

RURAL VOICE II

35 STORIES FOR 35 YEARS

SOCIAL CHANGE ASSISTANCE TRUST 1984-2019: PARTNERING FOR TRANSFORMATION



SOCIAL CHANGE
ASSISTANCE TRUST





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Title: Rural Voice II: 35 stories for 35 years

ISBN: 978-0-620-86043-7 (print)

ISBN: 978-0-620-86044-4 (e-book)

Project Manager: Joanne Harding

Editor: Heather Robertson

Sub-editor: Sue Anderson

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Design and Layout: The Media Chilli

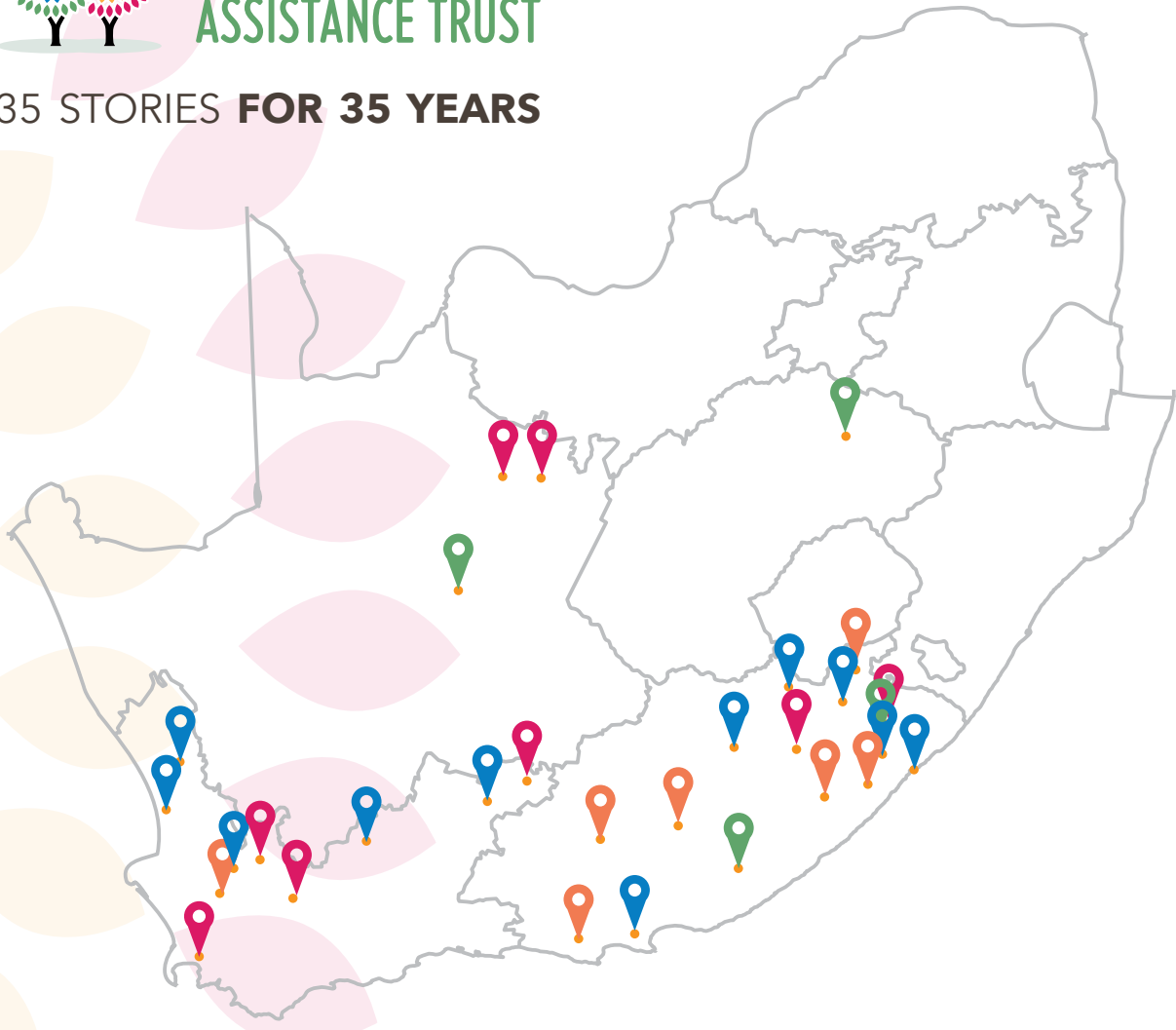
Photographer: Zeke Du Plessis

Cover picture: Makotuleng Leboto from Mount Fletcher Advice Office



SOCIAL CHANGE ASSISTANCE TRUST

35 STORIES **FOR 35 YEARS**



ACCESS TO JUSTICE

Beaufort West
Cederberg
Citrusdal
Dordrecht
Matatiele
Merweville
Port St Johns
Qunu
Saron
Sterkspruit
Uitenhage

FOOD SECURITY

Butterworth
Danielskuil
Qonqotha
Tweefontein Trust

GENDER EQUALITY

Adelaide
Alicedale
Flagstaff
Humansdorp
Mount Fletcher
Mqanduli
Witzenberg

YOUTH

Berlin
Chalumna
Graafwater
Nelspoort
Pampierstad
Stellenbosch
Strydenberg
Touwsrivier

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FOREWORD



MPHO NDEBELE
FIRST DIRECTOR OF
SCAT AND TRUSTEE

What a joy to read - 35 years of SCAT's existence symbolically expressed in clear and proud voices who tell stories of their lives and work on behalf of their rural communities. It's been a long journey that began when Norwegian social action partners agreed with SCAT's three South African founding members that an organisation should be formed that would act as a conduit for the funds the Norwegian Church Aid was committing to donate to support anti-apartheid work in South Africa. The founding trustees soon realised that most communities experiencing human rights abuses needed to organise themselves into advice offices run by these very communities and would be easily accessible to local people. This meant that they would have to be assisted to build their organisational capacity so that they could run their governing bodies democratically. This entailed drawing up constitutions, preparing budgets, maintaining financial records and reporting through audits. To serve and lead the local community, leadership training became a constant activity.

SCAT had made a major shift to fund only initiatives in rural communities, where the need was the greatest. At the time these communities did not have a single organisation serving local poor people. The partnership with rural initiatives meant SCAT stayed close to the ground, resilient enough to make the relevant adjustments as the field staff identified, together with the communities, the resources that were lacking. They would listen and share their experiences; listen and return to the office to conduct research and provide useful resources or link these communities with other resources.

It is interesting to observe that even though the Local Development Agencies (LDAs) have assisted their communities to start up several development projects, all these beautiful communities have yet to overcome human rights abuses. Today, they are still engaged in wage disputes, unfair dismissals, assaults by farm owners, and even age-old evictions.

The good news though, is that these wonderful stories give us hope for the future. Advice offices are now being easily approached for help by community members and paralegals are winning the respect of employers. The stories inform us that beyond having confronted the injustices of the past, their narrators now take on modern day challenges as well.

These are beautiful stories of endurance and triumph. It is a privilege to have been a staff member and a trustee of an organisation that is known for work that has been critical in transforming underserved communities towards greater well-being.

Mpho Ndebele
Former Director and Trustee of SCAT

OUR TRUSTEES

The SCAT Trustees keep the organisation's governance in check. In this section they share their views on the work of SCAT.

A CHORUS OF VOICES FOR SOCIAL CHANGE

By Nkosikhulule Xhawulengweni Nyembezi

Rural Voice II: 35 Stories for 35 Years is yet another opportunity for many voices in the Social Change Assistance Trust (SCAT) to tell stories about our collective efforts to bring about social change.

We want to use this occasion of our 35th anniversary to publicly thank our grantee partners, supporters, public and private donors for their work, and remind them of just how important they are. We opted for the idea of this book, as an anchor to our celebrations. We don't want this anniversary to so much be about understanding our milestones through a single voice. Instead, as a Trust, we also want beneficiaries to be able to use it to tell their stories and to say their own personal thanks.

As trustees, we also see and identify with our governance role as reflected in these stories- in the voices that are part of these conversations in so far as they also project the multidimensional aspects in the governance of SCAT. Several adaptations and faithful implementation of our bottom-up approach have enabled us to promote locally driven solutions to access to justice, gender equality, youth empowerment, delivery of basic services to communities and ensuring household food security. This is achieved through sustained partnerships with civil society organisations that share the same vision as ours, to promote social justice and learning.

While our adopted theory of change has taken our work this far in our resource constrained environment, and while several reports on our work over the years remain helpful in deepening the understanding of challenges we have overcome, they are insufficient in the presentation of who we are as a SCAT family. Our stories complete the picture. One might, as one reads these accounts, think about how these stories could have been told otherwise, and how the alternative telling would have changed the outcome. Hopefully, the experience will energise each one of us to work together to do more in the next 35 years and beyond, to ensure that poverty, inequality and other social ills are eradicated.



NKOSIKHULULE
XHAWULENGWENI NYEMBEZI
CHAIRPERSON



SUE ANDERSON
VICE CHAIRPERSON



KHOBOSO NTHUNYA
PROGRAMMES



VALERIE JONATHAN
FINANCE



LORENZO WAKEFIELD
CHAIR: FINANCE

STOPPING THE INEQUALITY TIME BOMB

By Lorenzo Wakefield

The effects of world climate change are becoming visible locally. Injustices such as poverty and chronic unemployment faced by communities in South Africa remain alarmingly high. They are a ticking timebomb waiting to explode and reverse gains achieved during the early years of our democracy. In the light of these challenges, the role of community-driven local development remains critically important. SCAT, through its grantmaking and special programmes, makes a valuable contribution in this area. As Trustees, we will continue to make sure that our strategy addresses the underlying causes of poverty and inequality in South Africa.



DEENA BOSCH
CHAIR: PROGRAMMES

KEEPING POWER BALANCES IN CHECK

By Deena Bosch

My relationship with SCAT started in the mid-1980s with the Bellville Community Health Project (BCHP). I joined SCAT as a staff member in the 1990s. The greatest lesson that we carried all these years has been how NOT TO FORCE power relations over SCAT-funded community organisations, while insisting on transparency and accountability in interactions with all stakeholders.

As a Trustee, this learning stayed and had to be exercised from a distance. Luckily distance offers room for weighing up the responsibilities and deliverables of SCAT, while seeking to meet the needs of communities we support. I'd say over these 35 years SCAT has lived by this practice.



JEREMY CHENNELLS
CHAIR: HUMAN RESOURCES

SCAT'S ROLE IN BUYING BELL HOUSE FOR CIVIL SOCIETY ORGANISATIONS IN STELLENBOSCH

By Jeremy Chennells

During 1988, Stellenbosch was a bastion of Apartheid, and many civil society organisations struggled to find premises to operate in a harsh and hostile environment. Barry Streek, then director of SCAT, donated R300 000.00 towards the cost of purchasing the current Bell House building. It was a massive amount at that time.

For many years up to and after the advent of democracy, Bell House continued to provide a base to a network of civil society organisations. Now, Bell House has assumed a new primary tenant which effectively continues to further the mandate of the Trust, namely to serve the local youth in need.

Bell House is home to the Youth Outreach organisation, and permanently houses about 24 street children. Youth Outreach also feeds, clothes and educates daily up to a hundred needy children in Stellenbosch. That is also a remarkable continuity of 35 years of SCAT.

FOUNDER TRUSTEES

THE LITTLE GRANTMAKER THAT MADE A BIG IMPACT

Gordon Young and Di Oliver, two of the founding trustees of SCAT, reflect on the secrets of SCAT's success over the last 35 years.



GORDON YOUNG

By Gordon Young

SCAT has never been a large organisation, and when it started it was very small indeed. It operated in fact out of Barry Streek's dining room, and Benson the Labrador was an honorary member of staff. SCAT has, I believe, had an impact that belies its small staff and small budget. It's been the cog that's moved many wheels over a vast area of South Africa. If only our government could use its resources half as productively as SCAT does! In the early years from its foundation in 1984, frankly there was only a vague plan and some fine principles. Over time, the focus narrowed, and more and more activities were deliberately excluded. That is one of the secrets of SCAT's success - it tries to do one thing very well. It was quite a wild ride in the early years as we experimented with one thing and another. Conditions were difficult especially during the State of Emergency when SCAT in its quiet backroom way was seen as part of the Total Onslaught. In fact, the exciting aspect for everyone on this ride was the learning that happened along the way. So there's secret number two: SCAT has always been a learning organisation.

Where in the end did we focus the spotlight? Firstly, we agreed that rural areas were least well served, and that is where we would work exclusively. That way we'd help the smaller organisations which were signally un-networked, never got the invitation to the embassy receptions, and were too far away to be on the itinerary of any visiting donor. In a sense SCAT became an efficient "retailer" to smaller organisations who would otherwise get nothing. This meant that SCAT had to be proficient at raising money from the "wholesalers". That is the second angle in the spotlight.

The third aspect of the spotlight is what we came to call the Local Development Agency (LDA). This really isn't just jargon. SCAT supports Agencies (that is, organisations) that are Local (that is, that are grounded in a specific community) and promote Development. Many of these started as advice offices, which were a form of resistance organisation operating in open view. They emerged in the 1980s to exploit the grey areas between legal and illegal opposition to apartheid. When apartheid had been conquered, some of these fell by the wayside, but many undertook the task of re-construction, and many new ones were formed to bring to their communities the economic and social benefits of freedom, in addition to their new political rights.

The fourth angle could be called "respect for autonomy". It is too easy for grantmakers to lord it over their "clients". We didn't want clients, we wanted partners. A key principle in SCAT's work is to be responsive rather than initiate its own programmes. SCAT has never told a Local Development Agency what its programme should be; how much it should pay its staff; who it should employ; who it should not employ; and so forth.



The focus described above took some years to crystallise, and I suppose it will always be evolving. Alongside this process, SCAT came to develop a very specific way of working. Local Development Agencies, while remaining autonomous, did have to comply with some governance requirements. They needed to produce audited financial statements every year (for which SCAT provided the funding supplemental to the main budget); they needed to account to their communities at an annual general meeting, and submit themselves to re-election; they had to have an annual plan; and they did have to be willing to endure field visits from SCAT's fieldworkers, which were not always comfortable experiences. A recipient of SCAT's funds does have to show how they are spending it.

We learnt too that, while SCAT is fundamentally a grantmaker at the "retail" level, shortage of money is probably not a poor community's biggest problem. Showering money upon such a community could be a recipe for strife, not progress. We saw other funders experience very great disappointments when they dropped cash upon poorly organised communities, sometimes making any useful interventions in that area impossible for years to come. We found that the less money we gave, and the more intensive organisational support that came from SCAT's fieldworkers, the better the outcome. In time we came to define SCAT as a "developmental grantmaker" and if you need a two-word description of SCAT - those are the two words.

Minerva's owl, in the words of the proverb, takes flight only in the gathering dusk (Minerva being the goddess of wisdom). We understood what we were doing long after we had begun doing it. SCAT was building institutions! The Local Development Agencies were to become stable centres of activity; they were to outlive their founders; they were to become financially more sustainable through diversification of funding sources; and they were to bring tangible developmental benefits to their community over many years. In some cases, the organisations supported by SCAT have not achieved this stability, but in many cases they have evolved into resilient institutions. Careful fieldwork and, what Di Oliver called by the Afrikaans word, "*begeleiding*", over many years, were the key ingredients.

Finally, SCAT was responsible for some interesting innovations. During the 1980s, for example, the government of the day introduced a Fundraising Act which made the raising of foreign funds illegal without ministerial permission, which would never have been granted. We devised a scheme to evade this: SCAT entered into contracts with the foreign funders, and back-to-back contracts with the Local Development Agencies. We weren't fundraising anymore, we were entering into binding commercial contracts! It worked. After 1990, the legislation was revoked, and SCAT could resume normal methods.

Then SCAT introduced the Fundraising Incentive Scheme (FRIS) to encourage Local Development Agencies to raise money in their own locales. SCAT pays a reward of up to R5.00 for every R1.00 raised. Tremendous ingenuity and hard work were ignited by this scheme, and much money was raised even in these poor communities, by way of beauty parades, raffles, disco evenings and the like. A favourite was to get a sheep donated, cut up and sold in pieces. Local fundraising activities are good for the Local Development Agency, since it re-inforces their autonomy and binds them closer to their communities. This scheme continues to this day.

IT ALL STARTED WITH A CANDLE-LIT LUNCH

By Di Oliver

In 1984 Barry Streek made an appointment to see me. I had not met him before, but admired his journalistic skills and enjoyed his cooking column in the Cape Times. Barry's affable nature and persuasive approach soon had me agreeing to become a third trustee of a yet-to-be-born organisation. Gordon Young was already on board. That was the start of SCAT becoming an integral part of my life for twenty-five years.

SCAT was born at a luncheon arranged at the Cape Town home of the Acting Consul-General, later Secretary General, of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Norway, Bjarne Lindstrom. We signed the legal documents at the candle-lit lunch table. Burning candles at lunch was a charming Norwegian custom that was new to me. The gentle warmth of the flames held promise for what had been born.

It is thirty-five years later and time to celebrate what has been achieved. From the outset SCAT sought to be an enabling organisation. In other words, it aimed at strengthening work on the ground by being a resource and funding partner and not a director or manager of staff who did the work. Each local initiative was independent, set its own goals and decided how it would implement them. Communities were besieged by apartheid's tight grip 35 years ago, but despite the risks, individuals came forward to initiate advice offices and other local organisations that stood for justice and were desperate for change. Despite the odds, they fought every inch of the way to achieve success in their endeavours. We designed SCAT's funding criteria to encourage and support the development of local organisations that could be held accountable, both for the work they undertook in the name of local communities and for the finances they raised and received. There were only a few organisations that couldn't make the grade, sometimes through no fault of their own. Sometimes they re-organised themselves and tried again. This was always reason for celebration.

Norwegian Church Aid was SCAT's pioneer funder. It placed its trust in the formation of a South African-based trust and SCAT's first three trustees to address social change. We owe them a great debt of gratitude. Norwegian funding continued for many years and a range of other funders joined them. SCAT owes its profound gratitude to them all. Without them, rural rights and development needs in our country would very easily remain in the realm of silence.



DI OLIVER



BARRY STREEK



BJARNE LINDSTRØM

MANAGEMENT VOICES

A PERSONAL REFLECTION ON SCAT'S MODEL.

SCAT's director Joanne Harding started her apprenticeship at SCAT as a trainer and fieldworker 21 years ago. She writes about the value of conscious grantmaking and its contribution to transformative development.



JOANNE HARDING
EX OFFICIO TRUSTEE

SCAT has provided me the opportunity to work in an organisation with conscious grantmaking at its core. At the foundation of SCAT's approach is the belief that the power lies with the local development agencies (LDAs) and that our contribution is financial and technical. Being a funder and a fundraiser keeps us humble and aware of the environmental fluctuations which impact on our partners. Reaching the milestone of 35 years is no mean feat and is in part due to forward thinking trustees who in the late 90s decided to invest in a building which we sold for a healthy profit in 2008, and in the early 2000s to invest in Ditikeni Investments (an investment fund set up for the sustainability of the NGOs that invested). These investments make up our sustainability fund and have provided a cushion when we needed it and flexibility when we want to try new things.

Sustainability is also about the governance of the organisation and we are extremely grateful to our founder trustees, those who worked with them, and our current trustees who took the baton and have carried the vision and purpose. We remain thankful to Barry Streek a founder trustee we lost to a brain tumour in 2006. We honour him with this book, an indigenous garden in Community House, and the Barry Streek Awards. Barry loved the written word and we know he would have been proud of what we have co-created with our partners. Aluta Continua SCATTIES!

SCAT GRANT FUNDING AND CAPACITY BUILDING SUPPORT

SCAT Programme Director Seth Tladi writes how SCAT's mission resonated with his passion for community development. He also explains how SCAT's grant funding works.



SETH TLADI
PROGRAMME DIRECTOR

I am passionate about community development and improving the quality of life of the poor and marginalised communities, and have been lucky to have spent most of my career working in rural areas. The role of the Programme Team that I lead in SCAT is to make our vision a reality and ensure that the LDAs we support are accountable for the funds they receive; are well governed; and are supported to address the issues that arise in their communities, promote local philanthropy and campaign against injustice. SCAT core grant funding to LDAs enables them to "keep their doors open" and as a result, more than 500 LDAs have been able to sustain their work over 35 years. This work includes: paralegal advice; creating awareness of rights violations; addressing gender based violence; monitoring local government service delivery; mediating conflicts;

empowering young people; and managing community and income generation projects. Currently, we can boast that 95% of SCAT funded LDAs are well run and achieve their goals and plans annually. This speaks to the quality and impact of SCAT support and monitoring provided to these LDAs by the SCAT field staff. I am proud to be part of a team that achieves what we do. We are small but our impact is big.



BEANCOUNTING FOR SOCIAL GOOD

Hishaam Nordien SCAT's Finance Manager writes about how he found a home at SCAT after doing book keeping for a string of small businesses.

Having trained in finance and worked for a string of small businesses my last role before SCAT was for a company based in Atlantis. This exposed me to a peri-urban community where unemployment was rife, people worked long hours for very little money, in less than ideal conditions. This taught me how insignificant my personal challenges were. Seeking work closer to home, I went for an interview at SCAT. From the start I could tell something was different about this organisation. I quickly learnt that the organisation is inclusive, the staff are friendly and busy and showed a lot of interest in me, who had come to work in a tie. I was warned by others that working in an NGO would be different. I didn't listen to them and I am very happy I didn't.

I am proud to be part of an organisation that runs a tight ship, and has all the systems in place to ensure good financial management and governance. Transparency is at the core of SCAT and is reflected in the degree of openness around all decisions in the organisation. SCAT has regular internal and external audits and has for the past 35 years received unqualified financial audits. In addition to this we have regular sub-committee meetings providing board oversight. This has ensured that members of the Board of Trustees have their finger on the pulse on whats happening on the ground. All of these elements and the opportunities I have been given to progress from Senior Finance Officer to Finance Manager continue to make me feel excited about being part of this organisation. It has been a rewarding journey being part of an organisation making positive change in the lives of others.



HISHAAM NORDIEN
FINANCE MANAGER





STAFF VOICES

SCAT owes its success to a small dedicated team who are committed to serving the local development agencies both in terms of funding and capacity building. The Team is divided into two key areas, Administration and Finance managed by Finance Manager Hishaam Nordien and the Programme Officers, formerly known as field workers, managed by Programme Director Seth Tladi. Here are the voices of the team who work on the ground to make SCAT's vision and mission a reality.

ADMINISTRATION AND FINANCE TEAM

ABIGAIL STEEDSMAN



ABIGAIL STEEDSMAN
ADMINISTRATOR

I started working at SCAT in 2014 as a temp and was soon hired in a full time capacity as an administrative assistant. I ensure the efficient day to day operation of our office. The part of my work which evokes the most passion is working with people from diverse cultures which are based in the rural areas. I find it humbling being of assistance and witnessing LDAs work with such passion. SCAT has taken me to many rural villages which I would never have thought of visiting and I have participated in workshops and discussions which has brought about change. My work within SCAT has given me great opportunities and makes me feel that I can have a meaningful impact for the good of society.

MZOLISI NOMBWU



MZOLISI NOMBWU
BOOKKEEPER

I would have been an engineer today if it was not for my physics teacher who teased me about my dark skin colour, calling me *Nongoloza Omnyama* (Black prisoner). I did not want to be known as *Nongoloza Omnyama* forever so I left physics for accounting. I'm glad I changed because I love accounting and I am good with numbers and maths. I come from the rural village of Mount Fletcher, where I lived with my grandmother. I moved to the Western Cape to live with my parents and attend High School at Kayamandi High School in Stellenbosch. After attaining a diploma in internal auditing at Peninsula Technicon, I worked at CMDs from 2008 to 2015 doing bookkeeping for a number of NGOs. There I developed a love of organisations that make a positive difference in the lives of communities.

I joined SCAT in July 2018 and coming from a rural area I like what SCAT is doing to change people's lives and make the voices of people heard. I love that my position means that I am part of funding community organisations and that local communities are encouraged not to be dependent on donors but to also raise funds for themselves. In this way LDAs are able to bring about transformation in the communities where they work.

NOSIMILO FILITA

My mother used to train pre-school teachers at the Early Learning Centre in Port Elizabeth. She instilled in me a love for assisting others. I grew up in Zwide where I finished matric. I did not want to be dependent on my mother, so I took a job as a cleaner and then as a receptionist. Working as an administrator at Ikhala Trust in Port Elizabeth, I learnt about community development. After I married and moved to Cape Town I was hired half day as an administrator for the Philanthropy Leadership Network (PLN) where I learnt so much working with the coordinator Hilda Gertze. In June 2018 I joined the SCAT team working the other half of my time as a finance assistant.

I love working at SCAT because of the opportunities it provides for learning and growth. My self-esteem has improved because of the opportunities and new responsibilities I have had to learn at SCAT and because I am working with good people who are not tired of teaching me.



NOSIMILO FILITA
FINANCE ADMINISTRATOR

PROGRAMME OFFICERS

COLLEEN ALEXANDER-JULIES

A sense of fairness and justice, a driving force in my life from a young age led me to study law. Positions in the non-profit sector which followed granted me the opportunity to learn about working with communities, conflict resolution, crime prevention and community safety. I joined SCAT as a fieldworker in 2004 and opted to leave in 2012 to pursue a legal career.

In 2015 I returned to SCAT as a Programme Officer for the Western Cape. SCAT's work called me back because of the opportunity to work with people on the ground. I am enrolled as an advocate at the Cape Bar and have been able to use my legal background at SCAT, advising LDAs when they ask for information. One of the highlights at SCAT has been the opportunity to run a leadership training programme for women which has resulted in women taking up leadership positions in LDAs and the community.



COLLEEN ALEXANDER-JULIES
PROGRAMME OFFICER



VUYO MSIZI
PROGRAMME OFFICER

VUYO MSIZI

I am the youngest child of pensioner parents raised in the Eastern Cape village of Guquka, near Hogsback where I experienced rural poverty first hand. I first learned about SCAT when I worked for five years at ILDA in Uitenhage as a paralegal. With a diploma in adult education from UNISA as a base, I was trained as a paralegal through RULAC (Rhodes University Legal Aid Centre) while working at ILDA. I went on to work for the Black Sash as a paralegal, Ikhala Trust supporting community based organisations in the Eastern Cape and then the Nelson Mandela Metropolitan University (NMMU), also mentoring community based organisations.

In 2011 I started at SCAT as a fieldworker, working in a partnership programme with HIVOS and PCRD which was EU funded and focussed on refugee rights. This was the highlight of my career as it helped stem the tide of xenophobia in Port Elizabeth and other parts of the Eastern Cape. Through this project we trained advice offices, police, magistrates and officials from various government departments about refugee rights. I also appreciate the organisational development work at SCAT and our work with LDAs to stop the vicious cycle of poverty. I am currently doing my Bachelors in Social Development and will use this to enhance my work with LDAs.



NOKUKHANYA MCHUNU
PROGRAMME OFFICER

NOKUKHANYA MCHUNU

I joined SCAT as a programme officer in March 2019. I have a degree in town planning and previously worked for NGO's focussed on land and housing. SCAT attracted me because the work reaches out to rural communities. I have learnt so much going out to the rural areas in the Eastern Cape.

Working at SCAT I am learning a lot about the social justice sector. My job is to support and mentor LDAs in the Eastern Cape and Northern Cape. I love the small team at SCAT and the lack of hierarchy. A small team helps with quick conversations and things get done. The six months I have been here feels like six years. Personally I am learning to be structured and to plan my work well.

This year I travelled with the Programme Team to the High Level Political Forum (HLPF) on Sustainable Development in New York and it confirmed to me that the work we are doing is relevant and needed. We are not just supporting LDAs, we are capacitating them. We have done it for 35 years. There is a good story to tell.

