invited to a cocktail party to launch of the Ducere Golden Jubilee Collection at the Mauritian Consulate, Melbourne, from 6-8pm on Monday 12 March.

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