

Bid to turn boys into real men continues

Victor Mecoamere

TRACKER, the thorn on the side of car thieves, is leading another nation-building campaign to help make the world a better place.

It is the Men in the Making youth development programme.

Supported by *Sowetan* and Metro FM and endorsed by the Department of Education, Men in the Making relies on the goodwill of South Africans, particularly influential people, institutions,

companies and organisations.

All they are asked is to recognise, acknowledge and empower the boy child. *Sowetan* has made the programme a part of the Aggrey Klaaste Nation Building Foundation's community and youth development activities portfolio. Its ideals include:

- drawing society's attention to the plight of developing boys and young men at high school and beyond;
- creating a platform for boys to find expression and meaning in

their lives;

- leveling the playing fields for boys and creating advancement opportunities, and;
- correcting the myth that it is cool to commit crime and that you are not a man until you have been to prison.

Yesterday was the big day for boys in Grades 9 to 12.

They were hosted by professionals, including business leaders, institutions and organisations. They were inspired, motivated and guided on the best

career and life paths towards a bright future.

In 2009, Men in the Making's inaugural year, 32 companies hosted 500 boys

It is hoped that more companies will support the initiative this year and that the boys will embrace the concept and allow it to change their lives in a positive manner.

Those boys who impress companies and organisations could receive bursaries, scholarships and future job opportunities.