AMPLIFYING RURAL VOICES THROUGH **FOUR DAYS OF FUN AND REFLECTION**



HEATHER ROBERTSON

Heather Robertson writes about the process that led to the germination of Rural Voice II.

Twenty nine of the thirty stories which form the backbone of this book were created at a four day workshop held at the beautiful nineteenth century Goedgedacht farm, situated on the slopes of the Kasteelberg . Goedgedacht translated from Dutch means a place of 'good thoughts' or 'good ideas', an apt description for our four day storytelling workshop. One of the LDA leaders, Christiaan Oerson from Cederberg Matzikama Aids Network was unable to attend the workshop, but he contributed his story after I provided him with a framework of questions to answer and editing support.

There are a number of storytelling techniques that I used which helped the workshop members develop the confidence to give voice to their own stories. Some of the techniques shine through the final stories, like a deep awareness of location and place. I was amazed by how dedicated the LDA members were to writing their Morning Pages¹, a very challenging exercise devised by author of *The Artist's Way*, Julia Cameron, to unblock and unlock creativity. Every morning each participant would quietly sit and write three pages of longhand stream of consciousness writing, never lifting a finger or getting distracted. This exercise is both therapeutic and cathartic.

A task which had participants both laughing and crying and giving each other group hugs was an exercise which required them to write a letter to their younger selves. This exercise unearths long buried emotions but also helps the writer reflect on the strides they have made in their lives. All of these creativity- unleashing exercises, group work and interviewing techniques were stepping stones to the final stage of the process which was to help participants find their own voice and tell their story about how and why they came to work at their local development agency.

Participants were encouraged to write in their mother tongues, but most opted to write their stories in English.

The results of the four day workshop can be read in the following chapters. You will discover like I did, that these LDA members are the true pioneers of social change and empowerment. Many of them have surmounted personal tragedies, injustice and economic obstacles to play pivotal roles in their often forgotten and ignored rural communities. They are the true unsung heroines and heroes of our country.

1. Cameron, J. (2019). Morning Pages | Julia Cameron Live. Retrieved October 21, 2019, from [juliacameronlive.com website: https://juliacameronlive.com/basic-tools/morning-pages/](https://juliacameronlive.com/basic-tools/morning-pages/)



Nomfiki Mgobo and Zingisa Gombo committee members from Tyinira Rural Development Agency speaking to paralegal officer Thando Hlangu.



ACCESS TO JUSTICE

Access to Justice in South Africa is guaranteed under section 34 of the Constitution, which provides that everyone has the right to have any dispute that can be resolved by the application of law, decided in a fair public hearing before a court or, where appropriate, another independent and impartial tribunal or forum. Everyone is also equal before the law and has the right to equal protection and benefit of the law. However, most South Africans cannot afford legal representation and thus in effect do not have access to justice. Community advice offices have a history of providing legal advice and rights based information, informing people on where and how to access services offered by government departments and making sure people access those services.

SCAT has been supporting paralegals at local development agencies (LDAs) since its inception as a small grantmaker. SCAT is committed to ensuring that community-based paralegals have a sustainable financial future for the valuable service they provide to people who are unable to afford legal assistance, and do not have an understanding of the legislation that protects their rights, nor ways to action these rights. We see our role as continuing to find independent sources of funding for the sector, building the organisations we support as accountable transparent LDAs in their communities and encouraging local philanthropy to sustain these organisations and other community initiatives.



BEAUFORT WEST

LEGAL ADVICE & DEVELOPMENT OFFICE (BWLADO)

Beaufort West is the largest town in the arid Great Karoo region of the Western Cape. It is a major truck stop hub on the N1 between Johannesburg and Cape Town. Known as the capital of the Karoo, it forms part of the Beaufort West Local Municipality, with 34 085 inhabitants, with over 90% Coloured Afrikaans speakers as recorded by Stats SA's population census in 2011.¹

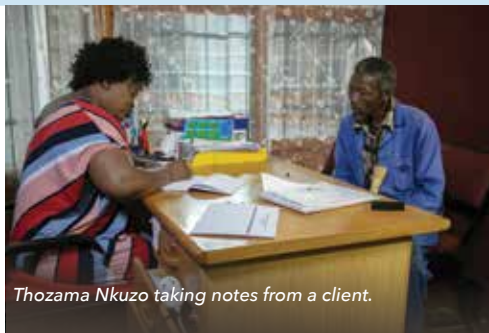
In December 1994, the former black township Kwa-Mandlenkosi was amalgamated into the Beaufort West Municipality. In December 2000, the rural towns of Merweville and Nelspoort were also incorporated as part of the Beaufort West Municipality. The main economic activities are transport and communication (25.3%), wholesale and retail trade (16.8%), general government services (14.4%), manufacturing (10.9%), agriculture (7.7%).²

Beaufort West Legal Advice and Development Office (BWLADO) is largely focussed on paralegal advice with a particular focus on worker rights. The LDA has a good relationship with the Department of Labour and the Commission for Conciliation, Mediation and Arbitration (CCMA) which stands them in great stead when dealing with unfair labour practices.

1. Frith, A. (2012). Census 2011: Main Place: Beaufort West. Retrieved October 3, 2019, from <https://census2011.adrianfrith.com/place/183005>
2. Beaufort West Local Municipality. (2018). Contents. In IDP Review 2018-2019.



Coordinator Eugene Mapotolo talking to a client in the BWLADO Advice Office.



Thozama Nkuzo taking notes from a client.



Clients in the waiting room at BWLADO.

FAST FACTS

NAME: Beaufort West Legal Advice & Development Office (BWLADO)

LED BY: Eugene Mapotolo

MAIN CHALLENGES FACED BY THE COMMUNITY: unemployment, domestic abuse, alcohol and drug abuse

MAIN ACTIVITIES: Legal advice office; skills development for youth; helping to provide employment opportunities

ADDRESS: 1 Maarman Street, KwaMandlenkosi, Beaufort West

CONTACT: Tel: 023 414 3334 / Cell: 073 462 9827

Email: info@bwlado.co.za

MY LIFE PURPOSE IS TO SERVE MY COMMUNITY



Thozama Nkuzo and Eugene Mapotolo (coordinator) meeting with a client.



Beaufort West Legal Advice & Development Office.



Ncumisa Mbalo, Eugene Mapotolo and Thozama Nkuzo.

THOZAMA NKUZO REFLECTS ON HOW A CHANCE ENCOUNTER WITH A MENTALLY ILL ELDERLY WOMAN SHE FOUND WANDERING ON THE STREETS OF BEAUFORT WEST IGNITED HER DESIRE TO HELP OTHERS THROUGH COMMUNITY SERVICE.

I was born in King William's Town, Eastern Cape and I grew up on the dusty streets of Zwelitsha. As a little girl, I moved with my family to Cape Town. Eventually we ended up in Beaufort West because of my father's pastoral work. After I completed matric, I joined an organisation called 'Gender Base Care' (GBC) as an administrator. That was my first job. GBC assisted abused women by providing a shelter facility and assisting them to navigate the criminal justice system. I found the work at GBC very satisfying. It helped me find my purpose in life and ignited in me a passion for social justice activism.

During the summer of 2010, I was captivated by an elderly woman who was wandering around the streets of Beaufort West. She was wearing several layers of clothing. Every time I saw her or passed her my heart bled. I became emotional when I saw her eating scraps from a dustbin. I never saw her talking even if someone gave her something to eat. My colleague and I decided to help her even though we had no idea whether she was dangerous or not. We went to the police station to seek some help and they agreed to help us. Although it was not easy, we managed to take her to our shelter. We washed her and her clothes. She told us that she was from Limpopo and she had two sons and a daughter who is a nurse.

We took photographs of her and posted them at the local police station and various shops in town. We also went to the announcers at the local radio station who helped us send out a missing person alert. All of this effort bore fruit. After three to four weeks the elderly lady's children heard our broadcast and came to Beaufort West to identify if she was their mother. It was a very emotional moment because they thought they would never see their mother again. They told us that their mother became mentally ill during a very short space of time. Soon after her illness, she disappeared, and they



THOZAMA NKUZO



never saw her again for over two years. It really moved me to see how happy they were to be reunited with their mother again. This story confirmed to me once again that my purpose in life is to serve my community.

When a position came up at the Advice Office, I took it with open arms. I started as an administrator at BWLADO and now I am a fieldworker. My work as a fieldworker at the Advice Office provides me with a platform to live out my purpose helping people such as the time when we helped a family who was evicted by a farm owner after their father passed away. The family was grieving the loss of their father and their home as they were stranded without a place to stay. We took the matter up with the farm owner and he agreed to compensate the family so that they could buy a house. It is stories like this, where I can see we are making a difference to people's lives, that make me happy to go to work every morning at the Advice Office.



GROWING JUSTICE: BWLADO team members Thozama Nkuzo (left), Eugene Mapotolo (second left) and Ncumisa Mbalo (far right) meet with SCAT Programme Officer Colleen Alexander-Julies (second right).

CEDERBERG

MATZIKAMA AIDS NETWORK



ACCESS TO JUSTICE

The Cederberg region is 300km away from Cape Town. The region stretches from the West Coast Atlantic seaside towns of Lambertsbaai and Elandsbaai, to the mountainous inland towns of Clanwilliam and Citrusdal in the east. The Cederberg mountain range is named after the endangered Clanwilliam cedar which is indigenous to the area. The caves and overhangs of the mountains are noted for their San rock, evidence of the earliest human inhabitants¹. The Cederberg Local Municipality is strategically located on the Cape-Namibia Corridor, and the N7 National Road links it with the Northern Cape. According to Census 2011, the total population of the region comprises 49 769 people, 75.65% who identify as Coloured, 12,67% Black African and 10,97% as White. The most common languages spoken are Afrikaans (88.66%), isiXhosa (4.98%), Sesotho (2.5%) and English (1.85%).² The main economic activities of the Cederberg are agriculture, forestry and fishing (25.7%), wholesale and retail trade, catering and accommodation (17.3%)³.

The Cederberg Matzikama Aids Network is an established local development agency (LDA) with a health and wellbeing focus. The LDA changed its focus from being an Advice Office to focus on the Department of Health funded Community Oriented Primary Care (COPC) Programme. The LDA has successfully managed to raise funds from Enel Green Power, the solar company operating in the area to establish a health clinic in Paleisheuwel. Paleisheuwel is about 48 km from Citrusdal and forms part of the surrounding area serviced by the LDA. This has come as a relief to the people from Paleisheuwel as they were forced to part with between R400.00-R500.00 to get to the nearest health services in Citrusdal. The LDA has also continued their work improving parenting skills in their community. They run fatherhood workshops for 15 fathers in Paleisheuwel. The LDA uses its expertise to support and mentor the Citrusdal Advice Office with paralegal services in the community.

1. Cederberg Heritage Route | Hiking & Heritage trails. (2019). Retrieved October 5, 2019, from <http://www.cedheroute.co.za/>
2. Census 2011: Local Municipality: Cederberg. (2019). Retrieved October 6, 2019, from <https://census2011.adrianfrith.com/place/161>
3. Cederberg Local Municipality - Overview. (2019). Retrieved October 6, 2019, from <https://municipalities.co.za/overview/1227/cederberg-local-municipality>

FAST FACTS

NAME OF LDA: Cederberg Matzikama Aids Network

LED BY: Christiaan Oerson and Tanya Ludick

MAIN CHALLENGES FACED BY THE COMMUNITY: HIV AIDS, substance abuse, unemployment, poverty, teenage pregnancy.

MAIN ACTIVITIES: HIV AIDS programme; TB dot programme; food security programme; community orientated care programme; labour programme; wellness centre; family support programme; child protection programme.

ADDRESS: 115 Voortrekker street Citrusdal 7340

CONTACT: 022 921 2113 cell 0721031286

IT ALL BEGAN WITH A DUSTY OFFICE AND A FEW BLACK RUBBISH BAGS



Christiaan Oerson greeting people coming to the Cederberg Matzikama Aids Network (CMAN) office.



Cederberg Matzikama Aids Network (CMAN).



Joanne Harding and Nikiwe Kaunda speaking to Elizabeth Bassin - Board member and Christopher Smith - administrator of CMAN.



CHRISTIAAN OERSON

CHRISTIAAN OERSON WRITES ABOUT THE HUMBLE ORIGINS OF THE CEDERBERG MATZIKAMA AIDS NETWORK WHICH EMPLOYS A STAFF OF 30 TODAY.

I worked at Goede Hoop Citrus as a full-time support steward for the Food and Allied Workers Union. Goede Hoop Citrus is a factory that packs oranges. I left Goede Hoop in 2003 and was unemployed until 2004. In 2004 the Citrusdal Advice Office was closed because of funding and political infighting. The office was at the sport hall at Oranjeville sports ground. I asked for the key to the office and cleaned the office which was empty apart from dust and a few black bags of rubbish. There was no phone, fax or anything and also no funding but I revived the Advice Office by starting with labour issues on farms and in the community. If I wanted to do clients' cases I had to buy a telephone card and call from a card phone in town. If I wanted to send a fax I had to go to Goede Hoop and pay R5.00 a page. I worked at the Advice Office until 2006 with no funding. In 2006 I applied for funding from SCAT. It was at that time R3500.00 per month. I also applied to DSD and received R5000.00 per month. My first salary was R1200.00 per month after two years at the Advice Office.

Most of the cases we initially dealt with were labour cases, unfair dismissals and evictions. In 2014 we assisted a family of five who lived under a bridge for 3 years. We asked the local municipality for a piece of land and we bought building material to build a shack in the informal settlement which is much better than living under a bridge. The family still lives there. There are also cases we refer to the small claims court.

After receiving funding from SCAT, we became the first and only organisation in this region working with HIV AIDS. When I started at the organisation the only knowledge I had was about labour issues from my shop steward background. After receiving funding from SCAT, we were exposed to a lot of training like fundraising, budgeting, leadership and paralegal training. I always tell people that SCAT did not give us a lot of money,

but they made sure they developed our skills to manage the organisation. We started in a small office, but thanks to the Fundraising Incentive Scheme (FRIS)⁴ from SCAT the organisation now has its own office. Two of our staff members did paralegal training which was paid for by SCAT.

I have grown a lot in the LDA. I had no formal training apart from a matric certificate. With the assistance of SCAT, I now have a paralegal diploma and am busy studying towards a project management diploma at the University of Stellenbosch. I started alone in the organisation and we now have 30 staff members. The impact in the community is huge. We have a professional nurse who takes primary health care to the people living on farms. We have a wellness centre fifty km from Citrusdal at Paleisheuwel. They now have health care on their door whereas in the past they had to pay between R300.00 and R600.00 to go to Citrusdal for health care.



ACCESS TO JUSTICE

4. Fundraising Incentive Scheme (FRIS):
FRIS is an innovative tool to encourage the mobilisation of local resources. SCAT currently rewards LDAs R5.00 for every R1.00 profit made from a fundraising event. Events are verified through financial documentation and storytelling. FRIS is an important contributor to community driven philanthropy and ensures that LDAs can reduce their dependence on grant funding. FRIS also encourages interest and involvement from the community in the work of the LDA and as a result encourages accountability and a sense of ownership of the LDA and its programmes.



Nikky McNaught speaking to Christiaan Oerson.



CITRUSDAL

ADVICE OFFICE

Citrusdal is situated at the base of the Cederberg mountains in the Olifants River Valley about 177 km north of Cape Town. Named after the abundance of citrus fruit farms in the valley, Citrusdal was established in 1916 by the Nederduits Gereformeerde Kerk.¹

The total population recorded in the 2011 census was 7,177 people, 15.6% of whom identified as Black, 69% as Coloured and 14.5% as White. Afrikaans is the predominant language spoken in the area at 87.5% followed by isiXhosa at 5.9%.²

The main focus of the Citrusdal Advice Office is to provide paralegal services. The LDA has been very successful in assisting their clients with illegal and fraudulent deductions by unscrupulous companies and has successfully represented clients at the CCMA.³ It has helped clients to receive outstanding COIDA and UIF pay-outs.



Petrus Brink, former coordinator Citrusdal Advice Office and Colleen Alexander-Julies from SCAT.



Maria Fortuin, previous Board member Citrusdal Advice Office.



Colleen Alexander-Julies, Petrus Brink and Freddie Koopman.

1. Raper, P. (1987). Dictionary of Southern African Place Names (Vol. 46). <https://doi.org/10.1080/10228195.2015.1113434>
2. Frith, A. (2019) Census 2011: Main Place: Citrusdal. Retrieved October 4, 2019, from <https://census2011.adrianfrith.com/place/161007>
3. The Commission for Conciliation, Mediation and Arbitration (CCMA) is a dispute resolution body established in terms of the Labour Relations Act, 66 of 1995

FAST FACTS

NAME: Citrusdal Advice Office

LED BY: Frederick Koopman

MAIN CHALLENGES FACED BY THE COMMUNITY: farm evictions, unfair labour practices

MAIN ACTIVITIES: Paralegal support; labour dispute resolution

ADDRESS: 89 Voortrekker Rd, Citrusdal

CONTACT: Phone: 022 3000 141, Cell: 071 413 3444

Email: adviceoffice.citrusdal@gmail.com

LAND RIGHTS SHOULD INCLUDE AN END TO EVICTIONS

FREDDIE KOOPMAN WAS EXPOSED TO FARMWORKERS BEING EVICTED FROM THEIR HOMES ON FARMS FROM AN EARLY AGE. HE WRITES THAT THE CURRENT LAWS GOVERNING EVICTIONS NEED TO CHANGE TO ENSURE FARM INHABITANTS HAVE MORE SECURITY OF TENURE.

I was born in a beautiful village called Citrusdal which is in a valley surrounded by the Swartberg and Cederberg mountains.

During winter you will find the sweetest oranges here and nowhere else in the world. In spring, our town is covered by a blanket of flowers.

I grew up on a farm and was exposed to the injustices experienced by farm workers at an early age. Commercial farmers dismissed farm workers left and right. Farm workers earn a wage of less than R50.00. They live in poverty and often go to bed without food and go to work on an empty stomach. Farm workers are regularly removed from farms. People are dropped off on the side of the road, their furniture is thrown off the vehicles and everything is lost in the process. To this day, farmworkers remain the most marginalised group in our society. There are about 20 000 farm workers who are vulnerable to farm evictions. This phenomenon is evident on every media stream. As a result of evictions, we see people who sit on the side of the road without food and the pain is clearly written on their faces. Children hiccup as they cry. Rain worsens the circumstances because everything is wet and the people have no shelter.

My own experience as a child motivates me to empower farm workers and improve their circumstances. I received a postgraduate qualification, B.Comm (Law), and later joined the Advice Office. Recently we assisted a family who was dropped on the side of the road in the middle of the night by a farmer. In the morning, some passersby contacted us about their plight. We fetched the family with all their furniture and arranged for them to stay at the community hall. We also saw that they had food. We engaged with the farmer and explained the laws of the Extension of Security of Tenure Act 62 of 1997 ("ESTA"), and he eventually agreed to fetch the family and return them to the farm.

We have been working with Tshintsha Amakhaya to work out strategies to stop farmworker evictions. I have also held several workshops explaining ESTA in my community. We also explain ESTA to individuals who walk into our office. Even though it regulates eviction, it does not protect our people as it does not prevent evictions from happening. For this reason, I believe it must be expunged.

When he was Deputy President, President Cyril Ramaphosa called a moratorium on farm evictions in 2014. Since his inauguration as President we have engaged in conversation with him. The President committed himself to dealing with the issue himself. To date, nothing has happened to improve the situation. The purpose of the moratorium is to ensure that farm inhabitants are not evicted. ESTA must first be rewritten to make sure that farm inhabitants have a better outcome. Their living situation should have more certainty. Farm inhabitants need the opportunity to provide their input into changing the law. They need to have a say as they are the people most affected by eviction laws. This is the reality that I want to change.



ACCESS TO JUSTICE



FREDDIE KOOPMAN



DORDRECHT

ADVICE OFFICE

Dordrecht is a small rural town nestled in the Stormberg mountains in the Eastern Cape.¹ Located just north of Queenstown between Middelburg and Mthatha, Dordrecht is surrounded by a number of sheep, cattle and potato farms. The town was founded in 1856 by Baron Smiddolff, a minister of the Dutch Reformed Church, who named the town after Dordrecht in Holland. Census 2011 records the population size as 2 023 inhabitants, 58.18% who speak isiXhosa and 31.20% who speak Afrikaans.²

The Dordrecht Advice Office was initially established to empower farm workers who faced unfair dismissals, wage disputes, unlawful evictions and even assault at the hands of farm owners. The Advice Office's ability to mediate labour disputes has earned them respect from both farmworkers and farm owners. They have also played a pivotal role in assisting the police with regard to specific crimes affecting the community, and is seen as a major strength of this LDA. The Advice Office received funding from the Department of Labour to run workshops on labour rights for farm workers in neighbouring farms.

1. Routes Travel Info Portal: Dordrecht. (n.d.). Retrieved October 4, 2019, from <https://web.archive.org/web/20070315232644/http://www.routes.co.za/ec/dordrecht/index.html>
2. Frith, A. (2019) Census 2011: Main Place: Dordrecht. Retrieved October 4, 2019, from <https://census2011.adrianfrith.com/place/283001>



Inside the advice centre office.



Dordrecht's stone church.



Administrator Nonceba Ndala and fieldworker Dimakatso Tsulo.

FAST FACTS

NAME: Dordrecht Advice Office

LED BY: Nokuphumla Monica Tyalimpi

MAIN CHALLENGES FACED BY THE COMMUNITY: Labour disputes on farms, farm evictions, youth unemployment, crime

MAIN ACTIVITIES: Paralegal support; labour disputes; economic empowerment; community development

ADDRESS: 5 Klip Street, Dordrecht

CONTACT: Phone: 045 943 1045, Cell: 082 225 6328

WE ARE ALL HUMAN AND ENTITLED TO DIGNITY



Nokuphumla Monica Tyalimpi - Coordinator.



Lulama Violet Rolihlahla - Treasurer.



Nokuphumla Monica Tyalimpi - Coordinator, Makatso Tsulo - Administrator, Lulama Rolihlahla - Treasurer, Nonceba Ndala - Field-Worker.

NOKUPHUMLA MONICA TYALIMPI AND HER FAMILY WERE EVICTED FROM THE FARM WHERE THEY GREW UP AFTER HER FATHER WAS WRONGFULLY DISMISSED. THIS FORMATIVE EXPERIENCE FORGED IN HER A STRONG SENSE OF JUSTICE WHICH SHE NOW USES IN HER PARALEGAL WORK TO HELP FIGHT FOR THE RIGHTS OF THE MARGINALISED

I was born in Albertinia, a small town in the Western Cape Province which is known for its aloë production. My father was a farm worker, assigned with the duty of milking ten cows in the afternoon, on Sundays. My mother was a domestic worker for eight years. I had three brothers and two sisters.

My father made a powerful impression on me. He was a dedicated Christian, who attended a church service 10km from where we lived. He travelled to and from church on a bicycle. One Sunday, the church service lasted about 30 minutes longer than usual. This meant my father arrived late to milk the cows. Although this was the first time he had ever arrived late, he was unfairly dismissed. He was forced to leave our house which was situated on the farm he had worked on. My whole family was forced to sleep on the street, carrying all our belongings.

After our eviction, my father was deported to Lady Frere, the town of his birth. En route to Lady Frere, he was handcuffed until we reached Queenstown. I saw my father bleeding from his wrists as the handcuffs were eating through his skin. My father's pass book was stamped with a section 10 inscription, which meant he was banned from the area. Eventually, my family was forced to relocate to the small, mountainous, red-soiled town of Lady Frere. As the town is predominantly Xhosa speaking, we had to learn to speak the language because we spoke Afrikaans in Albertinia. Initially, we struggled with the adjustment.



NOKUPHUMLA MONICA TYALIMPI



I lived in Lady Frere until what was then referred to as Form Four (Grade 11). During grade 11, I fell pregnant. Despite this hurdle, I completed High School, matriculating in 1985. In 1987 I married a herbalist and moved to Dordrecht.

My life changed in 1989 when I met Rob Watson who was a lawyer from Lawyers for Human Rights. He was visiting Dordrecht and introduced me to the concept of paralegal work. This is when my work at the Dordrecht Advice Office started. I was elected as Treasurer of the Advice Office.

I then joined the Phakomani Awareness Raising Group, a Community Based Organisation, funded by Nacosa. As my experience increased, I was appointed as the activator for SCAT's HIV/AIDS Responsive Programme and became the Coordinator of the Dordrecht Advice Office.

I wish I could say everything changed since apartheid ended in 1994 and we are all treated with dignity. Sadly, the memory of my family's eviction came back to life one rainy day in 2017, when clients came to the Advice Office with five young children, aged from five to fifteen years old. The parents had travelled on a tractor with their small children to our offices. They had been evicted from their home. I remembered the agony of my family's eviction and marched off with the clients to the Magistrates Court to have the eviction declared unlawful as the proper procedures were not followed. We were successful in our appeal and the clients, with their young children returned to the farm.

Through the generous funding provided by SCAT since 1989, our organisation is able to continue assisting vulnerable families like the clients we assisted by appealing their eviction from the farm they were living on. Although I have no law degree, my experiences have shaped in me a sense of justice. I continue to assist, empower and speak for the marginalised in our society. After all, we are all human and entitled to dignity.

Aluta! Continua!



Dordrecht Advice Office lobbied for solar powered lighting to make the streets safer for women to walk at night.



Sekumpana Mshengu Shabalala addressing community members about labour and social security rights.



Puseletso Hanisi (left) and Bellina Mtoto (right).



Vuyo Msizi SCAT Programme Officer talking to Puseletso Hanisi and Bellina Mtoto.



SIYANAKEKELA

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

Matatiele is a mid-sized town on the border between the Eastern Cape and KwaZulu-Natal, 233km from Mthatha and 20km from the southern frontier of Lesotho.¹ The name Matatiele is said to be based on the Sesotho phrase “matata-a-ile”, meaning “the ducks have flown”.² The town was established in 1874 and attained municipal status in 1904. Matatiele town serves as a service centre and the main economic hub for Matatiele Municipality. Census 2011 records the total population of Matatiele as 12,466 comprising people who identify as Black African 83.5%, Coloured 9.5%, Indian/Asian 2.6% and White 4.1%. The languages spoken are isiXhosa 48.3%, SeSotho 23.5% and English 14.3%.³

The Matatiele Local Municipality is located on the foothills of the Drakensberg Mountains. It adjoins the World Heritage Site along its western boundary and was included in the Maloti-Drakensberg Transfrontier Conservation and Development Project. The predominantly rural Matatiele municipal area includes the commercial farmlands surrounding the service centre of Matatiele, the town of Cedarville and the township of Maluti.⁴ The main economic activities of the district are dairy farming, community services and trade.

Since 2005, when the municipality was moved from the KwaZulu-Natal province to the Eastern Cape as part of the Twelfth Amendment of the Constitution of South Africa, there has been a dispute between national government and the community of Matatiele who want to be returned to KwaZulu-Natal. Legally Matatiele was confirmed as part of Eastern Cape province under the 13th amendment of the Constitution.⁵

Siyanakekela is a developing local development agency based in Matatiele. It offers home based care services, paralegal services, community outreach and awareness projects. Siyanakekela also assists community members to establish credit and savings clubs.

1. Matatiele Local Municipality - Overview. (2019) Retrieved October 4, 2019, from <https://municipalities.co.za/overview/1001/matatiele-local-municipality>
2. Raper, P. (1987). Dictionary of Southern African Place Names (Vol. 46). <https://doi.org/10.1080/10228195.2015.1113434>
3. Frith, A. (2019). Census 2011: Main Place: Matatiele. Retrieved October 4, 2019, from <https://census2011.adrianfrith.com/place/295171>
4. Matatiele Local Municipality - Overview. (2019) Retrieved October 4, 2019, from <https://municipalities.co.za/overview/1001/matatiele-local-municipality>
5. Government Gazette (2007). Constitution Thirteenth Amendment Act [No 23 of 2007].

FAST FACTS

NAME: Siyanakekela Community Development

LED BY: Sekumpana Shabalala

MAIN CHALLENGES FACED BY THE COMMUNITY: Late birth registrations, crime and theft, asylum seekers.

MAIN ACTIVITIES: Paralegal support; home-based care; labour disputes

ADDRESS: Ward 12, Kotsoana Village, Matatiele

CONTACT: Cell: 086 247 4101

Email: sekumpana@webmail.co.za ; sekumpana651@gmail.com

THANKS TO SCAT, WE HAVE OUR DIGNITY



Puseletso Hanisi (left) and Bellina Mtoto (right).



Siyanakekela Community Development.



SEKUMPANA MSHENGU SHABALALA DREAMED OF BECOMING A LAWYER BUT COULD NOT AFFORD TO STUDY. HIS WORK AS A COORDINATOR AT SIYANAKEKALA HAS HELPED HIM ACHIEVE HIS DREAM BY BEING AN ADVOCATE FOR JUSTICE, HUMAN RIGHTS, HIVAIDS AND EMPLOYEE RIGHTS.

I was born in a village called Khubetsoana, in Matatiele town. The name Matatiele is from “Matata a ile”. It became Matatiele after white people could not say “Matata a ile” then said Matatiele.

After I passed my standard 10 (grade 12), I could not further my studies because my parents could not afford to pay for my fees. My whole family was dependent on my father as he was the only one working. My mother stayed at home to look after my five siblings and I. I had dreamed of becoming a lawyer when I started working.

Because I could not afford to study law, I ended up working as a clerk at a company called Foreign Works. It was while working there that I started to fight for workers’ rights. I saw that employees did not know where to go to ask for solutions. Before I went to work at Foreigns, I was one of the people who volunteered at the Matatiele Advice Centre. When there was a post available at Matatiele Advice Centre, I stopped working at Foreigns, and came back home to help my community.

What attracted me to this job at the advice centre was that I could educate my community about justice, human rights, HIVAIDS and employee rights. After 14 years working at the Matatiele Advice Centre, I became the spokesperson of Siyanakekela Community Development (SCD). I became a coordinator from 2015 up to now. SCD has the following programmes:

1. HIV/AIDS - awareness and home based care

We do awareness of this virus and have volunteers or caregivers who visit sick people at their houses, help them clean their laundry and keep the house clean. Most importantly caregivers check if patients take their medication regularly and fetch medication from clinics for those who are unable to do so for themselves.



SEKUMPANA MSHENGU
SHABALALA



2. Saving and credit group formation (SCDs)

We encourage the community to form groups to save and borrow money, so that they stop using loan sharks where they pay huge interest. At SCD, the interest is small. It is 10% of the money you borrowed or you have saved. People's lives have changed a lot because of SCD. Some have bought furniture or cars, some have paid for their children's school fees while others have bought livestock.

3. Gender based violence prevention

We teach people about abuse in homes, especially women and child abuse. We teach men not to abuse women. We found out that after our training a lot of women stand up for themselves. We have reports that those who come to us are no longer experiencing abuse. Also, protection orders are made by many to stop abuse in families or homes.

4. Labour laws for domestic and farm workers

We teach the community about laws and rights for farmworkers and domestic workers. We teach them about their employment rights - what they should get paid, employment contracts and basic conditions of employment. We are also teaching them about the new National Wage Act.

5. Human rights - children rights

We help people understand the constitution's bill of rights and how it affects them. There are many children who do not have birth certificates. These children face struggles at school. They do not get food or books because they are told they are not citizens. When they do grade 12 they cannot write their final examination. We work with other social justice organisations to campaign for government to change policies that suppress children rights. We remind government that the bill of rights states that every child has a right to a nationality, to a name and to education.

6. Food security programme

We are also fighting against malnutrition. We encourage our community to plant vegetables in their homes so that they don't need to buy cabbages, potatoes, carrots and tomatoes. There are no jobs, there is no money to buy such things but if they grow their own vegetables and they have a surplus, they can sell it. We encourage the community to start farming co-operatives and sell what they grow so that they can create job opportunities where they stay.

7. Paralegal or case work

At Siyanakekela we help people with different legal problems. We helped a miner to get R150 000.00 compensation from a mine where he became ill from silicosis. This man built a house for his family, bought livestock and paid for his child's tertiary education. After some time he passed away, but his family is proud of SCD because he passed away after building them a house, ensuring they have a place to stay now.

Part of my job description as a coordinator at SCD is to raise funds from donors. In 2016 we asked for help from SCAT. SCAT gave us R30 000.00 for three months towards the end of that year, but during the following year the donation increased to R111 000.00. The money from SCAT, together with FRIS, DFT (fundraising incentive scheme and development fund and training) helps us a lot at SCD. It is through SCAT's support that we were able to put a fence around our office. This gave our office dignity, because before that animals and people used to roam around without anything to stop them.

My parents may not have been able to afford to send me to university to study to become a lawyer, but through my work at Siyanakekela, I open the doors of justice, human rights and development to my community of Matatiele every day.

MERWEVILLE

ADVICE OFFICE AND DEVELOPMENT CENTRE



ACCESS TO JUSTICE

Merweville is a small Karoo town which lies between the Swart and Nuweveld mountains 45km north-west of Prince Albert Road and 130km south-east of Beaufort West.¹ The town's desolation and aridity has a close resemblance to the Arizona and Nevada desert in the US, and is a popular location for filmmakers.

It was one of the few towns or villages in the Western Cape province not to be serviced by a sealed highway until the 40 km stretch of gravel road from the N1 was tarred in 2015.² Prior to this Merweville (the villagers call it Mirville) could only be reached by driving long distances along dirt roads between Fraserburg, Sutherland and Prince Albert station. The town was established on the farm Vanderbylskraal in 1904 and administered by a village management board from 1921. It was named after the Reverend P van der Merwe (1860-1940), the minister of the Dutch Reformed Church in Beaufort West and chairman of the church council which established the town.³

The total population of the town according to the 2011 census was 1,592 with 9.3% identifying as Black African, 78.8% as Coloured and 8.8% as White. The majority speak Afrikaans (95%).⁴

Merweville Advice Office is a developing local Advice Office based in the small rural town. The LDA assists farm workers with unfair dismissals and UIF. They also organise youth in the community to deal with issues of unemployment and skills development.

1. Merweville, Western Cape - Karoo Space. (2019). Retrieved October 4, 2019, from <http://karoospace.co.za/merweville/>
2. Central Karoo District Municipality - Overview. (2019). Retrieved October 4, 2019, from <https://municipalities.co.za/overview/144/central-karoo-district-municipality>
3. Raper, P. (1987). Dictionary of Southern African Place Names (Vol. 46). <https://doi.org/10.1080/10228195.2015.1113434>
4. Frith, A. (2019). Census 2011: Main Place: Merweville. Retrieved October 4, 2019, from <https://census2011.adrianfrith.com/place/183009>

FAST FACTS

NAME: Merweville Advice and Development Office

LED BY: Jan Bostander and Johnay Mentoor

MAIN CHALLENGES FACED BY THE COMMUNITY: unemployment; alcohol and drug abuse; gender-based violence

MAIN ACTIVITIES: Referral of labour related matters; legal advice; rendering primary legal services to the local community and surrounding farms; empowerment of the local community and surrounding farms thru awareness workshops on consumer, women and youth issues

ADDRESS: 92 Skema Street, Merweville

CONTACT: Phone: 078 008 6051/ 073 494 5347

A SON'S PROMISE TO HIS SINGLE PARENT MOTHER



Jan Bostander and Shirley van Wyk serving clients in the Advice Office.



Deputy Chairperson Shirley van Wyk (left) and Chairperson Jan Bostander (right).



Merweville Advice Office.



JAN BOSTANDER

JAN BOSTANDER HAD TO DROP OUT OF SCHOOL WHEN HE WAS THIRTEEN TO HELP SUPPORT HIS SINGLE PARENT MOTHER AND HIS SEVEN SIBLINGS. HE VOWED TO ONE DAY RETURN TO MERWEVILLE TO MAKE A DIFFERENCE TO HIS COMMUNITY, A PROMISE HE IS FULFILLING WITH HIS ROLE AT THE ADVICE OFFICE.

I was born in Merweville. It is a small town in the Central Karoo District. There are no big stores or other businesses stimulating the local economy and creating employment opportunities. There are two general stores, selling basic goods, and a garage selling agricultural products. Merweville has two primary schools. It is a dusty area with high unemployment. Many residents are dependent on seasonal construction and agricultural work. The rest depend on state grants.

I am one of eight children, five brothers and three sisters, raised by a single mother with a state grant of R360.00 per month. I completed my primary school education in Merweville and left for Beaufort West for high school. We were three children at high school and two at primary school.

Early on in my life, my mother struggled to provide us with the basic necessities. Often, my siblings and I had to survive with little to no food. As a result, I had to drop out of school in grade 9 at thirteen years old in order to find work and help the family. I had to go and live with my mother's oldest brother, so he could train me in construction work. We were working at the surrounding farms. It was very difficult for me to understand my life. I cried many days, as I could not understand why we had to suffer like this. I could not understand why my mother had to struggle and raise us on her own and why I had to drop out of school. Many nights I prayed that when I'm an adult God must help me help my mother and all other people who are struggling.

During 1985, I moved to Cape Town, in order to find my father and a better life. I started working at the Stellenbosch Municipality from 1987 to 2009. During this time, I met my wife, and we married in 1989. We have three children.

I was employed at the Municipality as an unskilled labourer. I earned very little income, without any benefits. These were difficult circumstances, so I, together with some colleagues decided to join a labour union, so our working conditions could improve. From late 1987 to 1989/90, I was part of a group of workers that set out to establish a collective, with the purpose of improving our working conditions. I was my department's shop steward after which I was elected the local secretary of the labour union in Stellenbosch.

As part of our strategic activism, we occupied the Municipal Head Office in 1995, demanding a monthly salary and all applicable benefits. We were successful, and at the start of 1996, our demands were met. During 1998/9 I was elected chairperson of the union's Stellenbosch branch. My experience and training as a shop steward equipped me with the necessary skills to be a strong leader. During 2003/4 I was appointed as a full-time shop steward, and during 2004/5, I was elected as district chairperson of the Boland region. Through my experience gained and leadership skills, I was elected as chairperson of the Western Cape province. With my new role, I had to represent the province on national platforms. Throughout my time working with the labour union and my initial work at the Stellenbosch municipality, I often visited my mother and family in Merweville. I ensured that I improved her life.

In 2009, I returned to Merweville when my mother passed on, in order to take responsibility for the wellbeing of my family. This was my opportunity to give back to my community of origin. I intended to use my experience and skills gained, whilst working in Stellenbosch and the labour union, to improve the lives of my native community. Subsequently, from 2011 to 2016, I was elected as a member of the District Council for District Seven, of which Beaufort West formed a part.

As a District Council member and speaker of the Central Karoo District I fought to have opportunities of employment reach Merweville. Unfortunately my wife took ill during 2015. I had to take her to Stellenbosch, so she would be close to medical facilities. My children and I had lived in Merweville for the entire year of 2015, without my wife. I resigned as District Council member at the start of 2016 to support and take care of my wife.

During 2017, I became involved with the Merweville Advice and Development Office. My desire to improve the conditions of my community was still strong. At this point the Advice Office was very young and faced many challenges. My experience and knowledge, however, made overcoming these challenges less daunting. With the community's wellbeing in mind, during 2017/18, I participated in further training courses, so I could serve my community better. Our working relationship with SCAT improved. Advice and support from the SCAT fieldworker helped immensely. Ultimately, discipline, teamwork and dedication helped me better manage the Advice Office. I learned that when you've got an end goal, and you carry on striving, anything is possible.



ACCESS TO JUSTICE



2018 marked a decisive change at the Advice Office. We secured stable funding, which in turn made it possible for us to carry out outreach campaigns, introducing our services more broadly. This positive trend continued into 2019, with the generous help of SCAT. The dream I had whilst growing up, being able to support and uplift struggling people, had finally become a reality. I always dreamt of becoming a good leader in my community.

Our town, Merweville, is already busy changing, thanks to the work done at the Advice Office and the support, training and funding provided by SCAT. Good leadership, hard work and determination can change any situation. The lives of our people can be improved. Aluta Continua, The Struggle Shall Continue. Amandla, All Power to the People.



PORT ST JOHNS

ADVICE OFFICE



ACCESS TO JUSTICE

Port St Johns is a seaside town at the mouth of the Umzimvubu River situated on the dramatically beautiful Wild Coast area of the Eastern Cape. The origin of the town's name is derived from the Portuguese *São João*, after a ship which foundered or anchored there.¹ Port St Johns is the main settlement in the Port St. Johns local municipality which forms part of the O.R. Tambo District Municipality in the former Transkei. According to the 2011 census it has a population of 6,441, of whom 90% are Xhosa-speaking.² The main economic activities in the municipality are tourism, services, agriculture, trade and sandstone mining.³

The Port St Johns Advice Office is an established local development agency and one of the longest funded by SCAT. It was initially established in 1992 by a group of women who were concerned about the many retrenchments of mineworkers who were not being allowed to access their employment benefits. The organisation has continued to work and focus on access to justice. They are also known for their flagship beekeeping project which supplies honey products to a local branch of one of South Africa's leading supermarkets.

1. Raper, P. (1987). Dictionary of Southern African Place Names (Vol. 46). <https://doi.org/10.1080/10228195.2015.1113434>
2. Census 2011: Local Municipality: Port St Johns. (n.d.). Retrieved October 4, 2019, from <https://census2011.adrianfrith.com/place/291>
3. Port St Johns Local Municipality - Our Heritage, Our People. (2019 Retrieved September 24 2019, Port St Johns Local Municipality - Overview. (n.d.). Retrieved October 4, 2019, from <https://municipalities.co.za/overview/1038/port-st-johns-local-municipality>



FAST FACTS

NAME: Port St Johns Advice Office

LED BY: Nomboniso Ebony Gaya

MAIN CHALLENGES FACED BY THE COMMUNITY: registration of birth certificates, violations of workers' rights, lack of service delivery by government departments

MAIN ACTIVITIES: HIV/Aids awareness; human rights issues; economic empowerment for the youth; paralegal support

ADDRESS: 166 Church Street, Port St. Johns

CONTACT: Cell: 073 232 8852, Phone: 047 564 8276, Cell: 082 507 2283

Email: portstjohnslegaladvice@gmail.com, ebonygaya@gmail.com

I CANNOT STAND INJUSTICE, THAT'S WHY I AM A PARALEGAL



Nozuko Noxaka, Tembakazi Mthembu, Nosibusiso Nogwina, standing Elijah Mukasa, Chwayita Duka, Bongeka Gqiralimpati, Nomhlobo Ndabeni.



Port St Johns Advice Office.



Nomboniso Gaya, Zukiswa Ginya, Vuyokazi Gorayi, Nomhlobo Ndabeni, Bongeka Gqiralimpati.



NOMBONISO EBONY GAYA

NOMBONISO GAYA WORKED AS A SWITCHBOARD OPERATOR AT A COMPANY NEXT TO THE PORT ST JOHN'S ADVICE OFFICE. SHE WAS SO INSPIRED BY THE WORK THAT THEY WERE DOING HELPING EDUCATE PEOPLE ABOUT THEIR RIGHTS, THAT SHE JUMPED AT THE OPPORTUNITY TO JOIN THE ADVICE OFFICE AND LEARN HOW TO BECOME A PROFESSIONAL PARALEGAL.

I am a rural girl from the beautiful town called Port St John's on the magical wild cost of the Eastern Cape, in the OR Tambo District municipality. Struggling to feed a big family, my parents could not afford for me to further my studies. Because I needed to help my parents raise my siblings, I took the first job I could find, working as a domestic worker. I was 21 years old. I lived in a mud room with a steel bed covered by a thin sponge instead of a mattress and it hurt my back a lot. I had to cook different food for the family (rice, veggies, salads and meat) and rotten mielie-meal and soup for the gardener and me. It was my first experience of inequality within our community.

After four months I left the job and became a switchboard operator for a company based in Port St John's which was located next to the Advice Office. I earned very low wages. There were masses of people streaming through the doors of the Advice Office daily. I was very curious about what people were going there for. From conversations with the Advice Office clients, I learnt that some were retrenched from mines without their receiving UIF and Provident Fund. Talking to the Advice Office clients made me aware of my rights such as the right to an employment contract as a switchboard operator which I did not have at the time. I was fascinated by the way the Advice Office was educating people about their rights and was inspired by the work that they did. I told myself that this violation of workers' rights by their employers should stop. People should have access to information.

When a vacancy arose at the Advice Office in 1996, I excitedly joined the organisation as an administrator. After my induction and training, my first case was a woman who was unfairly dismissed. I called her employer and tried to educate him about the rights that his employee was entitled to. We ended up reaching an agreement that he would pay three months' notice to the employee.

The family, who employed me as a domestic worker, later became my clients when they were caught up in a dispute over the estate of their father with their father's brother. He was demanding assets of their father over their father's wife and children. I called the family to mediate on the matter and they were told that the case will be referred to the High Court. They were so shocked to see me working at the Advice Office especially when they heard that I was going to handle their case. The case was eventually taken up by Lawyers for Human Rights who assisted me to prepare the case for the Mthatha High Court. The case was eventually concluded successfully in their favour. This case highlighted the need for training in the Labour Relations Act and the Law of Succession. The Advice Office board then approved that my colleague and I could undergo this training by The Rhodes University Law Clinic (RULAC). This training made me think about how to fight the violation of the people's constitutional rights. My big challenge was the need for more training as a paralegal to understand the basics of the law.

The people from Port St John's experience injustice every day, as the government officials do not want to do their jobs. For example, people do not have access to health services because of shortages of nurses or doctors at the clinic. Some of the people defaulted on their treatment and ended up going to private doctors, because the health facility is there but there are no services for the people. People are still victims of their employers and women experience abuse by their partners, families and communities. These challenges deeply affect me and make me determined to make a difference.

There are many ways we address these challenges. We engage with government departments and non-profit organisations and highlight all the issues that are in violation of the rights of the people. After these engagements we try to come up with possible solutions to address these issues and remind government officials about their mandate. Sometimes we go to the communities to address some of the issues together, for example to educate people on how to access social grants. We explain to the community what should be done if they are treated badly by officials, accompanying our clients to government offices where they have been ill treated. We also fundraise for the organisation so that we can reach as many vulnerable groups of people as we can. SCAT has been one of our oldest and most consistent donors.

Even though my parents could not afford to pay for me to study to become a lawyer, I managed to learn about the law through my work at the Advice Office. I was able to further my education through Rhodes University Legal Aid Clinic and Northwest University Legal Aid Clinic as a professional paralegal.

I cannot stand and watch children who do not attend school because they do not have birth certificates. I cannot watch government officials not give medication to sick people. I cannot watch women break down because they cannot provide for their children because of their abusive husbands. That is why I do what I do as a trained paralegal.



ACCESS TO JUSTICE



QUNU

ADVICE OFFICE

Qunu is a small rural village in the Eastern Cape, 32km south west of Mthatha. It is most known as the place former president Mr Rholihlahla Dalibhunga Nelson Mandela called home. The young Mandela grew up in Qunu after his father was deposed as the chief of the nearby village of Mvezo. After his retirement, Mandela returned to Qunu and it where he was laid to rest after he passed away in 2013.¹ In his autobiography, *Long Walk to Freedom*, Mandela describes Qunu as the place where he spent the happiest moments of his childhood, where nature was his playground. Mandela wrote that the hills above Qunu “were dotted with large smooth rocks which we transformed into our own rollercoaster. We sat on flat stones and slid down the face of the rocks. We did this until our backsides were so sore we could hardly sit down.”²

While Qunu has benefitted from the world status of its most famous son with the development of the Nelson Mandela Museum, some paved roads and tourism related jobs, most of the people live on social grants and subsistence farming. The population size of Qunu according to the 2001 Census is just over 200, most speaking isiXhosa. Since Mandela’s passing residents of Qunu say their living conditions have worsened with poverty and crime escalating.³

The Qunu Advice Office was set up to address these social problems. The office is situated opposite the home of Mandela. Currently the organisation champions child birth certificate registration in partnership with UCT’s Child Institute. The organisation also deals with, maintenance cases, consumer issues, labour related cases and they encourage and educate rural women to report domestic abuse and unfair treatment, providing counselling to those affected.

1. Brookes, Emma; Smith, D. (2013). Qunu: the place where Nelson Mandela was at home | World news | The Guardian. Retrieved October 4, 2019, from The Guardian website: <https://www.theguardian.com/world/2013/dec/06/qunu-nelson-mandela-home>
2. Mandela, Nelson, 1918-2013. *Long Walk to Freedom*. New York :Flash Point/Roaring Brook Press, 2009.
3. SABConline. (2019). Qunu residents lament living condition since Madiba’s passing - SABC News - Breaking news, special reports, world, business, sport coverage of all South African current events. Africa’s news leader. Retrieved September 26, 2019, from SABCnews website: <http://www.sabcnews.com/sabcnews/qunu-residents-lament-living-condition-since-madibas-passing/>

FAST FACTS

NAME: Qunu Advice Office

LED BY: Philiswa Gwazela

MAIN CHALLENGES FACED BY THE COMMUNITY: crime, gender-based violence, poverty

MAIN ACTIVITIES: Paralegal support; gender equality; community development

ADDRESS: Qunu Community Health Care Centre, Qunu

CONTACT: 078 211 3171

Email: pgwazela@yahoo.com

FOLLOWING IN THE FOOTSTEPS OF MANDELA



Vuyo Msizi assisting Luyanda Khandawuli and Philiswa Gwazela with the computer SCAT bought for the office.



Luyanda Ndabeni and Philiswa Gwazela.

PHILISWA GWAZELA IS PROUD TO CALL QUNU HER HOME. IT IS NOT JUST THE PLACE WHERE OUR FORMER PRESIDENT GREW UP AND IS BURIED, IT IS ALSO THE PLACE WHERE SHE IS KEEPING THE IDEALS OF MANDELA ALIVE BY SERVING HER COMMUNITY THROUGH PARALEGAL AND SOCIAL WORK.

I come from a family of ten children, raised by a single mother, Thandeka Gwazela. We grew up in the rural areas of the Eastern Cape in Mqandule. Before I was born four of my siblings had passed on and I was named Philiswa, after the death of my 4 year old sister, Nthombizandile Gwazela. We are six remaining siblings.

The area I originate from is Mqandule, which is a picturesque setting, surrounded by beautiful green fields and mountains. Traditional beliefs and culture are widely practiced. When I was younger, I dreamt of being a social worker or an attorney. Neither of my dreams materialised, as there was no financial means to undertake Higher Education after matric.

I worked in various institutions, as my passion for human well-being and justice had not ceased. I undertook work at the Independent Electoral Commission (I.E.C.).

Later on, I was asked to open an Advice Office in Qunu, the rural birthplace of the late former president of South Africa, Mr Rholihlahla Dalibhunga Nelson Mandela. The area is surrounded by beautiful grasslands and farms. As the area attracts many tourists, both local and international, there is an information centre and museum at the bottom of the village, where you would find the home of the late President Mandela.



PHILISWA GWAZELA



The Qunu Advice Office, consisting of two people, began operating from premises set aside by the traditional leader, within his home. Currently, it is located below the traditional leader's house, at the Thusong Community Centre. The greater Qunu area consists of 18 Villages. The service we offer is not, however, only restricted to the residents of the area.

We deal with various issues our community and the surrounding villagers are battling with. Some of the areas in which we offer advice and assistance, include facilitating disabled persons to access state assistance. Unfortunately, it is only after our involvement that cases are considered important. Another common area in which we offer assistance and advice is accessing birth certificates for children not registered. This work is essential because parents cannot access child support grants without birth certificates.

Another area of service concerns ex-mine workers who suffer from silicosis. Our services include the facilitation of worker compensation claims in relation to injuries sustained on duty and worker benefits.

We offer community outreach programmes, using the imbizo settings at rondavels, educating the community on their human rights. These meetings are held at the home of the traditional leader or the sub-headman. The settings of these meetings are important, because it strengthens the relationship of trust between the community, the traditional leadership and our organisation. This collective work has resulted in members of the community building up the courage to voice various issues around human rights. These platforms further clarify other projects needed in the community, for instance around gender-based violence.

I am truly grateful for the work I am exposed to and participate in at the Advice Office, as it combines both social work and law. Very little of this work would be possible without the financial and training support offered by SCAT.



Staff of Qunu Advice Office Philiswa Gwazela, Luyanda Ndabeni and Nomalungisa Khandawuli.

SARON

ADVICE OFFICE



ACCESS TO JUSTICE

The small rural Western Cape town of Saron is part of the Drakenstein municipality of the Western Cape, located 20km south of Porterville and 31.3km from Tulbagh. The town which is tucked away at the foot of the Saronsberg mountain was established as a mission station by the Rhenish Missionary Society in 1848 by Johannes Heinrich Kulpmann.¹ The name, Afrikaans for Sharon, is of biblical origin (1 Chronicles 27:29, Song of Solomon 2:1), meaning 'flats' or 'plain'. The main economic activities of the Drakenstein² municipality are finance, insurance, real estate and business services (21.29%). There are 7,843 people living in Saron, 97.3% who identify as Coloured 97.3% and 1.8% who identify as Black African. The predominant language spoken by 96.8% of the population is Afrikaans.³

The Saron Advice Office deals with cases involving paralegal disputes such as housing allocations by government. They are also involved with youth empowerment programmes with the ultimate goal of eradicating substance abuse among the local youth. As a member of the Community Policing Forum (CPF), the LDA staff volunteer their services to support victims of abuse and other forms of violence at the local police station trauma facility.

1. Raper, P. E. (1989). Dictionary of Southern African Place Names. Jonathan Ball Publishers. p. 397. ISBN 978-0-947464-04-2 - via Internet Archive.
2. Drakenstein Local Municipality - Overview. (2019). Retrieved October 14, 2019, from Municipalities of South Africa website: <https://municipalities.co.za/overview/1208/drakenstein-local-municipality>
3. Frith, A. (2019). Census 2011: Main Place: Saron. Retrieved October 14, 2019, from census2011.adrianfrith.com website: <https://census2011.adrianfrith.com/place/166001>



FAST FACTS

NAME: Saron Advice Office

LED BY: Shirley Adams

MAIN CHALLENGES FACED BY THE COMMUNITY: unemployment, labour disputes, gender-based violence, substance abuse

MAIN ACTIVITIES: Paralegal support; youth development

ADDRESS: Alheit Street, P.O. Box 27, Saron, 8612

CONTACT: Phone: 023 240 0066, Cell: 073 813 5311

BORN TO SERVE AND PROTECT



Sharon America coordinator of the Saron Advice Office (SAD) talking to Colleen Alexander Julies and paralegal Shirley Adams.



Shirley Adams (paralegal) and Sharon America.



Sharon America conducting a meeting with community members.



SHARON AMERICA

SHARON AMERICA'S PERSONAL EXPERIENCE OF ABUSE HAS LED HER TO RUN WORKSHOPS EDUCATING THE COMMUNITY ABOUT THEIR RIGHTS.

I was born in the small town of Saron. The town is located between Gouda and Porterville. The town's name is not visible on any of the road signs that give directions. Saron offers little work opportunities.

Many of our husbands leave the village to go into the city to work. On Monday mornings there is lots of singing as they get into the bakkies and trucks. Here and there, someone who overslept is called. The closest train station is in Gouda. Our people need to get up at four o'clock in the morning to take the taxi to the station to catch the train.

Many of the men are builders and carpenters who leave the village on a Monday and return on Friday to take care of their families.

Around Saron are various fruit and vegetable farms that provide seasonal work. There is also a canning factory in Tulbagh that provides seasonal work to most of our people. When the season passes, there is unemployment. Everyone looks forward to the seasonal work.

I was there when the Advice Office opened its doors in 1998. We have received training from different institutions (including SCAT). I am passionate about working with people in the community. My personal experience of abuse has driven me to offer workshops in the community about family violence, child abuse as well as about knowing your rights. The aim of workshops is to protect and encourage women and children to talk about it. We assist by making sure that men who physically or sexually assault their wives or children are prosecuted. Families also approach us to assist with their parents' estates.

We work closely with the community and handle different matters such as evictions in town and on farms. We also deal with the brutality of police in prison cells, social problems and unfair dismissals.

GEBORE OM TE DIEN EN TE BESKERM

Ek is gebore op 'n klein dorpie, Saron. Die dorp is geleë tussen Gouda en Porterville. Nêrens is die dorp se naam aangebring op die naamborde wat pdaaanwysings gee. Saron bied min werk geleenthede aan.

Baie van ons mans verlaat die dorp om in die stad te gaan werk. Maandag oggende is dit 'n gesingery soos hulle die bakkies en vragmotors klim. Hier en daar word iemand geroep wat verslaap het. Die naaste trein stasie is op Gouda. Ons mense moet al vieruur opstaan om die taxi te neem na die stasie om die trein te kry.

Baie van die mans is bouers en skrynwerkers wat die dorp op 'n Maandag verlaat en weer terugkeer op Vrydag om vir hul families te sorg.

Rondom Saron is verskeie vrugte en groente plase wat werk verskaf aan seisoen werkers. Daar is ook 'n inmaak fabriek in Tulbagh wat seisoen werk aan die meerderheid van ons mense verskaf. As die seisoen verby is heers daar werkloosheid. Almal sien uit na die seisoenwerk.

Ek was daar toe die Advieskantoor sy deure oopgemaak het in 1998. Opleiding het ons gekry vanaf verskillende instansies. Dit is my passie om te werk met mense in die gemeenskap. Met my persoonlike ondervinding van mishandeling het dit my gedryf om werksinkels in die gemeenskap aan te bied oor gesinsgeweld, kindermishandeling asook ken jou regte.

Die doel van die werksinkels is juis om vroue en kinders te beskerm en aan te moedig om daarvoor te praat. Ons help om seker te maak dat mans wat hulle vroue of kinders fisies of seksueel aanrand gestraf word. Families nader ons met hul ouers se boedels.

Ons werk nou saam met die gemeenskap en hanteer verskillende sake soos uitsettings in dorp en op plase, die brutaliteit van polisie in tronkselle, maatskaplike probleme en kantoor bedien die omliggende plase en plaaslike gemeenskap.



ACCESS TO JUSTICE





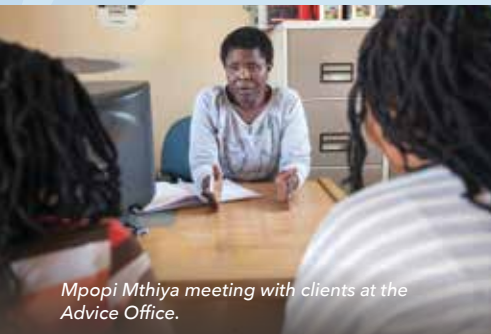
HERSCHEL

ADVICE OFFICE

Sterkspruit is a small town about 45km south-east of Zastron, 80km north-east of Aliwal North, and 24km from the Lesotho border in the Joe Gqabi municipality of Eastern Cape.¹ It has a total population of 1,893 according to the 2011 census of which 73.5% speak isiXhosa, 14% seSotho and 4.3% English.² The town's name is Afrikaans and means 'strong stream'. Surrounded by the Drakensburg mountains, Sterkspruit is a small scenic rural town consisting of many villages. In 2014 the town's clinic and post office were burnt down during protests for housing.³ Herschel is a settlement in the Joe Gqabi District Municipality about 26,2 km from Sterkspruit. Founded in 1879, it was named after the astronomer Sir John Herschel who worked in the Cape Colony from 1834 to 1838.⁴

The Herschel Advice Office, contrary to its name, is located in Sterkspruit. This LDA deals with paralegal cases from Sterkspruit and all surrounding villages including Herschel. The organisation also supports a bee project run by community members.

1. Sterkspruit Travel Information. (2019). Retrieved September 26, 2019, from <https://www.eastern-cape-info.co.za/provinces/town/616/sterkspruit>
2. Census 2011: Main Place: Sterkspruit. (2019). Retrieved September 26, 2019, from <https://census2011.adrianfrith.com/place/287032>
3. EWN. (2014). #Elections2014: Violence flares in Sterkspruit. Retrieved September 26, 2019, from <https://ewn.co.za/2014/05/06/Eastern-Cape-Preelection-violence-deepens>
4. Raper, P. (1987). Dictionary of Southern African Place Names (Vol. 46). <https://doi.org/10.1080/10228195.2015.1113434>



Mpopi Mthiya meeting with clients at the Advice Office.



Herschel Advice Office.



FAST FACTS

NAME: Herschel Advice Office

LED BY: Mpopi Mthiya

MAIN CHALLENGES FACED BY THE COMMUNITY: mine workers' rights, unemployment, land claims, domestic violence

MAIN ACTIVITIES: Paralegal support; labour disputes; economic empowerment

ADDRESS: Dikwenyama street, Sterkspruit

CONTACT: Phone: 051 611 0104 Cell: 072 342 2756

MY JOURNEY FROM CLEANER TO ADVICE OFFICE CO-ORDINATOR

MPOPI MTHIYA STARTED WORKING AS A CLEANER AT THE HERSCHEL ADVICE OFFICE. SHE WAS SO INSPIRED BY HOW THE LDA WAS HELPING THE COMMUNITY THAT SHE SOON TOOK ON OTHER ROLES AT THE ORGANISATION EVENTUALLY LEADING UP TO HER JOB AS COORDINATOR.

I was born in the Eastern Cape in the rural village of Masekeleng in Sterkspruit. Since I was eighteen, I have been an activist fighting against injustice. I volunteered as an Independent Election Commission voter educator and was involved in community meetings. I did this because I hate seeing people's rights being violated. I was also a home-based carer for the old and sick in the village. All my volunteer work made me want to make a difference to people's lives. This is what led me to find work at the Herschel Advice Office.

The Herschel Advice Office is situated between two borders, the Free State and Lesotho. The area is not easily accessible as it is a mountainous terrain. The Sterkspruit and Herschel area have high levels of unemployment and we also have an influx of immigrants from other places. My first job at the Herschel Advice Office was as a cleaner. I cleaned the reception area, the two offices and the hall every day for six months. Through my cleaning work I learned about the amazing service that Herschel Advice Office was giving to the people. While the staff were at community meetings, I had to deal with people who came for advice in the office. This eventually led me to my current job as a coordinator.

Sterkspruit and Herschel face many challenges such as domestic violence, labour issues (UIF, appeal forms), late registration of birth certificates and shortages of medication at clinics and hospitals. We help women who do not know their rights how to claim maintenance in order to support their family members. We also encourage the community to report rape cases to the police.

One of the cases that has touched me dearly was a dispute of the paternity of a child born out of wedlock. The mother of the baby boy came to our office after the death of a community member, claiming that the deceased was the father of the child. This caused the deceased man's mother great anguish. We educated her about paternity tests. She paid R2000.00 for the DNA test. The result was negative. That case made me feel terrible because people were fighting for inheritance which they were not entitled to. But it also felt good to help the mother of the deceased find out the truth about whether her late son fathered a child or not.



ACCESS TO JUSTICE



MPOPI MTHIYA



Nobuzwe Mofokeng conducting a workshop on social grants.



Clients in Uitenhage Advice Office.



ILDA Uitenhage Advice Office.



Community members arriving for a workshop.

INTERCHURCH

LOCAL DEVELOPMENT AGENCY (ILDA)



ACCESS TO JUSTICE

The automotive hub of the Eastern Cape, Uitenhage, is situated 38 km from Port Elizabeth and 30 kilometers from the Indian Ocean. In the 80s Uitenhage became a centre for resistance against apartheid. On the 21 March 1985, police opened fire on a funeral procession in Langa, killing at least 20 people, in an event that became notorious as an example of police oppression in apartheid South Africa. The event dubbed the Langa and Uitenhage massacre spurred nationwide protests and led to the apartheid state declaring a state of emergency.¹

In 2001 Uitenhage was incorporated with Port Elizabeth and Despatch into the Nelson Mandela Bay Metropolitan Municipality.² The current population recorded in the 2011 census is 103,639, 55% who identify as Coloured, 24% as Black African and 18% White. Afrikaans is the most widely spoken language (68%) followed by isiXhosa (18%) and English (10%).³

The Inter-Church Local Development Agency (ILDA) was founded by Molly Blackburn, Bishop Michael Coleman, Judy Chalmers and other community leaders as a direct response to the Langa massacre. Initially its main objective was obtaining legal assistance for those affected along with offering support to families looking for missing relatives. These days they offer paralegal services and are currently championing the development and introduction of the Asset Based Community Development Approach in the Eastern Cape.

1. Robert J. Thornton. "The shooting at Uitenhage, South Africa, 1985: the context and interpretation of violence", *American Ethnologist* 17(2), (1990).|Nigel Worden. *The making of modern South Africa: conquest, segregation and apartheid*. Juta & Co. Ltd. South Africa (1994)
2. SouthAfrica.com | Uitenhage, South Africa. (2019) Retrieved October 10, 2019, from <https://www.southafrica.com/regions/eastern-cape-2/uitenhage/>
3. Frith, A. (2019) Census 2011: Main Place: Uitenhage. Retrieved October 4, 2019, from <https://census2011.adrianfrith.com/place/299003>

FAST FACTS

NAME: Interchurch Local Development Agency (ILDA)

LED BY: Nobuzwe Mofokeng

MAIN CHALLENGES FACED BY THE COMMUNITY: crime, unemployment, gender based violence

MAIN ACTIVITIES: Paralegal support; social injustice; economic empowerment

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MY JOURNEY AS AN ACTIVIST FOR FREEDOM



Left to Right - Volunteer case worker Fezeka Minikina and Nobuzwe Mofokeng, Director ILDA.



Joe Slovo settlement in Uitenhage.



Nobuzwe Mofokeng campaigns against the illegal deduction of social grants at a meeting conducted by ILDA in Despatch.



NOBUZE MOFOKENG

NOBUZE MOFOKENG WRITES ABOUT HER 34-YEAR LABOUR OF LOVE WORKING AS A PARALEGAL AT THE INTERCHURCH LOCAL DEVELOPMENT AGENCY IN UITENHAGE. ONE OF THE OLDEST LDA'S SUPPORTED BY SCAT, ILDA WAS FORMED AFTER THE LANGA MASSACRE.

On my eighteenth birthday I found out on my birth certificate that my name was Nobuzwe (meaning love of nation at heart). My father gave me this name before leaving the country for exile for political reasons. I at last understood who I was, an activist for freedom who always has the interests of our people at heart. At school I was involved in anti-apartheid protests and in 1979 I was arrested for public violence and sentenced to cleaning the police station after school. After I passed matric, I worked in a company as a personnel officer. I was also involved in monitoring boycotts, not buying from white owned shops and 1000 000 signature campaign for the release of Nelson Mandela and other political prisoners. My father's exile and the Langa massacre, when police killed unarmed and peaceful marchers, ignited my passion for fighting injustice.

I was interviewed for the job as director of Interchurch Advice Office by the late Molly Blackburn, and Lou-Ann Parsons. That was the beginning of my journey as a community-based paralegal. In 1985 our main funder was SCAT. For a very long time our field worker was Nyami Goniwe. Sometimes I had to go to work with my last born on my back, putting him in the walking ring while I worked. Soon after my appointment Molly Blackburn was tragically killed in a car accident. My priority was to support families to get permits at Louis Le Grange police station in Mount Road, Port Elizabeth to enable them to visit their relatives who were detainees. I also had to arrange for families to get permits to visit sentenced prisoners. We organised transport for awaiting trial detainees' families, working in partnership with the South African Council of Churches and Red Cross for transporting families to Green Point, Victor Verster, Pollsmoor, and Robben Island prisons. Those arrested and charged for politically related cases needed lawyers and finance to pay bail. The Advice Office supported families of political prisoners with transport to visit those awaiting trial every Wednesday.

The office became a target by the security police. One day in 1987, when I arrived at the office, it was spray painted with words saying that my colleague Rory Riordon and I were instigators of the violence. Pamphlets were distributed all over Uitenhage claiming that I misused money that was meant for political prisoners and had to be dealt with. Since that disinformation campaign did not work to their advantage, the security police were regular visitors to the Advice Office, trying to paint a picture that I was their informer. That did not work because the community trusted me.

The organisation played a critical role in the fight against the injustice of apartheid. International ambassadors came through the office to access the communities. During this time police built up many cases against me, but the prosecution failed.

By attending the SCAT conference every end of year, which provided us with opportunities for networking and empowerment, we were able to come up with a strategic plan that resulted in us coming up with a vision to campaign for accessible government. We aimed to empower communities to use the constitution to access services from any government department, local or national, just after the first democratic election.

In 1999 SCAT nominated and assisted me to apply for a scholarship to Denmark. On 10 January 2000 I went to Denmark, through Heathrow airport. I met Nokuphumla Monica Tyalimpi and four other SCAT grantees going to Denmark. Heathrow airport is big and we were lost and hungry as our South African currency was no match for the dollar. Eventually we found the gate that was at the other side of the airport. We were bussed to it. Spending 5 months in a foreign country with people from thirty-nine other countries was a challenge. Students from Africa and Latin America were very close because they were the descendants of slaves abducted from Africa.

On my return the organisation had many challenges because of my absence as director. We decided to employ Vuyo Msizi as a programme manager. This was the beginning of Interchurch Local Development Agency (ILDA). Vuyo brought in the element of adult education. We balanced case work with capacity building. Working with Vuyo was beneficial to me. I was able to develop my skills as a trainer, facilitator and animator. I also learned more about organisational development. I was later offered a scholarship to study Training for Transformation in the Western Cape. I am now a board member of this institution.

ILDA's work has changed the lives of many people in Uitenhage and surrounding rural areas. ILDA participated in the Truth and Reconciliation Commission. We took statements and helped identify the victims. We visited political prisoners, encouraged them to study and arranged for them to get bursaries through Red Cross. The introduction of Chapter 9 institutions made it easier to do our work, although some of them were not so effective at responding to cases. I have ten-year-old cases that have not been solved. For example, there is a case of a man who wanted assistance with his old age pension. The department of Health and Welfare kept on rejecting his application without giving him any reasons. When we investigated the case, we discovered that the man worked for the government and had more than R500 000.00 in pension funds owed to him. Another case involved a man from Parow in the Western Cape. The farm owner told him that his missing sister was found in Port Elizabeth, gave him a single train ticket and R40.00. When the man arrived in Uitenhage, he was brought to our office. It was later revealed that the man owned more than a thousand head of livestock and the white farmer wanted to steal them. Through ILDA's intervention the man was able to retrieve all his livestock.

After thirty four years of existence, ILDA is still a vibrant organization. I am still the director and we are still funded by SCAT. Even though we have the best constitution in the world, people's lives have not changed much. The rich are getting richer and the poor are getting poorer. This means that our work at Advice Offices is still needed in South Africa. SCAT's role as a funder and mentor to us is also vital for our existence.



ACCESS TO JUSTICE





FOOD SECURITY

For food security to exist, all people in a community should be able to either grow or buy enough nutritious food to lead an active and healthy life. The Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) identified the four pillars of food security as availability, access, utilization and stability. The ravages of climate change with its extended cycles of drought and flash floods has threatened the ability of people in rural areas to produce their own food. In addition, the migration of men and young people to urban areas and mines has contributed to reduced subsistence farming and a loss of knowledge of traditional farming methods.

SCAT is encouraging communities through our local development agency (LDA) partners to promote home grown food production. One of the biggest challenges faced by these projects has been water scarcity due to rivers and dams drying up and climate patterns changing. In response to this challenge, we have been training communities in better water management. This is useful for the projects and in the home and ensures that the food garden projects are more sustainable.



TYINIRA

RURAL DEVELOPMENT INITIATIVE

Butterworth (also known as Gcuwa) is a mid-sized town situated on the N2 national highway 111 km north of East London in the Eastern Cape Province, South Africa.¹ It has a population of 287,780. The majority of people who live there are isiXhosa speaking. Butterworth is the main service area for Mnquma municipality.²

Butterworth's town area is relatively small, including a small business district of middle-to-high income housing. The central town was exclusively "white" before 1976 but has since been occupied largely by black higher-income groups. Development in Butterworth has followed the line of the N2 and thus resulted in a long, narrow settlement east of town towards Walter Sisulu University (WSU), about 5 km away.³ Tyinira village, Mgobozweni is a small rural village which is 36,9 km away from Butterworth but falls under the Mnquma municipality.

Tyinira Rural Development initiative is an emerging LDA that deals with paralegal cases from the communities including Ngqamakhwe and Butterworth. They have an income generating project in the form of a poultry project and a food security project.

1. Mnquma Local Municipality - Overview. (2019.). Retrieved October 9, 2019, from <https://municipalities.co.za/overview/1007/mnquma-local-municipality>
2. Frith, A. (2019). Census 2011: Main Place: Butterworth. Retrieved October 9, 2019, from <https://census2011.adrianfrith.com/place/271161>
3. Mnquma Local Municipality - Overview. (2019.). Retrieved October 9, 2019, from <https://municipalities.co.za/overview/1007/mnquma-local-municipality>

FAST FACTS

NAME: Tyinira Rural Development Initiative

LED BY: Gloria Mabhentsela.

MAIN CHALLENGES FACED BY THE COMMUNITY: domestic violence, unemployment, alcohol and drug abuse

MAIN ACTIVITIES: Paralegal support; food security

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THE POWER OF RURAL WOMEN WORKING AS ONE



Nomfiki Mgobo and Zingisa Gombo committee members from Tyinira Rural Development Agency speaking to paralegal officer Thando Hlangu.

Staff and committee of TRDI discussing an issue in the community.

NOXOLO NTAMO WAS ONE OF A GROUP OF PIONEERING WOMEN FROM THE RURAL VILLAGE OF TYINIRA, WHO STARTED FARMING VEGETABLES AND LIVESTOCK AND THEN SET UP AN ADVICE OFFICE TO ADDRESS ISSUES OF UNEMPLOYMENT AND POVERTY IN THEIR COMMUNITY.

I am a 49-year-old woman from Tyinira village, Mgxobhozweni in the Ngqamakhwe area. We live on dry land far away from Butterworth where the basic important things to human life such as clean water, transport and electricity are found. The town is very far from where we live it takes about 2km just to get to the tar road.

In 2012 we as women in my location decided to start an organization to fight poverty. Children were going to school on empty stomachs. Some households were drowning in sorrow. The parents would drink alcohol without providing for their children. You would find the children crying, the wife being beaten up by her drunk husband demanding food, fully aware that there's no food in the house. We decided to name our organization Tyinira Rural Development and Advice Office. Our plan was to farm both vegetables and livestock for food as well as to create job opportunities in the community.

We started by farming pigs, later changed to chickens, then started a garden and added a section for an Advice Office. Even though we have had break-ins where our chickens were stolen, a small farming space and a lack of financial support and information, we have managed to improve our lives. From our first batch of one hundred chickens, ninety were sold immediately. Our farming project changed our lives as members of the organisation because we could now provide for our families.



NOXOLO NTAMO



At the Advice Office we assist mine workers with the investigation of their claims. We refer those who lose their jobs to the CCMA. Whenever I help someone resolve an issue it gives me joy and pride. What bothers me the most are pensioners who experience problems with their pension funds. Many elderly people were told that they did not receive the whole amount of their pension fund because of deductions for electricity and airtime that they had bought. We found that these claims were untrue. We assisted the pensioners by referring them to SASSA where their issues were resolved.

Another issue that bothers me, is the sale of drugs in our community. Our children are breaking into houses, stealing and selling stolen goods to make quick cash so they can buy these drugs. There are also shebeens that are situated next to the school. Learners drink and go to school to make trouble for teachers. We reported this matter to the department of education. Representatives from the department came and spoke to the shebeen owners, who agreed to close the shebeens during the day. This agreement was not honoured and the shebeens are still in business near the school.

I choose to be an active member of the Tyinira Rural Development Initiative because I want to see change and unity in my community. The community can see how our lives have changed. Members are able to buy Christmas clothes for their children after we divide the profit from the sale of the vegetables and animals that we farm.

AMANDLA OOMAMA BASEZILALINI BESEBENZA NGOMANYANO

Ndingumama oneminyaka eyi 46. Ikhaya lam likwilali yaseTyinira, eMgxobhozweni, kwisithili saseNgqamakhwe, kumasipala waseMnquma. Simi kumhlaba owomileyo, okude nedolophu, apho izinto ezibalulekileyo ebomini babantu zikhoyo. Izinto ezifana namanzi acocekileyo. Izithuthi kunye nombane zikude kakhulu. Idolophu ikumgama ongange 2km xa uhamba kwindlela yetha.

Ngonyaka we 2012, singomama basekuhlaleni, saye saqulunqa ukuba sisungule umbutho oza kusiphilisa ukuze sikwazi ukugxotha ikati eziko. Eyona nto yayingamandla yayiyindlala. Abantwana babesiya esikolweni bengatyanga. Kwamanye amakhaya kuzijwili, abazali besela utywala bengadlanga. Abantwana belila xa umama wekhaya ebethwa ngumyeni wakhe efuna ukutya, enxilile, kodwa uyayazi ukuba akukho.

Saseka lo mbutho wethu ogama liyiTyinira Rural Development Agency. Saye sabona kubalulekile ukuzibandakanya nalo mbutho. Iinjongo ikukuziphuhlisa. Saqonda ukuba xa siseka lo mbutho, nabanye abantu baza kuxhamla bakwazi ukulwa inxele likahetsekile. Sasizimisele ngokulima, sifuye, site, sithengise kutsho kuvele amathuba emisebenzi. Ukuqala kwethu lo mbutho, safuya iihagu. Ekuhambeni kwexesha satshintsha, safuya iinkukhu. Salima imifuno. Saye safakela necandelo lezengcebiso kubantu basekuhlaleni. Leyo nto yabuphuhlisa ubomi bethu singamalungu, sigxotha ikati eziko. Naba bantu baphangeliyo okanye basincedisa baphuhliseka ngoba bakwazi ukugxotha indlala. Kwicandelo le Advice Office sinceda abasebenzi-migodini, sibaphandela imali zabo. Abagxothwayo emisebenzini sibathumela eCCMA. Xa ndincede umntu one ngxaki nam ndiyavuya, ndizive ndinelunda.



Into endityayo ngabantu abammkela imali yepension abebekade benengxaki yemali yabo abathi xa beyoyamkela bangayifumani yonke. Xa beyamkela ingaphelelanga kuthiwe umntu uthenge i-airtime kunye nombane. Babe phofu bona bengathenganga nto. Bathi xa beze kulo mbutho wethu bezokufuna uncedo, sibathumele eSASSA batsho bancedakale. Okunye, phaya ekuhlaleni kukho umfana othengisa izinto zokwakha. Abantu bazithenga kuye izinto zokwakha. Kanti yena uthatha imali yomthengi akugqiba angamniki iimpahla ethengiweyo. Xa umthengi efuna iimpahla azithengileyo, angamniki. Kukho umama othile obenale ngxaki. Siye samthumela emapoliseni, aze athetha nomthengisi. Wathi emapoliseni umthengi makeze azokuthathi imali yakhe. Xa esiya umthengi, uyabalekwa ngumthengisi angamniki imali yakhe. Ekugqibeleni umthengi ude wafumana ukwenzakala apho ahlala khona elinyazwa sisihlobo sakhe sisithi makayokuhlala emzini wakhe, mzi lowo ungekhoyo ngenxa yomthengisi osagcine iimpahla zokwakha. Ingxaki ezinje zenza kungabikho konwaba ekuhlaleli. Nangona kunjalo, siya zingca ngomsebenzi wethu.

Okunye, into endidlayo ngumba weziyobisi ezithengiswa ekuhlaleni. Abantwana bethu bayaqhekeza ezindlini, bebe iimpahla, bazithengise kuba befuna imali yokuthenga iziyobisi. Okunye ngumcimbi weendawo ezithengisa utywala ezikutshane nasezikolweni. Abantwana basela utywala bayokugezela ootishala. Singumbutho sasiyile kwiSebe lezeMfundo ukuyokuchaza. Bathi baza kuyilungisa loo nto. Bafika ke bathetha nabanikazi bamashishini. Bathembisa kuwavala, kodwa abakazivali zisathengisa nangoku. Into esandihlalisileyo kulo mbutho kukuba ndifuna ukubona utshintsho kumphakathi wam sibe moya mnye.

IMICELI-MNGENI ESIJONGENE NAYO

- 3.1 kukuqhekezelwa kubiwe inkukhu zethu
- 3.2 kukungabi nanxaso yezimali nakwezolwazi olwaneleyo
- 3.3. kukungabi nandawo yokufuyela eyaneleyo.

IMPUMELELO YETHU

1. Besine nkukhu ezilikhulu(100) sazithengisa zonke
2. Kukukwazi kwamalungu ukuthengela abantwana iimpahla zeKrisimesi emva kokwahlula isiqingatha sengeniso
3. Ukuqhubeka kwamalungu ukufuya nokuthengisa ngempumelelo emva koqeqeshwa
4. Ngumdla wabahlali ukuxhasa iproject



KGATELOPELE

SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT FORUM (KSDF)

The Danielskuil settlement is 142km north-west of Kimberley and 72km north-east of Postmasburg in the arid Northern Cape.¹ The name comes from a cone-shaped depression six metres deep in the limestone with a domed covering. It is derived from the Biblical story about Daniel in the lions' den' (Afrikaans: kuil, 'hole', 'pit').² The Griqua leader Adam Kok is said to have used this depression as a prison, and to also have kept snakes in it. The Tswana name of Danielskuil is Tlaka le Tlou or Tlaka-lo-Tlou, 'elephant reed'. The area is known for rich asbestos deposits and for diamonds, while marble is also mined.³ According to the last census in 2011, Danielskuil had a population of 13,597, the majority (62%) of whom are Afrikaans speaking followed by Tswana speakers at 31%.⁴

The Kgatelopele Social Development Forum (KSDF) is an established Local Development Association located in Danielskuil. The strength of the organisation is drawn from a board that is made up of community leaders, business leaders and officials from the local mining industry. The KSDF has a communal food garden project that supports over 130 households in the community. The produce from the garden is packaged and sold to the local supermarket and also distributed to those in need in their community as part of their Home-based care programme. Members of the community can also buy seeds and seedlings from the project. The communal food garden also serves as a place where community members interested in starting their own food gardens could get training and support.

1. Danielskuil. (n.d.). Retrieved October 9, 2019, from <https://www.places.co.za/html/danielskuil.html>
2. Raper, P. (1987). Dictionary of Southern African Place Names (Vol. 46). <https://doi.org/10.1080/10228195.2015.1113434>
3. Danielskuil. (n.d.). Retrieved October 9, 2019, from <https://www.places.co.za/html/danielskuil.html>
4. Frith, A. (2019). Census 2011: Main Place: Danielskuil. Retrieved October 9, 2019, from <https://census2011.adrianfrith.com/place/382001>

FAST FACTS

NAME: Kgatelopele Social Development Forum (KSDF)

LED BY: Jeanette Mqomo

MAIN CHALLENGES FACED BY THE COMMUNITY: Poverty, unemployment

MAIN ACTIVITIES: Paralegal support; home-based care; food security

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SUSTAINING OURSELVES THROUGH SELF-SUFFICIENCY



Jeanette Mqomo (Project Manager).



Kgatelopele Social Development Forum (KSDF) office wall.



Front row - Irene Franse, Jeanette Mqomo, Bernadine Strauss, Sophia Booysen, Elizabeth Baum, Back row - Joey Ramohlobi, Frans Marwaane, Yolandy Leberberg, Hlompo Smith.

JEANNETTE MQOMO WRITES ABOUT LESSONS SHE HAS LEARNT TO ENSURE COMMUNITIES TAKE OWNERSHIP OF SOLUTIONS TO THEIR PROBLEMS.

I was born in a small town called Danielskuil in the Northern Cape. Our town has a high rate of unemployment and poverty with most people dependent on social grants. I finished my matric in 1996 at Kuilville senior secondary school in Danielskuil. I am a person who likes helping other people, sharing clothes with those in need. I would go to other communities who are more fortunate and ask them to donate clothing that they don't wear to the community in need. I also like helping children who are in need and motivate them to attend school so that they can be able to be better people in future with good qualifications and professions.

In 2007 I started volunteering in my community and assisting community members who were affected by HIV and AIDS. A group of women were trained in home based care in order to provide support and care to those who are in need by the Kgatelopele Social Development Forum (KSDF). I was eventually hired to do administration for the organisation. In 2008 the Department of Social Development funded KSDF based on the need that was rising in our community. Many children in the community were orphans who were vulnerable. Some children didn't attend school as they were complaining of hunger. The feeding scheme was opened to the community to access food. As our community members were fed at the feeding scheme, we found that it would be good if we could start home food gardens and communal gardens for social grant beneficiaries.

In 2009 KSDF became fortunate to be part of SCAT which played a big role in providing KSDF with developmental skills. They provided training on food gardens, mentoring of staff, time management skills, Human Resources and fundraising. The communal food garden did very well and we managed to produce and sell vegetables to our OK foods local store and in the community.



JEANNETTE MQOMO



I tried to do my best to assist the community by providing skills and resources to maintain and build food gardens. Some community members were expecting more from the organisation to maintain and water their gardens which was not possible to do. This was very strenuous as we didn't have the capacity to do the work for them. The organisation was also assisting the community so they could take ownership and be self-sustainable. From the training I received from SCAT I tried my best to encourage our staff to educate our community with the skills they acquired. The training also helped me to do analysis before starting a project. It also helped me learn that a project should be explained properly so that the right targets are reached. We encouraged the community members who attended the food garden training not to start planting if they felt they were not ready.

I learned that the best way of selecting the right people to work on a project is to choose those who have an interest in the project. The food garden training and assessment helped the participants who showed an interest in the food gardening to avail themselves. They planted and produced vegetables. This made me happy as it was one of the reasons we wanted to assist. We also experienced challenges with climate change and the training helped as participants were taught when to plant different vegetables.

I have learned that when you want to assist people in a community to change their lives, the best method is to ask members of the community what will work for them so that they can take ownership of a project.



Gardener Frans Marwaane at Kgatelopele Social Development Forum (KSDF).

ENTLANGO

PRIMARY AGRICULTURAL COOPERATIVE



Qongqotha (also called eQonce) is a peri-urban village just on the outskirts of King William's Town, 54km from East London in the Eastern Cape. The King William's Town area's economy is based on cattle and sheep farming, but the town itself has a large industrial sector, producing textiles, soap, candles, sweets and clothing.¹ The town's proximity to the new Eastern Cape provincial capital of Bisho has brought more development to the area since the end of apartheid in 1994. Sadly, the development of King William's Town has not spread to Qongqotha which is riven by poverty and youth unemployment.

Entlango started in 2007 as a small farming project aimed at helping fifteen young people learn how to farm. Since those early years, the organization has now grown into a successful hydroponic farming project. The project generates an average monthly income of R28 000.00, from selling tomatoes, spinach, beetroot, cabbages and cauliflower.

The LDA has also forged strong relationships with local supermarkets and wholesalers such as the Boxer Superstore, Nicks Superstore, Saverite and Spar Supermarket. They are now in the process of establishing new markets for their produce in King William's Town, Alice, Fort Beaufort and East London.

1. King William's Town | South Africa | Britannica.com. (2017.). Retrieved October 9, 2019, from <https://www.britannica.com/place/King-Williams-Town> Chisholm, Hugh, ed. (1911). "King William's Town". Encyclopædia Britannica. 15 (11th ed.). Cambridge University Press. p. 822.



FAST FACTS

NAME: Entlango Primary Agricultural Cooperative

LED BY: Khumbulani Yekani

MAIN CHALLENGES FACED BY THE COMMUNITY: Poverty, unemployment

MAIN ACTIVITIES: Hydroponic farming; community development; income generation

ADDRESS: Near where the R346 intersects the Buffalo River, Zwelitsha

CONTACT:

Email: kyekani054@gmail.com

HOW MY BIGGEST LOSS LED ME TO MY LIFE'S PURPOSE



Makhelikhaya Beke in the field.



Tomatoes grown hydroponically by EPAC.



Women farming cabbages.



KHUMBULANI YEKANI

AFTER TRAGICALLY LOSING BOTH HIS FATHER AND OLDER BROTHER AND BEING FORCED TO RELOCATE FROM CITY LIFE IN JOHANNESBURG TO RURAL VILLAGE LIFE IN THE EASTERN CAPE, KHUMBULANI YEKANI, DISCOVERED A CALLING FOR GIVING HOPE TO OTHER YOUTH LIKE HIM.

I was born in Soweto and grew up in Moroka Township Zone 6. My biggest struggle and life changing moment came when my father passed on in 1992. After the death of my father, we rarely had a rand in the house or barely could afford to pay rent. Meat became a treasure and bread a distant relative.

We had to relocate to the crowded and noisy inner city suburb of Yeoville in Johannesburg, from Soweto. My mother was earning peanuts as a waitress and hardly had enough to sustain our family. My big brother dropped out of school to assist my mother. Luckily, he found a job at a local supermarket. Unfortunately, two years later, he was shot cold dead by a stray bullet.

As a result of this tragedy, I was forced to relocate to the Eastern Cape and move in with my aunt. It was not easy to adapt to the rural life. I had to walk long distances, fetch water from a borehole located about a km from my homestead, fetch firewood and till the field. Despite these challenges, I continued studying and ended up at MSC College in King William's Town.

In 2002 I joined an organisation called Peace Afrika Youth Centre as a volunteer. This was a social justice organisation funded by SCAT from 2002 till 2009. My struggles after the loss of my father and brother developed a desire in me to see young people excel and led me to volunteer there. I was tired of seeing young people walking up and down the streets hopeless and lost. Most of them had been unable to secure employment like me or at the very least finish high school. Alcohol and drug abuse had become a permanent lifestyle in our community.

In 2006 the community elders gave us eleven hectares of land to use for agricultural projects. The main goal was to generate income for young people through a farming co-operative. We eventually registered what became known as the Entlango Primary Agricultural Cooperative in 2009. It consisted of fifteen members both young and old.

We immediately started planting spinach and cabbage on a small scale. We did not have many resources and used watering cans to water the plants. Our output was little and we sold our produce to the local community members. Since the land was big, we needed bigger resources such as tractors, seedlings, fertilisers and an irrigation system.

Five young members who were part of the group left because we did not achieve the expected profits. The remaining ten members had no skills to run a co-operative and needed training. The co-operative did not have enough support from government departments, especially the department of Agriculture. Nonetheless, we persisted, worked hard with the little resources we had until SCAT came on board in 2012 to fund the project.

In 2012 the Buffalo City Municipality also came on board. It installed an irrigation system and we are now able to plant a lot of vegetables and use most of the land. In the same year, the municipality and SCAT assisted us to build a hydroponic greenhouse. It consisted of 15 000 tomato seedlings, fertilizers, and spray chemicals. Most importantly they provided us with a mentor who trained us in tomato production and basic management skills.

In 2014 we received R500 000.00 funding from the Dept of Social Development and we managed to buy a tractor and a plough. We put up an electric fence around the greenhouse, we bought tomato and vegetable seedlings, fertilisers and packing boxes for tomatoes. The Dept of Agriculture provided us with three containers to store our equipment and produce, a trailer for the tractor and flush toilets with a septic tank.

In 2018 the ECDC funded us with R500 000.00 to cover our needs and we now have proper equipment for ploughing. We also upgraded our electric pump from the funding. The Dept of Social Development awarded the co-operative a tender to supply vegetables to three feeding schemes namely Siphumeze in Dimbaza King William's Town, Shalom in Duncan Village and Masiphuhle in Beacon Bay East London. We supply them with butternut, carrots, cabbages, spinach, carrots and tomatoes.

We distribute our produce to different supermarkets in King William's Town and East London and to local businesses. We also provide vegetables to underprivileged families in the community as a means to thank them for their support.

It's been a long journey full of ups and downs, but we have managed to touch lives and empower the youth with the help of SCAT. Our cooperative currently has 15 employees. Most of them are young women and bread winners of their families. We hope to continue to touch lives and empower more people through farming.





THE ATAMELANG

COOPERATIVE



The small rural village of Tweefontein in the Free State could be missed in a blink of an eye if you drive past en route from Thaba Nchu 39km away and Bloemfontein which is approximately 120km away.¹ The village is just over 50 years old and is based on Trust land which belongs to the Free State government. Most of the houses in the village are built with stones. At the entrance to the village is a small pond which is used by animals for drinking water especially during the summer rains. There are also tall trees and a small graveyard on the right side of the village. There is an imposing stone hill at the rear end of the village, overlooking three stone churches, the oldest being the Roman Catholic Church. Further on is the village's only school Poonyane Primary. The last census in 2011 recorded the population of Tweefontein as 247, most of whom are seSotho speakers (79,35%).²

The Atamelang Co-operative is an emerging local development agency based in Tweefontein. The organisation was started by community members in response to unemployment, food shortages and the spread of HIV/Aids in the village. The co-operative encourages local youth to participate in their food garden project to foster an interest in subsistence farming and agriculture as possible careers.

The project has just recently been nominated for the Best Emerging Agricultural project in the Free State. They were visited by the provincial minister of Agriculture who gave an undertaking that she would get the Premier of the Free State to visit the project with the aim of funding it. The local Health Clinic is supplied with produce such as spinach, onions and cabbage from their garden. Four households with sick elderly members of the family receive home based care and fresh vegetables from the project. This is in addition to the care and support given to those in the community living with chronic diseases such as HIV/Aids and TB. Between R2 000.00 and R2 500.00 per month is generated from the sale of vegetables from the project.

1. Tweefontein (Main Place, Mangaung / Bloemfontein, South Africa) - Population Statistics, Charts, Map and Location. (2019). Retrieved October 9, 2019, from https://www.citypopulation.de/en/southafrica/mangaung/499039__tweefontein/
2. Frith, A. (2019). Census 2011: Main Place: Tweefontein. Retrieved October 9, 2019, from <https://census2011.adrianfrith.com/place/499039>

FAST FACTS

NAME: The Atamelang Cooperative

LED BY: Kgoanyape Choane - the current chairperson of the management committee.

MAIN CHALLENGES FACED BY THE COMMUNITY: Unemployment, poverty and drought

MAIN ACTIVITIES: Food security; home-based care

ADDRESS: 41 Tweefontein Trust, Thaba Nchu

CONTACT: Mmabatho Phandilwe 063 233 4054

HOW WE TURNED OUR FARMING FAILURES INTO FIELDS OF SUCCESS



Mmabatho Phandilwe - Project leader and founder.



Mmabatho Phandilwe checking the vegetable garden.



Bookie Choane, Sarah Choane and Kgoanyape Choane.



MMABATHO PHANDILWE

MMABATHO PHANDILWE IS A VEGETABLE FARMER AT ATAMELANG COOPERATIVE. SHE RELATES HOW SHE AND A GROUP OF DETERMINED TWEEFONTEIN WOMEN OVERCAME DROUGHT, ANIMALS EATING CROPS AND STOCK THEFT TO BECOME AN AWARD WINNING AGRICULTURAL COOPERATIVE.

I live in a small village called Tweefontein Trust. As you enter our village you come across a river, with blue gum trees growing on its embankments. Above that is an old dilapidated Roman Catholic church. Alongside the church is a school and 138 houses. I am a person who loves church because I love God. I do not talk too much but I like listening to people who talk of things that grow and build you.

My first job was at Vista University as a cleaner but when the contract finished I returned home. That is when I started seeing troubles of poverty because of a lack of employment, with children having nothing at home. A group of women and I decided to do something to feed ourselves, so we started farming in 2007. I knew nothing about farming but I sought and found help from different sectors: the Department of Agriculture, the Department of Social Development, SCAT and World Vision. I attended workshops and learnt about farming so that I could get help and support in different ways.

The first person I met at SCAT was Pixie Keteyi in 2012. She came and helped us learn how to work with our community. After that we met SCAT's Programme Director Seth Tladi. He gave us information about different platforms, one of them was about how to work around finances. Our group of women then combined two separate projects to form one project called Atamelang. We help the community with the vegetables we farm. Most importantly we have a soup kitchen once a month for the children that do not have anything at home.

One of the biggest troubles we have encountered is drought when there was no rain for a long period and we were unable to get fresh vegetables. After we met our colleagues from SCAT, we were able to solve this problem. We used to farm using our feet, but now we use a tractor to plough. Water is also no longer a problem as we now have JoJo tanks to store water. Animals used to eat our plants but now we have fences and locked gates to protect our produce.

I have been on a long journey with our farming project. If I remember well it took me five years of failing before I won an agricultural competition and went to represent the Free State province in East London. We were awarded the best emerging agriculture project in the Free State Province. We achieved this with the help of SCAT, World Vision and the departments of Agriculture and Social Development. I am now at the point where I can help others start farming projects of their own. For this, I would like to say thank you to SCAT, there is no word above thank you.



RE JALA PEO YA BOKAMOSO BA RONA

Ke Mmabatho Phandliwe ke ngwana wa matsibolo wa mme le ntate Phandliwe baneng ba bararo. Ke tswa mo motseng o monyane o bitswang Tweefotein trust e e leng 30km hoyo toropong ya Thaba Nchu. Ha o kena ka motse o kopana le molatswana le difate tsa boloukomo, ho na le leralla hodima lona, hona hapele kereke ya kgale e bitswang Roman Catholic le tse ding tse tharo tsa molao. E be sekolo ka thoko ho motse, matlo a teng a kaba 138.

Ke motho ya ratang kereke hobane ke rata Modimo. Ke motho ya senang puo e telele empa ke rata ho mamela batho ba buwang dintho tse ahang. Ke simolotse mosebetsi Vista University ke le mohlwekisi, ha mosebetsi o fela ke ha ke tla kgutlela mo hae. Ke mo ke simolotseng ho bona mathata le tlala ka lebaka la tlhokeho ya mosebetsi le bana ba senang letho malapeng a bona. Yaba ke qala temo ka 2007 le bomme ba bang. Ke ne ke sa tsebe letho ka temo. Ke fumane thuso ho tswa mafapheng a fapafapaneng, mohlala Agriculture, Social Development, SCAT le World Vision. Le ho tsamaya dikopanong tse batho ba rutwang teng (workshops) dithuto tse tsamaelang le kgwebo yaka.

Ke fumane tshehetso ka tsela tse fapaneng mabapi le ntho e ke e etsang. Motho e ke kopaneng le ena pele ho SCAT ke Mme Pixie ka 2012. O fihlile a re thusa hore re ka sebetsa jwang le community ya rona. Ka morao ra kopana le ntate Tladi le ena a fihla a refa tsebo ya hae. Afana ka dithupelo tse fapafapaneng, e nngwe ya tsona ke ho sebetsa ka chelete. Re kopane re le diporojeke tse pedi e leng Mmabatho le Kgoanyape, ra etsa mokgatlo o bitswang Atamelang. Re thusa sechaba sa rona ka merogo e re e jalang haholo maqeku le bana ba senang letho malapeng a bona, re nale supu kitchen e thusang kliniki e motseng wa rona ka dijo ha nngwe mo kgwedding.

Mathata a re neng re kopana le ona haholo ke komello ha pula e le siyo. Lebaka ke hore ha re kgone ho ntsha dikuno tse atlehileng. Pele re kopana le SCAT hone ho le that haholo, re kgonne ho bona tsela ha e fihla ho rona. Re ne re lema ka maoto empa hona jwale re tseba ho kenya terekere hore e leme. Metsi le o na e ne e le bothata, empa hona joale re na ra thuseha ra fumana tanka tsa dijojo hore re tsebe ho boloka metsi. Le diphoofole di ne di ja dijalo hona jwale re ke ntse fense re kgona ho notlela diheke tsa rona.

Ke tsamaile leeto le letelele ke ntse ke kena dithodisanong tsa temo, ha ke hopola hantle ke nkile dilemo tse hlano ke ntse ke feila, sa botshelela ke ha ke hlola ke be ke le emela provinsi ya Free State ko East London ka thuso ya mafapha a ke seng ke a boletes e leng SCAT, Agriculture, Social Development and World vision.

Ke ithutile hore ho mamella nthong ye onang le tumelo ho yona o ka kgona, ha fela o na le boitshepo. Hona jwale ke ikutlwa ke le mafofolo ho fana ka thupelo ho ba batlang tsebo ka temo. Ya bofelu taba ke rata ho leboha SCAT ka workshop e na le mme ya neng a re ruta o ne a re ruta ka tsela e bobebe hore re utlwisise ntho ye a buwang ka yona. Ke rata ho re ke ya leboha haholo ho feta lentswe teboho.





GENDER

It was only in 1996 with the introduction of the equality clause of the Bill of Rights in South Africa's new constitution that all women were recognised as equal citizens. Section 9 of the Bill of Rights of the Constitution of South Africa affirms this right when it states that companies, individuals, groups or the state may not "unfairly discriminate directly or indirectly against anyone on one or more grounds, including race, gender, sex, pregnancy, marital status, ethnic or social origin, colour, sexual orientation, age, disability, religion, conscience, belief, culture, language and birth."

Gender Based Violence (GBV) is a major obstacle to the achievement of equality, development and peace. Ensuring that all who are victims of GBV receive social and legal assistance is an important strategic focus for SCAT. LDAs also play an important role in creating awareness of GBV and advocate for safer communities for women and girls and people of different sexual orientations, and identities to live in. They can mediate in families where men are violent but women are afraid to leave because of economic consequences. Where there are no social workers they can be equipped with counselling skills and awareness of resources, in order to be effective frontline responders. They can advocate for victims' rights when the legal system fails them, and can support victims through the process.



ADELAIDE

ADVICE OFFICE

Adelaide is a small rural town which lies at the foot of the Great Winterberg Mountain range in the central part of the Eastern Cape.¹ It is 123 km from King William's Town and almost 200 km from East London. The town's origins date back to the period of British colonisation of the Cape and the Xhosa wars of resistance against their encroachment. The land on which the town was built was originally inhabited by Xhosa and Khoi farmers. In 1835 it was seized by British soldiers and set up as a military camp². The town is now an agricultural hub which has a population of 12 191 inhabitants comprising 76.5% people who identify as Black African, 19 % Coloured and 4.5% White. The majority languages spoken are isiXhosa (72.3%) and Afrikaans (18.8%).³

The Adelaide Advice Office is a registered non-profit organisation established in 1984 by local human rights activists in order to assist people in their community who were victims of inequality and discrimination. After 1994 the organisation became a fully-fledged Advice Office providing paralegal services to people with limited access to justice and advocacy work for people affected and infected with HIV/Aids. In addition the office conducts programmes aimed at empowering the youth to be economically active members of society. Adelaide is one of SCAT's longest funded partner organisations. The Advice Office handles between 250 and 300 cases per annum.

1. Adelaide Travel Information. (2019). Retrieved October 6, 2019, from <https://www.eastern-cape-info.co.za/provinces/town/573>
2. Raper, P. (1987). Dictionary of Southern African Place names (Vol. 46). <https://doi.org/10.1080/10228195.2015.1113434>
3. Frith, A. (2019). Census 2011: Main Place: Adelaide. Retrieved October 4, 2019, from <https://census2011.adrianfrith.com/place/277005>

FAST FACTS

NAME: Adelaide Advice Office

LED BY: Patricia Swartbooi de Lange

MAIN CHALLENGES FACED BY THE COMMUNITY: Drought, unemployment, farmworker rights, HIV/AIDS, alcoholism, gender-based violence

MAIN ACTIVITIES: Paralegal support; human rights advocacy; youth empowerment; HIV/Aids awareness

ADDRESS: 56 Marais Street, Adelaide

CONTACT: Phone: 046 684 1777, Cell: 076 548 7982
isabelle.olivier77@gmail.com

I SURVIVED DOMESTIC ABUSE AND NOW MY MISSION IS TO HELP OTHERS



Fihla Tshaweni from Project Gardening.



Adelaide Advice Office.



Nobelu Balangile Administrator and Mr Adoos.

WHEN DOMESTIC ABUSE SURVIVOR PATRICIA SWARTBOOI DE LANGE JOINED THE ADELAIDE ADVICE OFFICE SHE LEARNT ABOUT HER LEGAL RIGHTS AND NOW HELPS OTHER WOMEN LIKE HER.

I was born in Port Elizabeth but our parents brought us to Adelaide to live with our grandparents. I grew up here until my husband proposed to marry me when I was 22 years old. We were married in Fort Beaufort on the 18 December 1982. Those were good times. I still remember my wedding dress and how my husband's family welcomed me. From my marriage I am blessed with three daughters.

While married, I worked at a furniture shop as a credit manager. Unfortunately as the years went on my husband developed an alcohol addiction. I did not tell anybody because I thought he would change. I suffered in silence. Later he started to hit me and kick me. He insulted me and demanded that I give him food or money in front of my children. Eventually after 15 years of marriage, I tried to speak to a church priest and my employer. I took my husband to social development and he was sent to a rehabilitation clinic. When he came back he continued to be abusive. I could not take it any longer.

In September 2005, I was retrenched. A year later after being insulted in town by my drunk husband, I decided to not go home, but to phone a lawyer for a divorce. I said to myself : "I am still young and will go and seek for work. This is not my end of life." One of my children was affected negatively by this abuse.

At that time, I did not know my rights. I heard about a NGO which had a vacant post. This was when I joined the Adelaide Advice Office as an admin clerk. It was here that I learnt about my legal rights as a woman. Working here made me try to educate other women and communities that everyone has a right to dignity. Currently we are doing door to door awareness campaigns in the community. We also have women indaba campaigns, help people with consumer cases, domestic violence, farm workers' rights, labour matters and child protection. Although I was abused I now feel strong and equipped with information ready to stand for our community as a human rights activist.



PATRICIA SWARTBOOI
DE LANGE



CARE

(COMMUNITY ATTEMPT REACHING EMPOWERMENT) ALICEDALE

Alicedale, nestled on the embankment of the Bushman's River is a small, remote village in the Eastern Cape about 40km from Grahamstown. The town is situated on a railway junction on the main railway line between Port Elizabeth which is 100km away and Johannesburg which is 993km away. The town was named after Alice Slessor, the wife of the engineer in charge of constructing the railway line.¹ According to the last population census in 2011², Alicedale has 3 872 residents, 51% who speak isiXhosa and 43% who speak Afrikaans.

CARE Alicedale is a thriving local development agency which supports abused women and children through their victim empowerment programme. In addition, CARE runs a weekly feeding scheme using produce from their gardening and poultry project. The food security programme provides income for a dozen locals who grow the vegetables in their own gardens. CARE's crèche for up to 50 children is a hive of activity. The home-based care programme, which provides care for community members with HIV/Aids also provides income for these carers.

The LDA approached the internationally renowned luxury Shamwari Game Reserve, which is 37km away from Alicedale to fund some of their community projects. This has led to the game reserve bringing students and other international tourists to visit the project and offer support.

1. Raper, P. E. (1989). Dictionary of Southern African Place Names. Jonathan Ball Publishers. p. 56. ISBN 978-0-947464-04-2 - via Internet Archive.
2. Frith, A. (2011). Census 2011: Main Place: Alicedale. Retrieved October 2, 2019, from <https://census2011.adrianfrith.com/place/264005>

FAST FACTS

NAME: CARE (Community Attempt Reaching Empowerment) Alicedale

LED BY: Phumla Gojela

MAIN CHALLENGES FACED BY THE COMMUNITY: unemployment, poverty, school dropouts, domestic violence, teenage pregnancy, alcoholism, substance-abuse

MAIN ACTIVITIES: Counselling of GBV survivors; advocacy for gender equality; beadwork; Youth bank; communal food gardens

ADDRESS: 10 Nkula Street, KwaNonzwakikazi Location, Alicedale

CONTACT: Cell: 073 280 5599

BREAKING THE CHAINS OF ABUSE THROUGH OUR CARE



Phumla Gojela.



CARE Veggie garden.



Funeka Gojela of Care Alicedale working in the sewing project.

PHUMLA GOJELA IS THE FOUNDER AND DIRECTOR OF CARE ALICEDALE. SHE WRITES ABOUT HOW THE ORGANISATION IS HELPING TO EMPOWER VICTIMS OF GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE AND ADVOCATE FOR THE COMMUNITY IN GENERAL TO STAMP OUT THE SCOURGE OF DOMESTIC ABUSE.

CARE Alicedale was established on the 20th October 1998 and registered on the 27th September 2001 as a non-profit organisation. The Alicedale community approached me at a difficult time when 80% of people were retrenched by the former South African Railways in 1995, when it became Spoornet under Transnet. The community started to experience huge challenges like poverty, school dropouts, domestic violence, teenage pregnancy, alcoholism and drug abuse.

Men in Alicedale still believe that the only way to discipline their wives and children is through corporal punishment. Women are forced to obey men even if men are doing something bad to them. Women are not allowed to be vocal in their homes when men are talking. If they do so, the man will beat the woman for being disrespectful. Another frustrating and painful part is when children are beaten heavily by men when trying to reach their mothers. As there is a high rate of unemployment, women are forced to look for small and quick jobs for the benefit of their partners. When they get paid, men demand money for their own needs like tobacco and alcohol. They also demand to be served food by their wives.

Sex is demanded by men from women even if they are sick. If the woman complains about feeling ill, the man beats her up, accusing her of cheating. The man does not care even if the woman is hurt and bleeding. Women blame themselves for being irresponsible and not performing the responsibilities expected of wives. They label themselves failures and bad women. They are not aware of their rights and not confident to claim them. We have come across many obstacles through our work with abused women. When a high-profile politician commits a crime against a woman, the male police officer will advise that the case should be negotiated by the families. Elderly women staying alone



PHUMLA GOJELA



are raped at night by both ordinary men and politicians. The law fails women because the men are arrested for a week or two and are then seen back in the community with no sentence. Young girls are bribed by wealthy men and politicians to perform sexual activities with them. These men take the young girls out during weekends and weekdays when they are supposed to focus on their studies. As a result, we experience high rates of teenage pregnancy and school dropouts. Many women are suffering from trauma and that makes them feel scared to claim their rights. Our organisation is dealing with this trauma through offering counselling services. Women are encouraged to stand up for their rights. That empowerment makes women gain confidence that earns respect.

Advocacy is the most essential tool to share information with abused women. We ensure that women in our community know their rights as no one is born to be abused whether they are educated or illiterate, poor or rich. We also empower victims of abuse to speak out about their rights and women's issues, supporting each other with dignity and respect. This is all done through talks where most women gather. This includes dialogues, workshops and awareness campaigns with the community at large. We also use information from the Independent Electoral Commission (IEC) like Gender-Based Violence, Human Rights, Stigma and Discrimination and Labour Issues.

As we are the only organisation in our area, we make sure that all women are being served in a professional manner. Because we do not have all the services for abused women, we refer them to our relevant stakeholders for those services we do not offer. When in need of health services when women are critically abused, we refer them to clinics, organise ambulances for them to hospital and accompany them there to ensure that they are attended to. We visit them in hospital when admitted and refer them to hospital social workers for trauma debriefing. We also refer them to the police when the client is harassed by the perpetrator for laying a charge against him. Severely abused women are also referred to the police for protection orders. We also help abused women, whose children are affected, by accompanying them to schools to explain the situation at home. Married women living with abuse are also referred to FAMSA in Grahamstown.

CARE Alicedale designs mechanisms to help break the bondage of abuse and dependency syndrome. Our organisation empowers women to take a lead on women's issues. We support women's leadership so that any reason for the weakening of the women's movement can be monitored and prevented. We also work with women through a range of capacity-building efforts, to ensure that they can participate in decision-making processes. We promote women's access to the law and winning court cases aimed at protecting women. Our organisation also supports initiatives aimed at providing greater legal support and knowledge of the law. It has been discovered that legal processes are often long and require significant resources and training, making them inaccessible for most women who need them.

We have set up support groups for information sharing and empathy so that women are able to talk in a safe space about their pain and trauma and gain strength from others who have similar experiences. We group the support groups according to shared social and emotional challenges. Capacity and empowerment topics and future goals relevant to the groups are discussed to channel the right way of executing or implementing such ideas. They make use of our center which is a safe and secure space for their meetings which are facilitated by coordinators, fieldworkers and a social worker.

All of us at CARE Alicedale strive to live up to the promise we made when we started. We are a community who are attempting to reach empowerment. I do this work and we do this work because we care deeply about our people.

FLAGSTAFF

COMMUNITY ADVICE OFFICE



Flagstaff is a small rural Eastern Cape town situated 80km south-east of Kokstad and 45km north of Lusikisiki. The town was established in the late 1800s by two traders. Its name can be traced to the traders' practice of running a white flag up a flagstaff every Sunday as a signal to everyone that the shop was closed. The town has a population of 2,584, most of whom (96%) are isiXhosa speakers. The main economic activities of Flagstaff are construction (11.9%), finance (7.7%), electricity (4.5%), community services (2.5%), agriculture and trade/manufacturing. Flagstaff is the seat of the Ingquza Hill Local Municipality which is part of OR Tambo District Municipality.

The Flagstaff Community Advice Centre serves both Flagstaff and villages in the broader Ingquza Hill municipality. A vibrant local development agency, the team has assisted over three thousand community members with paralegal advice. The team played a major role in creating awareness in their community around the unfair practices of *ukuthwala* which is when young girls (sometimes as young as 13) are forced into marriage with older men. The staff are also skilled at providing advice and assistance on the sensitive issues surrounding male circumcision and the LGBTI community.



FAST FACTS

NAME: Flagstaff Community Advice Centre

LED BY: Bomkazi Mhlongo

MAIN CHALLENGES FACED BY THE COMMUNITY: *ukuthwala* (forced marriage of young girls to older men), domestic violence, unemployment.

MAIN ACTIVITIES: Paralegal support; social injustice; labour disputes; gender equality; human rights (especially for the LGBTI community)

ADDRESS: Erf 20 Vatsha Building, Main Street, Flagstaff

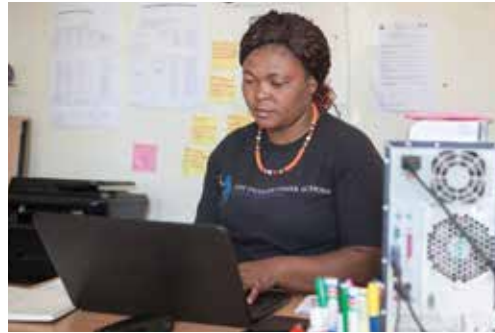
CONTACT: Cell: 073 280 5599 or 079 252 1679

Email: flagstaffadviceoffice@gmail.com or bomikazi.mhlongo@outlook.com

MY LONG WALK TO FREEDOM



Thandanani Self Help Group.



Bomikazi Mhlongo Coordinator of Flagstaff Advice Office working on one of her cases.



Nompumelelo Mankayi.



YOLANDA GWIJI

YOLANDA GWIJI, AN ADVICE OFFICE FIELDWORKER, WRITES ABOUT HER LIFE'S JOURNEY THAT BEGAN WHEN SHE MET HER HUSBAND WHILE CARRYING WATER TO THE RIVER. AFTER A FEW DIFFICULT YEARS OF MARRIAGE, SHE LEARNT THAT SHE NEEDED TO WORK SO THAT SHE WAS NOT SOLELY DEPENDENT ON A MAN. THIS IS A LESSON WHICH SHE HAS USED TO HELP MANY WOMEN REGAIN THEIR DIGNITY AND SURVIVE DOMESTIC VIOLENCE.

I am a 49-year-old widow from the land of amaPondo, Spaqeni village in Flagstaff, Eastern Cape. If you ask me to describe myself, I would say I am a loving, talkative person who is always willing to help and advise others. A mother of three, I am blessed with one grandchild.

I met my late husband on my way to get water from the river. He greeted me and I responded. He then asked me for directions to the school to see his brother-in-law. I later learnt that he told his brother-in-law that he had found the girl who was going to be his wife. We met again and that is when he asked me to marry him. I agreed.

While he was still alive my husband worked part time for construction companies. Unfortunately, he was an excessive drinker, so we didn't have enough money for our household needs. I had to ask him for permission to start looking for a job as it was hard and painful being dependent on a man. It was not easy, but he agreed. My first job was at a supermarket in town. After a short while I had to let go of the job to be closer to my children.

I then joined as a volunteer at the Vusisizwe AIDS awareness and Human Rights NGO as a care giver. I don't know what they saw in me but a lot of women came to me for advice about their marriage issues before I even started working at the advice center. In 2009 I was asked by the NGO management to organize *Operation Thetha Nje*, a women empowerment/development programme to fight for women's & children's rights and freedom of speech.

In 2013 I joined the Flagstaff Advice Centre because I had been sending many women abuse related cases to the centre. I became very committed to my job of fighting for the rights of women as my husband was drinking more and more. When he died tragically in a car accident, I realised the importance of being independent as a woman. Now I am responsible for raising my children and taking care of the household by myself.



My experience helped me to hold workshops and raise awareness campaigns in the rural areas. Women had no voice in the community, they were excluded from decision making gatherings held with the chief. Because they are financially dependent on men, many women were not free to openly talk about the abuse they experienced from their husbands or boyfriends. I wanted to change this, so I asked permission from the organisation's management to hold a meeting with the chief, government departments and members of the community. As a result of this meeting it was agreed that women could exercise their right to take part in community development. I also organized a gathering of women, where we discussed the need to be open about domestic violence when it happens. We agreed that women should not hide their abuse but seek help and support. I then held further workshops with groups of women to empower them to develop their skills so that they can stand on their own and be independent, to have income and improve the standard of their lives.

It was hard holding these workshops in the rural areas due to a lack of funds in the organisation. With the support of SCAT, the Foundation for Human Rights and RULAC, we were able to continue with the human rights awareness campaigns.

We have seen great change in our community due to these workshops. Many women are now independent queens. They are part of committees that drive development in the community. Women feel comfortable to disclose their health statuses, talk about gender-based violence and even make referrals to the Advice Centre. Many women are also improving the financial status of their families and the community as they own and manage small businesses and co-operatives.

It has been a long journey of learning for me since that day I met my husband on the way to the river. My life was hard because of his drinking, but it made me strong. Strong enough to help other women like me become independent and free to play their part in our community's development.

VUKA MAMA WENZE

Ndingumama oneminyaka eyi 49 wase Flagstaff, kwilalai yase Sphaqeni kumhlaba wamaMpondo, kwiphondo leMpuma-Koloni. Ndingumama wabantwana abathathu nomzukulwana omnye. Ndingumntu onothando, othethayo, osoloko efuna ukunceda abantu nokubacebisa. Ndahlangana nomyeni endleli eya emlanjeni, ndisiya kukha amanzi. Wandibulisa. Ndavuma. Wandibuza indlela eya esikolweni apho kukho kusibari wakhe. Wafika wathi kuye uyibonile intombi eza kuba ngumfazi wakhe. Kodwa wabe engathethanga nto kum. Emva koko ngenye imini wahlala phantsi nam wacela umtshato, savumelana, satshata, sahlala kamnandi iminyaka. Esaphila wayesela utywala kakhulu, esebenza amatorho kwi khontrakhi, imali ingezi ngokwaneleyo ukuba ndifezekise iimfuno zekhaya. Kube lapho endiye ndacela ukuba ndifune umsebenzi, ngoba kunzima, kubuhlungu ukuxhomekeka endodeni. Akuzange kube lula kodwa waye wandivumela. Ndawufumana umsenzi esuphamakethi edolophini eFlagstaff. Akuzenge kube



xeshalide kwabonakala ukuba kufuneka ndibe kufutshane nabantwana. Ndiye ndaba livolontiya eliyi care-giver kwiVusisizwe AIDS Awareness and Human Rights.

Ngomnyaka we 2009 ndacelwa ngumphathi ukuba ndiququzelele uphuhliso lwabafazi. Abafazi abaninzi babesoloko besiza kum ukuba ndibeluleke xa benengxaki emithshatweni. Ngoko ndandingekasebenzi nakwi Advice Centre. Andazi ukuba babebona nto ni kum. Kuthe ngomnyaka we 2013 ndaqalisa ukusebenza kwi Flagstaff Advice Centre. Bezininzi iingxaki zokuxhatshazwa kwabafazi ebendizithumela kubo ngaphambili. Ndiye ndaphakamisa ikawusi emsebenzi wam wokulwela amalungelo oomama kuba umyeni wam esiya ngamandla kubhelu lomsele. Emveni kokusweleka komyeni ngengozi yemoto ndabona ukuba kubalulekile ukuba umfazi azimele angaxhomekeki. Ngoku ndijongene nokukhulisa abantwana noxanduva lomzi wonke luxhomekeke kum. Vuka mama wenze. Nokuzisa uphuhliso kwilali zethu, nokulwela amalungelo abo nabantwana babo, nokuthetha phandle (Operation Thetha Nje).

Oomama bebengenalizwi ekuhlaleni, bengayi embizweni komkhulu, bengonyulwa nakwiikomiti zophuhliso ekuhlaleni. Kwakusithiwa ngabantu bokugcina amakhaya. Ukuphucula izinga lentlalo ntle nokuphucula izinga ezoqoqosho emakhayeni ethu, kwabonakala kubalulekile ukuphuhlisa izakhono zoomama. Bekunzima ukuba nee-Workshop okanye ii-Awareness campaign ezilalini ngenxa yokunqaba kwenkxaso-mali embuthweni. Uthe umbutho wakufumana imali-nkxaso kwi Foundation for Human Rights, kwi SCAT, nakwi RULAC; sanamaphulo okuphuhlisa ulwazi ngamalungelo abantu. Ndacela kubaphathi bam ukuba sibe nentlanganiso yamaqumrhu asekuhlaleni. Ndavunyelwa. Ndaya kwikokhulu kwabizwa intlanganiso yamasebe aseburhulumenteni, nabahlali kuquka ulutsha kunye noomama. Kwaxoxwa, kwavunyelwana ngokuba abafazi banelungelo lokuba yinxalenye kuphuhliso lwabantu basekuhlaleni.

Ndiye ndaphinda ndabiza intlanganiso yoomama bodwa, saxoxa ngokuba abafazi mabangayifihli i-domestic violence. Kwaye ikhona iminyango engabanceda bahlalungeleke. Siqhubekile nokubamba iintlanganiso noomama bexhotyiswa ngezakhono ukuze kuphele ukuxhomekeka emadodeni, babe nemali-ngeniso abayenzayo ukuphucula ubomi babo. Ngenxa yentsebenziswano nombutho endikuwo lukhona utshintsho. Oomama baziinkosi eziziphethayo. Bakhona kwikomiti zophuhliso ekuhlaleni. Bayakwazi ukuthetha ngobume bezempilo yabo, ukuxhatshazwa emakaya, ukuxhatshazwa ngokwesini. Bayakwazi ukuzokucela uncedo neengcebiso kwi Advice Centre. Baphuhlisa nemo uyezoqoqosho kumakhaya abo. Kwakunye nemo yentlalo kuba banamashishini asaqingqayo kunye nee- cooperative. Eyona nto ndifuna yenzeke yeyokuba abafazi bazimele, babe nelizwi ekuhlaleni. Funda kwiMizekeliso 31 kwi Bhabhiyile yakho ukusukela kwi vesi 10 ukuya phambili apho ithi UMFAZI UNESIDIMA. Masivuke siphuhlise ilali zethu. VUKA VUKA Mfazi, balambalile abantwana.

MASIPHAKAMENI

LOCAL DEVELOPMENT AGENCY



Humansdorp is a small town 93km west of Port Elizabeth, north-west of Cape St Francis in the Sarah Baartman district in the Kouga municipality of the Eastern Cape. The town was named Humansdorp (at first *Human se Dorp*) after Matthys Gerhardus Human, owner of the farm Rheeboksfontein.¹ The town has a population of around 29,000, 63% of whom speak Afrikaans and 31% who speak isiXhosa according to the census of 2011.² The main economic activities in the area are agriculture (mohair) and tourism.³

Masiphakameni is a developing LDA offering paralegal services. Their offices are based in Humansdorp. The local development agency (LDA) has established farm worker committees with various farming communities in the Kouga district. Through this the LDA is able to reach as many farm workers, ward committee and councillors as possible to communicate their plans and activities. They have also forged partnerships with local schools and are providing much needed career guidance counselling services. The LDA's collaboration with the Black Sash around social security law and the monitoring of SASSA⁴ activities has enabled the LDA to assist members of the community with issues relating to social grant payments.

1. Raper, P. (1987). Dictionary of Southern African Place Names (Vol. 46). <https://doi.org/10.1080/10228195.2015.1113434>
2. Frith, A. (2019). Census 2011: Main Place: Humansdorp. Retrieved October 4, 2019, from <https://census2011.adrianfrith.com/place/268007>
3. municipalities.co.za. (2019). Sarah Baartman District Municipality - Overview. Retrieved October 4, 2019, from Municipalities of South Africa website: <https://municipalities.co.za/overview/103/sarah-baartman-district-municipality>
4. SASSA is the South Africa Social Security Agency. SASSA's role is to administer social grants to categories of people who are "vulnerable to poverty and in need of state support" in order to improve these people's standard of living.

FAST FACTS

NAME: Masiphakameni Local Development Agency

LED BY: Phumeza Sibengile

MAIN CHALLENGES FACED BY THE COMMUNITY: HIV infections, alcohol and drug abuse, unfair and discriminatory labour practices, and farm evictions

MAIN ACTIVITIES: Paralegal support; gender equality; community development

ADDRESS: 394 Mjekula Street, Kwanomzamo, Humansdorp

CONTACT: Cell: 083 690 3227

masiphakameni@telkomsa.net

FROM HIGH SCHOOL DROPOUT TO AGENT OF CHANGE



Mr Thanduxolo Buya from Sakhe Singamadoda working as partner of Masiphakameni.



Masiphakameni Advice Office.



Sindiswa Witbooi - Administrator/ Paralegal of Masiphakameni and Misanda Makisi - Volunteer.



PHUMEZA SIBENGILE

PHUMEZA SIBENGILE HAS FACED WHAT WOULD SEEM LIKE INSURMOUNTABLE CHALLENGES IN HER PERSONAL LIFE AFTER SHE DROPPED OUT OF SCHOOL WHEN SHE FELL PREGNANT AT 15. SHE WRITES HOW SHE TURNED HER LIFE AROUND AND USED HER EXPERIENCE AS A YOUNG MOTHER TO EMPOWER OTHERS.

My name is Phumeza Sibengile. I am a mother of two beautiful children, a boy and a girl. I am also one of nine children. I was born in the Gamtoos Valley in the Sarah Baartman District on a small farm called Rooifontein. The farm is situated between valleys, natural forests and the Gamtoos River, the biggest river, in the western part of the Eastern Cape.

The Gamtoos river is very important to the residents, as the irrigation system, commercial farmers and the community at large depend on it for water. It is truly a harmonious place to live, with fertile land for agriculture scattered with mud houses.

At age 15 I fell pregnant and dropped out of school. Seven years later with a determined spirit I returned to school and completed my matric. Financial constraints, however, meant I could not pursue further studies. These early life experiences shaped my passion for working with teenage mothers, through the Teenage Pregnancy Programme. My involvement with the programme came about while I was working as a waitress at the Forest Inn Hotel and as a community-based health and reproductive agent at the Planned Parenthood Association of South Africa. These experiences intensified the love I had for the work I do and through them I gained valuable skills.

In the year 2000, I joined Masiphakameni Local Development Agency as the HIV/AIDS activator. During this period, funding received through SCAT, helped to facilitate capacity building and mentoring. With my current role as Project Coordinator, our community faces new additional challenges, such as the increase in HIV infections; alcohol and drug abuse; unfair and discriminatory labour practices; and, farm evictions. These challenges are tough. Fortunately, I have grown stronger and stronger from all the challenges I had to overcome since that day I had to drop out of school because I was pregnant.

MOUNT FLETCHER

ADVICE OFFICE



GENDER

Mount Fletcher is a town in the Joe Gqabi district in the mountainous north eastern part of the Eastern Cape. A scenic small town founded in 1882, it takes its name from a nearby mountain which was named after the Reverend John Fletcher, a friend of John Wesley, the founder of the Methodist Church. The Elundini Local Municipality under which Mount Fletcher falls is bounded by the Alfred Nzo District in the north, Chris Hani District in the south, OR Tambo District in the east, and Lesotho and Senqu in the west.¹

The largest employers of the Elundini municipality are government and social services (41%) and commercial farming (28%), while 14% of people are involved in the wholesale and retail trade. Most people in the rural settlements practise subsistence farming with little surplus being produced for profit. The community also relies on income from family who are migrant workers in the bigger urban centres of South Africa. The total population size according to census 2011 is 11,488, 62% of whom speak isiXhosa and 32% who speak Sesotho.²

Mount Fletcher Advice Office is a local development agency established in 1994 to deal with human rights violations. Serving many villages in the Eludini municipality, the Advice Office now focuses on both paralegal case work and other community uplifting programmes including awareness campaigns about human rights, gender based violence and saving scheme groups. The Advice Office is best known in the community for their credit and savings project which encourages women to save money as a group. The savings are later used to access credit by the members for needs such as their children's education, emergency situations and household needs.

They have received funding from SCAT from as far back as 1995 and the good relationship between the two continues to this day.

1. Elundini Local Municipality - Services. (2019). Retrieved September 20, 2019, from <https://municipalities.co.za/services/1028/elundini-local-municipality>
2. Frith, A. (2019) Census 2011: Main Place: Mount Fletcher. Retrieved September 20, 2019, from <https://census2011.adrianfrith.com/place/286074>

FAST FACTS

NAME: Mount Fletcher Advice Office

LED BY: Thembinkosi Hlati

MAIN CHALLENGES FACED BY THE COMMUNITY: domestic and gender-based violence, poverty and unemployment

MAIN ACTIVITIES: Paralegal support; community development; economic empowerment

ADDRESS: 8 Main Street, Mount Fletcher

CONTACT: Phone: 039 257 0009 /Cell: 073 605 8768

HOW I EMPOWERED OTHER WOMEN THROUGH EMPOWERING MYSELF



Kefuwe Mabothe, Thembinkosi Hlathi and Makotuleng Leboto.



Mount Fletcher Advice Centre.



Kefuwe Mabothe helping a client.



MAKOTULE LEBOTO

MAKOTULE LEBOTO WAS LOOKING AFTER HER TWO CHILDREN AT HOME WHEN SHE JOINED A SAVINGS CLUB ORGANISED BY THE MOUNT FLETCHER ADVICE OFFICE. THROUGH THE ADVICE OFFICE SHE STARTED ATTENDING TRAINING WORKSHOPS WHERE HER STRENGTHS AS A COMMUNITY ORGANISER WERE RECOGNISED AND DEVELOPED

I am the fifth child of seven children. I stay in a village called Fletcherville, near the town of Mount Fletcher, in the Eastern Cape. Mount Fletcher is a place beautified by green pastures, surrounded by mountains that are covered with mist. Both Xhosas and Sothos live here, people who have deep respect for their language, culture and tradition. Because many men are migrant workers, 55% of the people who live here are females and 45% are males.

I was an unemployed mother, who was raising my two children, a boy and a girl, at home. A savings club organisation of the Mount Fletcher advice centre was visiting our villages, to try and improve our communities. Our community was full of debts. In 2011 the Advice Office introduced a social economic programme in order to help people leave loan sharks. People's pension cards and identity documents were kept by loan sharks in order for the person to come back and pay off their debt. I became one of the people that started the savings club and invested. I was appointed the secretary of the group, with sixteen women and four men. The coordinator of the organisation loved my passion for the group and she asked me to come to the next training at their office which was about dealing with domestic violence. It was a programme of victim empowerment that gets support from the department of social development. The aim of this training was to see who has the ability to take this knowledge of abuse to families. At this training I spoke out on abuse because I see it happening all around me. It is so bad that people are killed by their loved ones. After attending this training, I was employed by the Mount Fletcher Advice Centre.

I learnt about how the Advice Office started and how it got to be where it is today. The Advice Office started its work under the trees with no offices. They found out about a good Samaritan called SCAT, who they heard helps community projects in the villages. A fieldworker from SCAT arrived to make assessments of the organisation. She made a promise to make a deposit for an office and assist with support. Now Mount Fletcher Advice Office does free legal advice, human rights, HIV AIDS and gender equality awareness through door to door visits and workshops, domestic violence victim empowerment and we are still busy with the savings and credit groups.

I have grown so much since I started saving money and investing in the Mount Fletcher savings club. My strengths as a community organiser were recognised and nurtured and now I have a job helping empower victims of domestic violence.



KE KGONNE JANG GO THUSA BASADI BA BANG KA GO IMATLAFATSA

Ke Makotule Leboto. Ke ngwana wa bohloko baneng ba supileng. Ke moradi wa ntate George Mochate le mme Mapoloko Idah Lepita. Ke dula motsaneng wa Fletcherville toropong ya Mount Fletcher, porofenseng ya Kapa Bochabela. Toropo ya Mt. Fletcher e kgabile ka makgulo a matala, a dithaba tsa Maloti. Dithaba tseo di aparang bosweu ka dinako tsa bomoshenyana sellele hodisa, e leng nako ya Mariha. Naheng ena ho phela merabe e fapaneng e leng Maxhosa le Basotho. Batho ba hlompang puo le setso sa bona. Ke sechaba se nang le tumelo setsong le moetlo wa bona. Dipalo-palo tsa batho ba phelang mona ke 14632, moo 55% e leng bomme ha 45% e le bontate. Ntho e nngwe feela e e tshwengang motsana/toropo ona ke tlhokahalo ya dibanka tsohle tse ding leng teng naheng ya bo rona.

Ke ne ke le mme a sa sebetseng ke dutse lapeng ho hodisa bana ba babedi eleng moshemane le ngwanana. Mokgathlo wa Mt. Fletcher Advice centre, o ne wa etela metsana ya rona o le maikaelong a ho leka ho ntlafatsa sechaba. Ka 2011 ba ile ba tlisa thupello ya socio economic development molemong wa ho thusa batho ka ho ba itsise ditokelo tsa bona le hore ba kgone batswe ho bo Machonisa (Loan sharks). Sechaba sa borona e ne ele mahlatsipa a tlikefetso ya ditokelo tsa bona. Dikarata tsa dibanka le di ID tsa bona di ne di dula ho bo Machonisa (Loan sharks), molemong wa hore motho a kgutle a tlo patala sekoloto sa hae a nto fumana pasa kapa yona karata ya hae. Mo tshebetso ya rona ho ya ka moo re ne ra rutwa ka teng le naaneng la socio economic programme, ke moo batho ba ipolokellang chelete kgwedi le kgwedi. Ha ho fela selemo ebe ba arolana chelate eo, motho le motho a fumane ya hae. Ke ile ka ba emong a qalang setlhophla le nna ka beeletsa. Ke ile ka ba mongodi wa yona e le bomme ba 16 le bontate ba 04. Motsamaisi was Mt. Fletcher o ile a rata boikitlaetso baka, a kopa ke tle thupellong e tlang hoba teng ofising ya bona. E ne ele thupello ya tlikefetso e e etsahalang malapeng (Domestic Violence). E ne ele thupello ya ho thusa mahlatsipa a tlikefetso (Victim empowerment) e fumanang tshetso lefapheng la Social development. Bohlokoa ba thupello ena e ne ele ho tlo sheba hore e ka ba ke bo mang ba ka bang le bokgoni ba ho isa thuto ena ya tlikefetso tsa malapeng sechabeng. Le moo ke ile ka ipabola ka makgabane, hoba tlikefetso e teng moo re phelang teng. Batho ba bolawa ke baratuwa ba bona ka mehla le mehla. Ke ile ka fumana mosebetsi ha jwalo mokgathlong wa Mt. Fletcher Advice Centre.



Ke ile ka bolellwa hore mokgatlo ona o tswa kae, o ya kae hore o be mona o teng kajeno. Mokgatlo o ne o sebeletsa tlasa difate ba sena diofisi. Ba ile ba utlwela ka moSamaria ya molemo a bitswang SCAT, eo ho thweng o thusa diporojeke tsa mahaeng ho ntshetsa pele ditaba-tabelo tsa bona sechabeng. Mokgatlo o ile wa leka ho kopana le moSamaria eo ka ho etsa kopo ya chelete. Mosebeletsi wa SCAT e leng Mme Piexie o ile a fihla a tlo etsa ditlhalobo mokhatlhong, a tshepisa ho bafa chelete ya ofisi le ditlhoko tsa bona, jwalo ka rente le mapampiri. Mt. Fletcher e thusa sechaba ka Human Right Education, Gender Equality, Victim empowerment, (Domestic Voilence), HIV/ AIDS le Socio Economic Programme. E etsa mosebetsi ona ka ho kena ntlo le ntlo, le ho tshwara dikopano tse di itsising batho ka tse etsahalang setshabeng, le di kopano moo batho ba rutwang (workshops) le ho tsmaisa dikopano tsa batho baba bolokang le ho adimisana ka dichelete (Savings and Credit schemes) gape le ho neelana ke maele a tsa semolao.

Bofelong: Ho kena ntlo le ntlo, le ho tshwara dikopano tse di itsising batho ka tse etsahalang setshabeng, le di kopano moo batho ba rutwang (workshops), le dikopano tsa batho baba bolokang le ho adimisana ka dichelete (Savings and Credit schemes) gape le ho neelana ke maele a tsa semolao, ho thusa ho fokotsa tlhaketso ya tokelo tsa botho le ho etsa hore batho setshabeng ba lokolohe ho bolela ka se etsahalang hape le ho itsise ba moloa ka bothokatsebe bo bo leng teng mo ba dulang teng.



Theminkosi Hlathi helping a client at the Mount Fletcher Advice Office.

MQANDULI

ADVICE OFFICE



GENDER

Mqanduli is a small rural town in the picturesque Thembuland region of the Eastern Cape, which is 30km south of Mthatha and 22km north-east of Elliotdale. The town is named after a nearby hill called Mqanduli which means 'grindstone-maker'.¹

According to the 2011 Census, Mqanduli has a population of 2,647, 99% of whom are isiXhosa speakers.² Mqanduli and Mthatha are part of the King Sabata Dalindyebo Local Municipality which was established before the 2000 local government elections when the Mthatha and Mqanduli transitional and rural areas were merged.³ This is a beautiful rural area comprising about 44 villages. The municipality was named after King Sabata Dalindyebo because he was seen as a unifying figure to the people of both Mthatha and Mqanduli, a hero who fought for the freedom of Transkei and South Africa. The main economic activities of the town are community services (48%), finance (21%) and trade (18%).⁴

The Mqanduli Advice Office was initially started to assist retiring mine workers access their pension funds. Their success in assisting mine workers has resulted in funding support from the Department of Labour. The Advice Office deals with cases related to late birth certificate registrations, injury on duty, conflict resolution, consumer rights, service delivery issues such as access to roads, water and electricity problems.

1. Raper, P. (1987). Dictionary of Southern African Place Names (Vol. 46). <https://doi.org/10.1080/10228195.2015.1113434>
2. Frith, A. (n.d.). Census 2011: Main Place: Mqanduli. Retrieved October 3, 2019, from [census2011.adrianfrith.com](https://census2011.adrianfrith.com/place/294242) website: <https://census2011.adrianfrith.com/place/294242>
3. King Sabata Dalindyebo Local Municipality - Overview. (n.d.). Retrieved October 3, 2019, from <https://municipalities.co.za/overview/1032/king-sabata-dalindyebo-local-municipality>
4. King Sabata Dalindyebo Local Municipality - Overview. (n.d.). Retrieved October 3, 2019, from <https://municipalities.co.za/overview/1032/king-sabata-dalindyebo-local-municipality>

FAST FACTS

NAME: Mqanduli Advice Office

LED BY: Clarence Mtutuzeli Xiniwe

MAIN CHALLENGES FACED BY THE COMMUNITY: unemployment, late birth registrations, gender based violence, lack of political education and power struggles

MAIN ACTIVITIES: Labour rights and learnership programmes for ex-mine workers; counselling; paralegal support; youth development, promoting women and children's rights; lobbying of stakeholders; assisting in the establishment of income generating projects such as early child hood development centres, poultry projects, vegetable and crop growing projects; assisting the community with access to social grants and community outreach on human rights and taking parliament to the people.

ADDRESS: C/o Main Street (behind Post Office), Department of Agriculture premises, Private Bag X 569, Mqanduli, 5080

CONTACT: Phone: 047 573 1041, Cell: 082 340 4944

FROM MINER TO COMMUNITY MEDIATOR



Computer centre run for youth in Mqanduli.



Ezile Sahlulu the Computer Facilitator in a computer centre run for youth in Mqanduli.



Clients in Mqanduli waiting in the Advice Office.



CLARENCE XINIWE

CLARENCE XINIWE WAS A MINER WHO JOINED THE NATIONAL UNION OF MINeworkERS TO FIGHT AGAINST INHUMANE TREATMENT OF WORKERS IN THE MINES. HE RETURNED HOME TO HIS RURAL VILLAGE IN THE EASTERN CAPE TO USE THE SKILLS HE LEARNT IN THE MINES, TO CAMPAIGN FOR HUMAN RIGHTS THROUGH AN ADVICE OFFICE HE SET UP IN MQANDULI.

I am born to a royal family through my father who is a member of Amanqabe Clan. He is a member of the Amanqabe Traditional Council.

I left Mqanduli as a young man to work in the mines in Rustenburg, in the former homeland of Bophuthatswana. The conditions were not good nor safe on the mines as rocks could fall at any time and your life could be endangered. We were crammed in the mine hostel, thirty men in the same room. Food that we were served was of poor quality. We were given *amarhewu*⁵ and some porridge which was not properly cooked. There was no meat or vegetables. Workers were not protected by labour laws and rights. You could be fired at the blink of an eye without a fair hearing. Our contracts did not allow us to go home without finishing the term of a contract even if you had problems at home. The Group Areas Act prevented women from visiting us.

These terrible conditions on the mine led me to join the National Union of Mineworkers (NUM). We had to fight for better working conditions. In retaliation, the mine management dismissed all who were union members. It was this experience of injustice that made me realise I wanted to spend my life helping others.

There were many incidents of injustices such as *ukuthwala*⁶, a form of gender based violence using tradition as an excuse, that were taking place in Mqanduli. Rural women

5. A drink made of thin, slightly fermented maize-meal porridge.

6. Ukuthwala is a form of abduction that involves kidnapping a girl or a young woman by a man and his friends or peers with the intention of compelling the girl or young woman's family to agree to marriage (.Justice/Resources/Publications/Ukuthwala. (n.d.). Retrieved October 3, 2019, from <http://www.justice.gov.za/brochure/ukuthwala/ukuthwala.html>)

were not respected by officials at government offices and they were shouted at for no particular reason. These are some of the factors that prompted me to do something by establishing a community advice centre. The experience of seeing young girls forced to marry older people was too much to bear. I remember a case of a young 14 year old girl in Grade 8 who was *thwalad*⁷ through a deal made by her biological father. The girl was abducted for *ukuthwala* while she was walking to school. Her father had made this deal yet he never supported his daughter and chased away her mother. The child was living with her grandparents. A family member reported the incident to us at the Advice Office. We first communicated with the parents in the hope that they would listen but they insisted that it was their right to arrange this marriage. We then reported this matter to a local social worker who rescued the girl and took her away from the parents.

The issuing of birth certificates is another big issue we have to deal with. There is a crisis of children who do not have birth certificates. The Department of Home Affairs officials give parents and children who don't have birth certificates a hard time. Without birth certificates the children cannot be registered to attend school and parents cannot receive child support grants. The children are an extra burden to grandmothers who have to foot the bill for food, clothing and school needs on their meagre pensions.

We tried to address this problem of birth certificates with the department of Home Affairs but they were not interested. We then approached pro bono lawyers who were willing to plough back into the community. The lawyers have drafted letters of demand and we are seeing progress. The Department is scared of court cases and have changed their attitudes. We have also targeted traditional leaders, churches and councillors through awareness campaigns and meetings.

Our Advice Office started off helping mineworkers and now serves the whole community. I was born to a royal family, but my belief in fighting for justice for all, has made my community my family too.



7. A colloquial verb for saying a girl was abducted through ukuthwala



Anam Kayise field worker in Mqanduli Advice Office.



Florina Farmer- in front of her new house.



Emma Goliath, Fransiena van Rooyen, Naomi Betana, Colleen Alexander Julies.



WITZENBERG

RURAL DEVELOPMENT CENTRE



Tucked on the eastern slope of the Skurweberg mountains is the picturesque town of Ceres, the administrative centre and largest town of the Witzenberg Local Municipality in the Winelands of Western Cape. Named after the Roman goddess of agriculture and fertility, Ceres is renowned for its fertile fruit-growing valleys.¹ The Witzenberg area is located an hour and a half's drive away from Cape Town on Route 62. It consists of Ceres, Tulbagh, Wolseley, Op-die-Berg and Prince Alfred's Hamlet.

The main economic activities in the area² are agriculture, forestry and fishing (29.1%), finance, insurance, real estate and business services (22%), manufacturing (16.2%), wholesale and retail trade, catering and accommodation (10%), general government (8.4%), transport, storage and communication (8%), community, social and personal services (3.5%).

According to the 2011 census the municipality has a population of 115,946 people in 27,419 households. Of this population, 65.9% describe themselves as "Coloured", 25.3% as "Black African", and 7.7% as "White". The first language of 75.2% of the population is Afrikaans, while 16.6% speak Xhosa, 4.5% speak Sotho and 2.0% speak English.³

The Witzenberg Rural Development Centre has a strong focus on gender advocacy, helping women realise their self-worth, including rights to adequate housing. The LDA also deals with numerous enquiries for unfair dismissals, unfair labour practices on the fruit farms, unpaid wages and mediation. They have also set up two ECD centres in the local community.

1. Ceres Tourism. (2019). Retrieved October 5, 2019, from <https://www.ceres.org.za/main/>
2. Witzenberg Municipality | (2019). Retrieved October 5, 2019, from <http://www.witzenberg.gov.za/>
3. STATSSA. (2019) Local Municipality | Statistics South Africa. Retrieved October 5, 2019, from http://www.statssa.gov.za/?page_id=993&id=witzenberg-municipality

FAST FACTS

NAME: Witzenberg Rural Development Centre

LED BY: Emma Goliath

MAIN CHALLENGES FACED BY THE COMMUNITY: Food security, farmworkers' rights, women empowerment

MAIN ACTIVITIES: Gender Equality; Early Childhood Development (ECD); food security; paralegal support; farm workers' rights

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MY FIGHT FOR WOMEN TO HAVE SECURITY OF TENURE, BEGAN AT HOME



Gaylene Koopman, former volunteer (left), Emma Goliath (right).



Naomi Betana (left) and Emma Goliath (right) discussing housing for women in Ceres with Joyce Mlungwana (centre).



Florina Farmer (client helped with housing) and Sarina Fortuin (LDA) assisted her with child support grant application).



EMMA GOLIATH

HAVING THE CERTAINTY OF A SAFE AND SECURE SHELTER IS AN ESSENTIAL PART OF WOMEN'S EQUALITY. EMMA GOLIATH'S QUEST TO HELP FIND SECURE ACCOMMODATION FOR VULNERABLE WOMEN IS ROOTED IN HER CHILDHOOD.

SCAT and I are celebrating our last year of youth. Both SCAT's story and my story are love stories because everything SCAT does and I do in development is with and for love. My desire to be involved in the community and help women stems from my childhood. I was born on a farm about 4kms from where I currently live in Ceres. The day after my birth my grandmother came to fetch me and my mother as she did not want her first grandchild to live on a farm in harsh conditions. I am the eldest of three children of a single mother who worked in Cape Town. My mother was not coping with all the responsibilities, so I was raised by my grandmother who was asked by her aunt to come and take care of me. Later my mother was involved in an accident that left her blind in one eye and without the use of her one hand. My grandmother knew she had to take her in too and she had to move back to Ceres.

My grandmother is generous, always keen to look after other people and this meant that her house was always a home for family members and others who had nowhere to go. It was busy and fun, having all my aunts, uncles, cousins and friends that became family, around us all the time. It also meant a lot of hard work and no privacy. There were always people around and we were always sharing spaces and food. We usually fed more than seventeen people at a meal which meant lots of cleaning, scrubbing and washing dishes.

Without realising it, my activism was developing as I was growing up. I never wanted to live under crowded conditions as an adult and I knew from what I had experienced that there were many problems associated with not having security of tenure. Even the people my grandmother took care of never knew if they would have a roof over their head in the future if anything should happen to her.

While driving with my colleague Naomi Betana who had run the previous Advice Office in the community but had taken a break from this work to try a new direction with her career, we discussed the possibility of setting up an organisation that would serve the needs of women in the community. Out of that conversation the Witzenberg Rural Development Centre was born. Ceres is in the Witzenberg Municipality and is surrounded by fruit farms. Although these farms are a source of employment for many in the district, there are also many labour problems and evictions from farms which keep us busy. Our office is full of people seeking help on a daily basis. In addition to the Advice Office we run two educare centres and provide food for people and the children from food gardens we have established with the help of funding from SCAT.

After dreaming the dream of setting up an office in Witzenberg, we had to secure funding, and organisations such as Western Cape Department of Social Development, MAGI, Foundation for Human Rights and SCAT have provided the resources to make sure that the doors of the office are open and we are able to serve the most vulnerable in our community. We have focussed on service delivery issues related to the installation of water meters in the community, eviction of women from farms especially when the father or their husband is no longer employed.

One of the projects that is very important to me is our project to ensure housing for women who are backyard dwellers in Ceres. Having grown up in a crowded home with no personal privacy I was struck by the women who came to our office complaining of the exploitation they experienced as backyard dwellers. Rentals are high, they often cover the costs of services and they have no security of tenure. There is limited privacy and with many backyard dwellers in one yard women are often subjected to sexual harassment. In order to address this, we assisted a group of women to move to a piece of land owned by the municipality. We have helped these women to build their own homes and we are now fighting to ensure that there are proper services. The women are so pleased to have space around them to raise their children free from the problems associated with overcrowding.

I am proud of the work that we have done as an organisation that is led by women. We have had training from SCAT which has focused on developing our leadership skills and we have the support of a programme officer Colleen Alexander Julies who is a strong woman and is our guide. We have also learnt about running an effective organisation. Although we struggle with meeting the requirements of donors to report on time because we are so busy dealing with many battles in the community, we have learnt through SCAT that we have to take care of the organisation in order to take care of the people we serve.





Tashnine Philander, Rodeniah Philander, Truline Morris and Sharoleen Morris.

A photograph showing a group of people, primarily women, gathered around a table. One woman in the center has her hair in braids and is wearing a black beanie. They appear to be looking at documents or a screen. The background is slightly blurred, showing an indoor setting with a white wall.

YOUTH

Over two decades after the first democratic election young people face a myriad of problems including crime, poverty, drug abuse and unequal education opportunities. Youth unemployment is at 38,2% compared with the national unemployment rate of 26,7% which is a concern for stability in South Africa. Young people who are idle are more likely to resort to crime, violence and substance abuse.

Local Development Agencies (LDAs) provide an opportunity for young people to be engaged in improving the lives of people in their communities, while gaining skills. In order to attract young people to the work of LDAs, SCAT has piloted a YouthBank programme, which has the potential to be an effective way of engaging with young people. Young people are trained to run YouthBanks in their communities. SCAT rewards groups R5.00 for every R1.00 profit made through a fundraising event and the funds can be used for youth related projects in the communities. The YouthBank also teaches them organisational, leadership and entrepreneurship skills. A culture of philanthropy is cultivated among young people who as fundraisers and grant-makers have the opportunity to determine the priorities in their communities.



Zameka Tyeme - Administrator in Berlin Advice Office.



Vuyani Zatu working in the Advice Office.



Vuyani Zatu, Nomonde Mhlambiso, Nosiphiwo Veto, Nomalinge Kokwe and Nosipho Thwana.



Nomonde Mhlambiso, Nosiphiwo Veto, Nomalinge Kokwe and Nosipho Thwana.

BERLIN

ADVICE OFFICE



Berlin is a small peri-urban town in the Buffalo City Metropolitan Municipality 20km east of King William's Town in the Eastern Cape. It was founded in 1857 by German settlers of the British-German Legion and named after the German capital.¹ According to Census 2011 there are 3 048 people living in Berlin, 94% who identify as Black African, 0.7% Coloured and 4.9% White. The predominant languages spoken are isiXhosa (91.2%) and English (4.5%).²

The Berlin Advice Office provides paralegal services, implements community development projects like a piggery, food gardening and human right awareness campaigns. Funding received from the Department of Labour has helped the LDA conduct awareness workshops on labour related matters in their community. Their partnership with the Department of Public Works created employment opportunities for 120 community members through the Extended Public Works Project (EPWP).

1. Raper, P. (1987). Dictionary of Southern African Place Names (Vol. 46). <https://doi.org/10.1080/10228195.2015.1113434>
2. Frith, A. (2019). Census 2011: Main Place: Berlin. Retrieved October 5, 2019, from <https://census2011.adrianfrith.com/place/260060>

FAST FACTS

NAME: Berlin Advice Office

LED BY: Yoliswa Mgwelo

MAIN CHALLENGES FACED BY THE COMMUNITY: unemployment, poverty

MAIN ACTIVITIES: Economic empowerment; educating of youth; paralegal support

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Email: berlin26@telkomsa.net

I WANTED TO MAKE A DIFFERENCE, SO I JOINED THE ADVICE OFFICE



Zithobile Zondani doing garden work as part of the Berlin Advice Office IDT contract.



(Left to right) Nomfanelo Blayi, Zithobile Zondani, Zoliswa Dayini working in the vegetable fields for the IDT contract.



Zoliswa Dayimani.



VUYANI ZATU

VUYANI ZATU LEARNT FIRST HAND ABOUT POVERTY WHEN HE DID DOOR TO DOOR RESEARCH FOR STATISTICS SA IN KING WILLIAMS TOWN, BERLIN AND SURROUNDING VILLAGES. THIS INSPIRED HIM TO JOIN THE BERLIN ADVICE OFFICE AS A VOLUNTEER.

I was born and grew up playing on the dusty streets of Zwelitsha township in King William's Town in the 80s. I started my schooling there. I loved playing football on the rocky playground with my friends. In the early 1990s I moved to Berlin where I finished my schooling. After finishing school, I looked for greener pastures and found a job at Statistics South Africa. It was a short-term contract for six months. It was while doing door to door research for Statistics SA that I realised the dire poverty and lack of education of many families in King William's Town, Berlin and surrounding small villages. The streets in the villages were not tarred. Children played in front of RDP houses with rusty roofs.

I wanted to make a difference to the lives of this community whose homes I visited during my door to door research, so I joined Berlin Advice Centre as a volunteer. I was eventually employed full-time as an administrator. One day while I was doing a home visit in Berlin I met a young girl who was the head of her family. Both her parents died because of HIV and AIDS. At the age of 17, she had to give up school and her dreams to find work doing washing for other people, earning R50.00 to put food on the table for her two young brothers. I could not bear to see this young girl sacrifice her Advice Office chances of a better future. Because of the contacts we have established at the Advice Office, I reported this case to a social worker who works in our region. She helped by giving food and uniforms to those children. The young girl was able to return to school. Her younger brothers also received soccer boots from a local business man. We helped the children make a small vegetable garden at the back of their home. We gave them seedlings to plant so that could get nutritious food from that garden. We also provided them with counselling through the social development department so that they could process and learn to cope with the loss of their parents.

It is by helping with cases like this, where I can see we have made a positive change to young people's lives, that I feel privileged to be working for the Advice Office.

ZANONCEDO

EMPOWERMENT CENTRE



Tsholomnqa (Chalumna) is a rural village 37km from East London and 20.4 km from Kayser's Beach which falls under the Buffalo City municipality in the Eastern Cape. Tsholomnqa (Chalumna) village lies on both sides of the R72 and Census 2011 divides it into Chalumna A which has 526 residents (98 % who identify as Black African and 96% who speak isiXhosa).¹ and Chalumna B consisting of 158 people, 100 % who identify as Black African, 97% of whom speak isiXhosa². The village is named after the Tsholomnqa River which is approximately 78km long, forming at the confluence of two small rivers, the Qugwala in the West and the Mtyolo in the East. It empties into the Indian Ocean through an estuary near Kayser's Beach. The Tsholomnqa River formed the northern border of the former Ciskei shoreline until 27 April 1994 when all the apartheid era political regions were reincorporated into South Africa.³

The Zanoncedo Empowerment Centre is 39.8km from East London in the Mpongo location, Tsholomnqa just off the R72. The organisation currently provides HIV and other chronic diseases awareness and home-based care programmes, food gardening projects, after school programmes, bead work, youth sexual reproductive health and life skills projects, gender-based violence sensitisation workshops and a Youth Bank programme.

Zanoncedo started with only five volunteers in 2012 who selflessly dedicated their time, walking long distances to serve the community. In 2014 the numbers of volunteers grew to twenty-five and the first funding was received from SCAT in 2015 for administration which opened more doors. Teen pregnancies have been reduced as the number of young people accessing family planning and condoms increased. Zanoncedo's home based care and health campaigns also led to a decline in treatment default rates.

1. Frith, A. (2019). Census 2011: Main Place: Chalumna A. Retrieved October 12, 2019, from census2011.adrianfrith.com website: <https://census2011.adrianfrith.com/place/260155>
2. Frith, A. (2019). Census 2011: Sub Place: Chalumna B SP. Retrieved October 12, 2019, from census website: <https://census2011.adrianfrith.com/place/260168001>
3. Chalumna River | Revolvy. (n.d.). Retrieved October 12, 2019, from <https://www.revolvy.com/page/Chalumna-River>

FAST FACTS

NAME: Zanoncedo Empowerment Centre

LED BY: Mandisa Dukashe

MAIN CHALLENGES FACED BY THE COMMUNITY: high alcohol and drug abuse, theft, teenage pregnancy, neglected/abused children, unemployed youth, chronic disease treatment default and poverty.

MAIN ACTIVITIES: home-based care; after care; youth homework and computer skills assistance; food gardening and YouthBank.

ADDRESS: Mpongo Location, Mazizini District

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Email: mandisa.dukashe@zanoncedo.org

I ALMOST LOST HOPE UNTIL I FOUND ZANONCEDO



Vuyo Msizi hands over a computer donated by SCAT to Mandisa Dukashe, the director of Zanoncedo Empowerment Centre.



Zanoncedo Empowerment Centre.



Administrator Khanya Ngenge sorting pieces of craft.



WINDISA JIMANA

WINDISA JIMANA COULD NOT FIND WORK AND ALMOST LOST HOPE UNTIL SHE RECONNECTED WITH A HIGH SCHOOL FRIEND ON FACEBOOK. THIS FRIEND WAS THE DIRECTOR OF ZANONCEDO EMPOWERMENT CENTRE, MANDISE DUKASHE, WHO INSPIRED WINDISA TO MAKE USE OF HER SKILLS AND PASSION IN SERVICE OF YOUNG PEOPLE.

I am a 44-year-old single mother of three. I was born and raised in Ciqala Village, Chalumna. Growing up was not easy. My mother was a single parent and had to leave us every week since she was working in East London town. For five years, I had to walk to Tshlomnqa High School, which was more than 5km away from home. I passed my matric in 1995 but I never had a chance to continue my studies since there was no money. I had always wanted to become a nurse but as I grew up that changed. I always looked up to my Standard 2 (Grade 4) teacher, Ms Ntoni, and my cousin Sis Phumla. They both played a very important role in making me become the person I am today. Ms Ntoni formed social groups in school, where she introduced extra mural activities such as dance (both modern dance and African dance), drama, music, modelling, and sports. After school and on the weekend, Sis Phumla would take over from Ms Ntoni teaching and showing us more about dance and other things she thought would help us as young people. I was inspired by these two, now older ladies, who love beautiful things in life. I always reflect back on their teaching whenever there is something good or bad that is happening around me. They have free spirits and a willingness to grow young minds. After matric, even when life became difficult for me, I continued to do the extra mural activities I had learnt as a child with Ms Ntoni and Sis Phumla despite there being no sponsors.

Twenty years after passing my matric, I registered at Buffalo City TVET College and I obtained my National Diploma in Human Resources in 2011. I thought the Diploma would open doors for me and land me into a good paying job but unfortunately for me, I was not even called for a simple interview. I lost hope somehow. I was ready to give up when I met the Director of Zanoncedo Empowerment Centre, Mandise Dukashe, my high school classmate through a Facebook page in 2017. She called and invited me into the offices of Zanoncedo Empowerment Centre at Mpongo Village in Chalumna. She thoroughly explained to me about the organisation and its programme. She never promised me big money but encouraged me to give back to society through my passion for people and knowledge. She somehow opened my eyes. I could see God working through her at that moment. I saw lives that need to be rescued and I agreed to volunteer.

Later I was appointed as a Youth Care Coordinator. It pains me to see the way our young people conduct themselves in my community. It feels as if they have lost the purpose of their lives. The high rate of unemployment, teenage pregnancy, school dropouts, girls throwing themselves at older men and drug and alcohol abuse are killing us. I know that our community needs more people like me who have the heart to give to kids they didn't give birth to. My love for young children keeps me awake at night, trying to figure out the way to assist them.

Sometimes people look down on us, especially school teachers who always force us to do their prescribed syllabus even though we have our own modules as Peer Educators. They sometimes tell us that no one can rescue these kids' lives but fortunately God always proves them wrong. Most of the school kids always bring their problems to me and I am happy that I always manage to help them where and when necessary. We work very closely with the departments of Education, Social Development and Health, the SAPS, traditional leaders, local councillors and other NGOs around East London to fight against social issues like crime and teenage pregnancies in our villages. The number of taverns and shebeens in our area also bothers me a lot. Fortunately, the liquor board is slowly intervening with this. I work with a group of Peer Educators and Homework Assistants, as we assist the children with homework at some of our schools. We also assist girls who are doing matric from Tshlomnqa High, with basic computer skills. For me there is no stipulated timeframe for when I start and end my job. I listen, assist where and when I can, I refer to relevant people. I love what I do, I like to see happy, strong people.

Since 2017, Zanoncedo managed to employ 80 people. Since the matric pass rate has increased. Teen pregnancies have been reduced. We have really made a difference to young people's lives. I am now doing what I love. I am now able to inspire young people just as I was inspired by Ms Ntoni and Sis Phumla. My big dream now is to help build a Skills and Development Centre at Chalumna. Our young people really need this.





SANDVELD

LOCAL DEVELOPMENT AGENCY

Graafwater is a small rural town in the Sandveld region of the Western Cape along the West Coast, 300km from Cape Town. The town which is named after the Afrikaans term for “digging for water”¹ lies midway between Clanwilliam and Lambertsbaai² and was built as a railway junction in 1910, for agricultural products from Clanwilliam and seafood products from Lambert’s Bay to be transported. It falls under the Cederberg Local Municipality which is bordered by the Cederberg Mountains in the east and the Atlantic Ocean in the west. The main economic activities in the municipal district are agriculture, forestry and fishing (25.7%), wholesale and retail trade, catering and accommodation (17.3%), finance, insurance, real estate and business services (15.3%), manufacturing (12.8%) and general government (9.8%).³

The population of Graafwater according to the 2011 Census⁴ was 2,261, 83% who describe themselves as Coloured, 14% as White and 2% as Black African. Afrikaans is the predominant language spoken by 97% of the population.

The Sandveld Local Development Agency (SALDA) was established in Graafwater in 2011 to provide access to justice services to poor and marginalised members of their community and to educate them of their rights. SALDA’s other focus areas, include farm worker development, health and HIV/Aids issues, local economic development and youth development. SALDA is also part of the SCAT YouthBank programme. The organization also formed a strong partnership with Enel Green Powers, the solar power plant operators in Paleisheuwel. This partnership has allowed them to start a community computer training and internet facility.

1. Raper, P. (1987). Dictionary of Southern African Place Names (Vol. 46). <https://doi.org/10.1080/10228195.2015.1113434>
2. Graafwater | Western Cape | Visit Lamberts Bay. (2019). Retrieved October 12, 2019, from www.lambertsbay.co.za website: <https://www.lambertsbay.co.za/about-graafwater.html>
3. Cederberg Local Municipality - Overview. (2019.). Retrieved October 6, 2019, from <https://municipalities.co.za/overview/1227/cederberg-local-municipality>
4. Frith, A. (2019). Census 2011: Main Place: Graafwater. Retrieved October 12, 2019, from census website: <https://census2011.adrianfrith.com/place/161003>

FAST FACTS

NAME: Sandveld Local Development Agency

LED BY: Jonathan van der Westhuizen

MAIN CHALLENGES FACED BY THE COMMUNITY: Poverty, unemployment, domestic violence, alcohol and drug abuse

MAIN ACTIVITIES: Paralegal support; development of the local economy; educating the community, YouthBank programme.

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HOW TYPING A CONSTITUTION INSPIRED ME TO CHANGE PEOPLE'S LIVES



Nashwill Hanekom Youth Worker, Nikiwe Kaunda Irish Embassy, Joanne Harding SCAT Director, Avрил Heine Paralegal, Karen de Waal Board Secretary, Colleen Alexander-Juies, Monique Ruiters administrator for SALDA and Seth Tladi SCAT Programme Director.



Jonathan van der Westhuizen conducting a community workshop.



Adam Kotze, community member, in a forum drama workshop on GBV.

AVRIL HEIN WAS ASKED BY A FRIEND TO HELP TYPE THE CONSTITUTION FOR A LOCAL ADVICE OFFICE. HE WAS SO INSPIRED BY WHAT HE READ THAT HE ASKED TO WORK AT THE ADVICE OFFICE FULL-TIME.

I reside in a small town called Graafwater that's located between Clanwilliam and Lambertsbaai on the West Coast. Graafwater is suitable as a retirement village because it is usually very quiet. It is a very proud village especially when it comes to cleanliness. The streets are often swept, and the litter is picked up to make the town look attractive. When you arrive in Graafwater from Clanwilliam, what people have dubbed 'ASLA Camp' is the first thing you come across and when you cross the bridge, to your left you find Graafwater South which is where the houses are. To your right you find Graafwater North which leads to the town.

I grew up on a farm in Kraaifontein, Joostenbergvlakte. Our family then moved from farm to farm. The first was Ruststasie near Malmesbury, the last was De-Hoop and later the neighbouring farm called Smitsvlei. It meant I attended many farm schools. I matriculated from Graafwater High School.

After matric, my cousin approached me to help him at the afterschool centre in Graafwater. He saw my potential and knew what I was capable of. When he left, I was given the job as coordinator of the afterschool centre. I also helped the Service Centre for the elderly with their administration and finances. My love for work dealing with community development grew because I worked with children, young people and the elderly.

Through sport, I met Jonathan Van Der Westhuizen who was in the process of establishing an Advice Office. He asked me to help him type the constitution. As I typed the constitution, I read through it. I was very interested and felt that I wanted to be a part of this setup because I wanted to play a role in people's lives and try to help change their circumstances.



AVRIL HEIN



Because I grew up on farms, I experienced how difficult life could be and knew how farm inhabitants and workers were treated. We stayed in one room where we had to do everything- prepare food, eat, bath and sleep. There was no privacy. I saw how my parents would leave for work early in the morning when it was still dark and come home late at night. Alcohol and drug abuse that leads to family violence on farms and in town has become a big problem.

That's why we as SALDA offer legal advice and case handling five-days a week. We also offer capacity building workshops and create awareness about peoples' rights. To address the social problems such as the alcohol and drug abuse that leads to family violence, we make use of forum drama to depict the effect of family violence on women and children. Men and women from the community come to watch and get involved in the discussions that take place after the forum drama. We use this method to change their views and attitudes.

To do this work, the office needs funding to serve the community. The office is funded by SCAT, the Department of Labour for workshops surrounding workers' rights and FHR for family violence and other programmes. SALDA also does fundraising where we get support from our communities and thereby make use of SCAT's FRIS funding.

What I experienced growing up, often made me think about the future and how we as people can make a difference by helping, supporting and advising others. That's why I became part of the Advice Office sector. To make a difference in peoples' lives, to change their circumstances on farms and even in the town and to change the attitudes towards family violence.

The love I have for the work I do will never fade and I will always strive to serve the community and try to change people's circumstances.

HOE DIE KONSTITUSIE MY GEÏNSPIREER HET OM MENSE SE LEWENS TE VERANDER

Ek is Avrill Hein woonagtig in 'n klein dorpie Graafwater, dit is geleë tussen Clanwilliam en Lambertsbaai in die Weskus. Graafwater is geskik as 'n aftree plekkie omdat dit gewoonlik baie stil is. Graafwater is 'n baie trotse dorpie veral die skoonheid daarvan, strate word dikwels gevee en papiere opgetel om die aangesig baie aantreklik te maak van die dorp. As jy in kom in Graafwater vanaf Clanwilliam kry jy eers vir ASLA Kamp soos die mense dit gedoop het en as jy oor die brug gaan kry jy vir Graafwater Suid, links die woonbuurt, en regs Graafwater Noord die dorp.

Ek het groot geword in Kraaifontein, Joostenbergvlakte op 'n plaas. Daarna het ons gesin verhuis van plaas tot plaas. Die eerste was Ruststasie naby Malmesbury, die laaste De-hoop en later na die buurplaas Smitsvlei. Dit het bedoel dat ek baie plaas skole bygewoon het. Ek het op Graafwater Hoërskool gematriekuleer.

Na matriek het my neef my genader om hom te kom help by die Naskoolsentrum in Graafwater, hy het my potensiaal gesien en geweet waarna toe ek instaat is. Hy het die Naskoolsentrum verlaat en ek het die pos gekry as koördineerder van die Naskoolsentrum. Ek het ook die Dienssentrum vir bejaardes gehelp om hul administrasie en finansies te administreer. Omdat ek met kinders, jongmense en bejaardes gewerk het, het my liefde begin vir gemeenskap ontwikkelings werk.



Deur middle van sport het ek vir Jonathan v/d Westhuizen ontmoet wat besig was om 'n advies kantoor te stig. Hy't my gevra om hom te help om die konstitusie te tik. Soos ek die konstitusie tik het ek dit deur gelees, en was baie geintreseerd. Ek het gevoel dat ek deel wil wees van hierdie opset, want dit is hoe ek 'n rol in mense se lewens kan speel en hul omstandighede verander.

Soos ek groot geword het op plase het ek ervaar hoe moeilik dit gaan op plase, en hoe ons plaas bewoners en werkers behandel word. Ons het in 'n een vertrek kamertjie gebly, waar ons alles moet doen, kos voorberei, eet, bad en slaap. Daar was geen privaatheid nie. Ek het gesien hoe my ouers soggens vroeg in die donker moet uit gaan vir werk en saans laat by die huis kom. Ek sien ook hoe alkohol en dwelm misbruik wat lei tot gesinsgeweld op plase en ons dorp 'n groot probleem is.

Dis waarom ons as SALDA 'n vyf dagse regs advies en saak hantering aan bied, asook kapasiteits bou, werksinkels, en bewusmaking oor mense regte. Om die sosiale probleme aan te spreek soos alkohol en dwelm misbruik wat lei tot gesinsgeweld maak ons gebruik van forum drama. Dit is a metode van drama wat ons gebruik om uit te beeld wat die effek van gesinsgeweld is op vroue en kinders. Mans en vroue in die gemeenskap kom om te kyk en word betrokke by die besprekings wat na die forum drama plaasvind. Ons gebruik die metode om hul uitkyk en houdings op die samelewing te verander.

Om hierdie werk te doen het die kantoor befondsing nodig, om die gemeenskap te bedien. Die kantoor word befonds deur SCAT, Departement van Arbeid vir werksinkels rondom werkers regte en Foundation for Human Rights (FHR) vir gesinsgeweld en ander programme. SALDA doen ook fondsinsameling waar ons ondersteuning kry van ons gemeenskappe en daar deur maak ons gebruik van SCAT se FRIS fonds.

Wat ek ervaar het soos ek groot geword het, het my baie gelaat dink aan die toekoms, hoe ons as mens 'n verskil kan maak in ander se lewe om te help, ondersteun en te adviseer. Daarom het ek deel geword van die Advies kantoor sektor om 'n verandering te bring in mense se lewens, om die omstandighede op plase en selfs in die dorp te verander, en die houdings teenoor gesinsgeweld.

Die liefde vir die werk sal nooit vergaan en ek sal streef daarna om my gemeenskappe te help.



NELSPOORT

ADVICE OFFICE AND DEVELOPMENT CENTRE

Nelspoort is a small rural town about 50km from Beaufort West in the semi-arid desert of the Central Karoo.¹ It lies in an abandoned section of the old N1 highway between Beaufort West and Three Sisters on the road from Cape Town to Johannesburg.² The town was established in the 1800s on the original Nelspoort Estates farm owned by John Molteno, who successfully started a merino sheep farming estate in the area. Molteno subsequently became the first prime minister of the Cape colony.³ The town was also renowned for its TB sanatorium which was located here to take advantage of the dry, clean, fresh air of the Karoo mountains, and provided employment for many local villagers. The closure of the sanatorium in 1970 and the change in the route of the N1 has led to the drastic shrinking of the town's economy and unemployment soaring. Census 2011 recorded 1 699 inhabitants in Nelspoort, 80,93 % who identified as Coloured and 16% as Black African. The most spoken language is Afrikaans (90.44%) followed by isiXhosa (2%), Sesotho (2%) and English (2%).⁴

The Nelspoort Advice and Development Office (NADO) was established in 1998 to offer access to justice to the poor communities of Nelspoort and surrounding areas. NADO was part of the Advice Offices of the Central Karoo, Southern Cape and other partner organisations who marched to Constitutional Hill to hand over a petition in solidarity with farm workers who still suffer under illegal evictions and unfair labour practice in spite of the Extension of Security of Tenure Act (ESTA). The Advice Office with the assistance of SCAT has started a YouthBank to stimulate economic opportunities for young people in the town.

1. Nelspoort Travel Information. (2019.). Retrieved October 12, 2019, from <https://www.karoo-information.co.za/routes/town/175/nelspoort>
2. Nelspoort Travel Information. (2019.). Retrieved October 12, 2019, from <https://www.karoo-information.co.za/routes/town/175/nelspoort>
3. C. Schoeman: The Historical Karoo: Traces of the Past in South Africa's Arid Interior. Penguin Random House South Africa. ISBN 1770225684 p.49.
4. Frith, A. (2019). Census 2011: Main Place: Nelspoort. Retrieved October 12, 2019, from census2011.adrianfrith.com website: <https://census2011.adrianfrith.com/place/183003>

FAST FACTS

NAME: Nelspoort Advice and Development centre

LED BY: Arie Jonkers/Claudia van Staden

MAIN CHALLENGES FACED BY THE COMMUNITY: Unemployment, poverty, substance abuse, domestic violence, orphaned and vulnerable children

MAIN ACTIVITIES: Paralegal services to members of their community and surrounding areas; home based care support programme; orphaned and vulnerable children's support programmes; feeding scheme for destitute children; job creation projects

ADDRESS: 2 Old Nurses Home, Nelspoort

CONTACT: Tel: 023 416 1878 / Cell: 076 099 9682

HOW I BECAME A MASTER CHEF OF YOUNG PEOPLE'S DREAMS



Felix Robertson (SASSA), Vivian Lund, Me Ghom (SASSA), Anista Swartz and Getruida Pienaar at farmworker rights workshop in Nelspoort.



Nelspoort Advice Office.



Claudia van Staden facilitating a workshop on farmworker rights.

CLAUDIA VAN STADEN TRAINED TO BE A CHEF AND HAD SECURED A JOB IN A RESTAURANT IN PLETTENBERG BAY. HER MOTHER'S SUDDEN DEATH MEANT SHE HAD TO RETURN TO HER SMALL KAROO HOMETOWN OF NELSPORT. BACK HOME, HER LIFE TOOK ON A NEW DIRECTION WORKING FOR THE ADVICE OFFICE, COOKING UP RECIPES FOR YOUNG PEOPLE TO ATTAIN THEIR DREAMS.

"Pregnant! Who would want to be a mother now, my life has only now begun?" That was my reaction when I found that I was pregnant with my first child. I was 18 years old, still a child myself. Defeat, however, was not an option, as I had another human being dependent on me. My precious child expected me to take the world head on. Shame and scandal were to be part of who I am, I thought. I returned to college and completed my Diploma in Professional Cookery, although I wished to become a teacher.

I had to provide for my child, so staying at home with no prospects of employment was not an option. My working life thus started on a game reserve in the Eastern Cape. My employers on the game reserve made sure only the best and most beautiful was on display to guests. The workers on the game reserve, on the other hand, had no value and were treated as such. Witnessing the treatment of my colleagues broke my heart. As always, I could not stand by and continue to witness this mistreatment. How is it that in this day and age workers still face discrimination and abuse? My soul rebelled against the injustices of the working conditions. Workers had to hitchhike back to the main town, when there were a number of vacant cars on the premises. It did not take long for me to realise that I had to leave the game reserve, as I would not be able to sustain my silence any longer.



CLAUDIA VAN STADEN



After deciding to leave the game reserve, I came across an opportunity to work at a restaurant in Plettenberg Bay. Young and full of energy, with the world at my feet, I packed my bags and headed to the coast. This was the best professional move I made, in terms of my trade as a chef. Little did I know that this would only last a short while. Soon after I started work at the restaurant, my mother passed away. She passed away during a time in my life when I had the leisure to decide the direction my life would take. The death of my mother, however, soon made me realise that my options were very limited. With my dreams shattered, I persevered. I started working in the bakery at the local Advice Office.

And so, the next chapter of my life began. Working in and with the community has many ups and downs. Initially I faced many challenges. My community did not want to accept me, although it was my place of birth, here in the heart of the Karoo. How do you give your all to a community that does not accept you? Maybe this was their way of dealing with their collective pain, visible on their faces. Tears, determination and the prayers of a grandparent was the order of the day. Thus, my new journey started as an activist and social development worker.

The wellbeing of the people of Nelspoort lie close to my heart, although the prevailing conditions may be overwhelming. Still, the fire of development, change, hope and dreams always win in the face of adversity. It brings back a memory of a young man, who today had graduated with an LLB degree. Although he had achieved great academic success during high school, he had not secured placement at university and was at risk of forming part of the unemployment statistics. In our attempt to assist this young man in achieving his dreams, we started enquiring on his behalf. We were informed by the university that he was on a waiting list and would be considered in due course. Not happy to wait for an answer when this young man's future was at stake, I decided to drive to Cape Town and pay the university a visit. We had an audience with an official and explained the context of the young man, with his outstanding matric results as evidence of his brilliance. Four years later, this young man graduated with an LLB degree. Today, we have a lawyer in the community. *Tannie Claudia* (Aunty Claudia), as my community refers to me now, became the go-to person for assistance in achieving your dreams. Over the years, many people have benefitted and achieved their dreams, a process in which the Advice Office plays a vital role.

Despite our ongoing success, it is not always sunshine and roses in Nelspoort. Despite our challenges, however, the Nelspoort Advice Office continue to advocate and work to better the conditions of farmworkers, women and the youth of our community. All this success, however, would not be possible without the assistance of SCAT, who have been walking the road to improving people's lives with the Nelspoort Advice Office for the past 15 years.

THUSO

ADVICE OFFICE AND DEVELOPMENT CENTRE



Pampierstad (or Thuso a Sotho or Tswana word meaning Help) is a small rural town located 31km north-west of Jan Kempdorp and 112km from Kimberley in the Northern Cape.¹ The town was established in the former homeland of Bophuthatswana in the late 1960s, named after Lekwalo Pampiri who was also known as Pampier. He was the son of a local Chief Motlaadile.² The town now falls under the jurisdiction of the Frances Baard District Municipality in the Northern Cape. The main economic activities in the Francis Baard municipal district are community services (28%), finance (22%), trade (15%), transport (12%) and mining (10%).³ The population of Pampierstad according to the 2011 Census⁴ is 21,707 of whom 99% identify as Black African. Setswana is the predominant language spoken by 83.35% of the population. The town has a high unemployment rate and is torn by social problems such as substance abuse, child pregnancy, youth unemployment and crime.

Thuso is a small Advice Office located in Pampierstad and tries to tackle these social ills by offering paralegal services to a community who have lost faith in the justice system. It has also set up a YouthBank programme aimed at addressing the youth unemployment crisis by funding projects conceived of and run by young people. This LDA also participates in programmes that are aimed at improving the community of Pampierstad like the recent election and voter education process, anti-substance abuse talks and mediating on various community related issues and cases.

1. Where is Pampierstad, South Africa located? Distance, Country & Map. (n.d.). Retrieved October 12, 2019, from <https://www.entfernungrechner.net/en/city/966380>
2. SAHO. (2013). Pampierstad | South African History Online. Retrieved October 12, 2019, from South African History Online website: <https://www.sahistory.org.za/place/pampierstad>
3. Frances Baard District Municipality - Overview. (2019). Retrieved October 12, 2019, from Municipalities of South Africa website: <https://municipalities.co.za/overview/134/frances-baard-district-municipality>
4. Frith, A. (2019). Census 2011: Main Place: Pampierstad. Retrieved October 12, 2019, from census2011.adrianfrith.com website: <https://census2011.adrianfrith.com/place/386004>

FAST FACTS

NAME: Thuso Advice and Development Centre

LED BY: Michael Lasky Besent

MAIN CHALLENGES FACED BY THE COMMUNITY: Unemployment, crime, teen pregnancy, poverty, need for constructive activities like arts and music for youth

MAIN ACTIVITIES: Paralegal support; labour disputes; farm eviction; YouthBank

ADDRESS: Pampierstad Shopping Complex, Shop No. 12, Lucas Mangope Street, P.O. Box 25, Hartswater, 8570.

CONTACT: Phone: 053 996 2653

HOW WE UNEARTHED THE WEALTH OF OUR POOR COMMUNITY



Lesley Ramonye talking to Reatlegile Sebe and Michael Lasky Besent.



Thuso / Pampierstad Advice Office.



Michael Lasky Besent.



MICHAEL LASKY BESENT

MICHAEL LASKY BESENT WAS RETRENCHED FROM HIS JOB AT A MINE AND WAS GIVEN A MEAGRE RETRENCHMENT PACKAGE. THIS INJUSTICE HE FACED FIRED HIM UP TO SET UP AN ADVICE OFFICE TO HELP OTHERS WITH SIMILAR PROBLEMS. HE WAS ALSO INSPIRED BY A SCAT WORKSHOP TO ESTABLISH A YOUTH CENTRE TO UNTAP THE POTENTIAL OF UNEMPLOYED YOUNG PEOPLE IN PAMPIERSTAD.

I am a paralegal working in Pampierstad at Thuso Advice and Development Centre. I started working at the mines in Floria as a crush clerk. When I was retrenched at the mine I was paid a very low severance package which I knew did not match the number of years I worked at the mine. That made me very angry and despondent. I realised that what happened to me might be happening to a lot of other people without resources. That brought me to fight for the rights of people.

I started attending workshops at the Department of Labour and learnt much about the Labour Relations Act. I then started referring people with similar problems to the Labour Department to get assistance, but the problem was I was not getting any feedback. No one was monitoring the progress of cases dealing with unfair labour practice, unfair dismissals, farmworkers living in horrible conditions and young people loitering around without anything to do. I started developing a bug about doing something for our community.

We called a community meeting to inform the community about the plan to start an organisation that would advocate for the rights of our marginalised people. In the community meeting someone informed us that the new South Africa is alive with

opportunities and our job was just to explore those opportunities. That is when I became curious and started knocking at governmental department doors looking for opportunities to push back the frontiers of poverty. I was then introduced to the idea of having an Advice Office by someone from the Department of Social Development after he noticed my interest in getting involved in community development and changing the lives of our community members.



We now have a Youth Centre where forty community youths are encouraged to develop their potential. We also introduce the youth to entrepreneurial opportunities like food security plots and car washes. We researched what might have caused problems like the high unemployment rate, youth pregnancy and a lack of equal opportunities. We asked why the very problems we encountered in the apartheid regime still persisted now in the community. The results of our research found that our local government is uncaring and there is no community participation in our local municipality. The people of Pampierstad were not involved in community development and the youth know absolutely nothing about local government programmes.

We fortunately received funding from Social Change Assistance Trust (SCAT) to help us address community problems. SCAT also organised capacity building workshops for us as an empowerment initiative. In one of the workshops facilitated by SCAT, one presenter motivated us by saying, "there is wealth in every poor community". Our task as an LDA was to identify that wealth. That inspired us so much and we realised that the youth in our community had a lot of potential waiting to be released. We then called a community meeting and informed the community about the funding we received from SCAT and what we could do to assist their self-sustainable projects with that funding. I am happy to report that we have a group of youths who have released a CD through our assistance.

Thuso Advice Centre also started a Youth Centre which can sustain itself with programmes like a food gardening project. There is also a group of DJs who are entertaining people at social events for a minimal fee. Through the Advice Centre intervention, the crime rate has drastically gone down because the community have been urged to start street committees to combat crime. We as the Advice Office have also started the Men's Forum in the community as we believe if there is order in the home, half the battle is won. We believe that the Advice Office achieves so much with constant dialogue, meetings and feedback from the community. We plan to strengthen our partnership with SCAT as they have shown beyond reasonable doubt that they really care about community development. We also need to embark on a sustainable local economic development project by engaging constantly with other government institutions.

Now I feel that there is light at the end of the tunnel as more youth are involved in community development projects. There is this spirit of hope and active citizenship, allowing youth to embrace and adopt my generation's ANC "each one teach one strategy". This means if you know- teach, if you don't know- learn. The community have learned to help each other to oppose the ill treatment at the mine. Now our community's voices are being heard and engaged youth who are activists are promoting access to justice and community development with us at Thuso Advice Centre.



Thandokazi Qwayi and Antovinia Philander.



Truline Morris & Rodeniah Philander.



Gladman Maqwara (Paralegal).



Jeremy Maarman, Antovinia Philander and Xola maqwara.

STEP UP



Kayamandi is an old township which sits perched on a hill overlooking the prime real estate of Stellenbosch in the Cape Winelands District of the Western Cape.¹ Stellenbosch Town is 50km to the east of Cape Town and is - after Cape Town - the second oldest town in South Africa.² The town is home to Stellenbosch University which was in the apartheid years the intellectual home of the Broederbond, the powerful group of Afrikaner elite who controlled South Africa prior to democracy in 1994.

The origins of Kayamandi are linked to the racist separate development policies of the apartheid government and the white farm owners in the Winelands district. The township started in 1918 when an isolated population of farm workers, who owners did not want to live on their land, moved to the first Black area in Stellenbosch. This was followed by the development of the Du Toitville housing scheme in the 1920s. From 1941 to 1953 Kayamandi was established and expanded. The residents were predominantly families and single male workers brought to Kayamandi specifically to work on the farms or factories of Stellenbosch. It was also during this period that the first superintendent, H.D.R. Blok, ran Kayamandi. In 1966, the nine largest employers in the Stellenbosch district including Stellenbosch University, the town administration, several vineyards and a fruit packing company united to erect 38 hostels in the township. The name Kayamandi is derived from isiXhosa language, from khaya meaning "home" and mnandi meaning "nice".³ Many of the 24 246 residents of Kayamandi today live in shacks made of corrugated iron and wood scraps. The predominant language spoken is isiXhosa.⁴ The stark contrast between the wealth of Stellenbosch with its pavement cafes and quaint boutique stores versus the extreme poverty of the informal settlements of Kayamandi is a microcosm of South Africa's inequality.

Step Up is an emerging LDA based in Kayamandi. It has a strong youth development focus and has piloted the YouthBank. The LDA also attends to clients needing assistance with cases of unfair labour practice and unfair dismissals by local employers.

1. Miller, J. (2019). Unequal Scenes - Stellenbosch / Kayamandi. Retrieved October 15, 2019, from Unequal Scenes website: <https://unequalscenes.com/stellenbosch-kayamandi>
2. Stellenbosch Local Municipality - Overview. (2019). Retrieved October 15, 2019, from Municipalities of South Africa website: <https://municipalities.co.za/overview/1210/stellenbosch-local-municipality>
3. Rock, David (2011). The Location Shall Be Called Kayamandi: A History of Kayamandi (MA). Stellenbosch University
4. Frith, A. (2019). Census 2011: Main Place: Khayamandi. Retrieved October 15, 2019, from <https://census2011.adrianfrith.com/place/167012>

FAST FACTS

NAME: Step Up

LED BY: ELBRE JACOBS

MAIN CHALLENGES FACED BY THE COMMUNITY: unemployment, gangsterism, alcohol and drug abuse, teenage pregnancy

MAIN ACTIVITIES: Youth bank; Advice Office

ADDRESS: 28 George Blake Street, Kayamandi, Stellenbosch

CONTACT: Phone: 021 889 3001, Cell: 078 075 6260

Email: stepupassociation53@gmail.com

I GAVE UP GANG LIFE FOR GOD AND GIVING BACK TO MY COMMUNITY



Sharoleen Morris - Administrator at Step Up.



Gladman Maqwara (Paralegal), Sharoleen Morris and Elbre Jacobs (Coordinator).



YouthBank participants Tashnine Philander, Rodeniah Philander and Antovinia Philander.



ELBRE JACOBS

ELBRE JACOBS TURNED AWAY FROM HIS LIFE AS A GANG LEADER AFTER HE SAW HIS FRIEND DIE OF A DRUG OVERDOSE. HE TURNED TO GOD AND DECIDED TO COMMIT HIMSELF TO BEING A VOICE FOR THE VOICELESS THROUGH HIS WORK AS A PARALEGAL AND YOUTH COUNSELLOR AT STEP UP.

In the 1990s just before the bells of freedom rang in our beautiful South Africa, I was a young nine-year-old boy playing in the streets of Worcester with my friends. It was just before sunset and "clock in time" for our parents. A few gangsters passed us. Minutes later a man wearing blue working gear with a black backpack on his back, rode past us on a blue bike. The gangsters robbed and killed the man. We saw it happen but couldn't do anything because we were afraid. I have never felt so helpless and disappointed in my life. I wanted to help the man so badly but I was powerless. I made a promise to myself that when I became a man I would dedicate my life to help others, especially those who were voiceless. After that incident my life took a real bad turn.

My mother was diagnosed with neck cancer and my father lost his work due to drinking problems. I started using alcohol at an early age and was used by older people to do their dirty work. After my mother died my sister had to take over the role of mother and father. Our only income was from the childcare grant. My mother made me promise her that I would finish school just before she died. Our family lost a lot of things even our house because my father was tricked into signing documents. He didn't have a full understanding of what he was signing. Because of these struggles at home, I joined a gang and became the leader. We used to use drugs. One night a good friend of mine died because he overdosed on drugs. His parents were asked to come to the hospital and give the doctors permission to turn off the life support machine. Right there the

picture of the man on the blue bike came again to my mind. Just like that my friend had 'no voice'. I decided to change my life. I needed to be a voice for others. I needed to help the helpless, give hope to the hopeless.

In my matric year, gangsters attacked us. My friend ran away, but they grabbed me and put a gun in my mouth. I just asked the Lord to give me one more chance at that time and He granted it to me. They released me. In fear of my life I ran to Montague, where one night at an open-air church service I gave my heart to our Lord and saviour Jesus Christ.

Later I met Olin Kiewiers who was actively involved in Advice Offices. He introduced me to the community development field. At last I felt happy. I was free from the guilt I was carrying. Every time I help somebody, I feel complete. I found my purpose being a 'voice to the voiceless'.

I moved to Stellenbosch for work purposes, doing substance abuse programmes in schools and farms. In 2011, the organisation I worked for closed due to lack of funding. I wanted to give up on life but the voice of the Lord told me to start this organisation STEP UP Association which stands for Serve Train Educate Plan Uplift and Provision. We started off with no funding for three years then the National Development Agency (NDA) started funding us for a year. After that we were stranded again. We approached SCAT who offered to help us. Our office almost closed down, but with the support of SCAT at a critical time in our organisation we are still functioning with more funders on board.

Now we serve people from all areas in and around Stellenbosch. I am a paralegal and mediator. Seeing clients enter our office helpless but leaving with a smile of satisfaction makes our work worthwhile. My focus is on youth development as I see on a daily basis youth who are involved in gangsterism and substance abuse. I see girls as young as 13 years old getting pregnant. Unemployment and a lack of skills also play a role in youth joining gangs and teenage pregnancies. Our services help decrease the problems youth are facing. We reach more than 300 youth with our Youth Camps, 100 people with our Leadership Skills workshops, and we reach about 500 participants with our Labour Act workshop. Our passion is to save and develop young people, giving them opportunity and hope.

A young man visited our office after he was unfairly dismissed without any compensation. We handled his case and he received the money that was rightfully owed to him. He first became a volunteer and is now a permanent worker at our offices. He is also part of the annual Dullah Omar School of training for paralegals and is part of SCAT's capacity building workshops. We, STEP UP Association, managed to give a voice to the young man and now he is giving a voice and hope to many other young people. The organisation played a potent role in my life. I found my own voice and become a qualified paralegal and mediator. The work we do in the local community and amongst youth is bringing a visible positive change to their lives. SCAT played a vital role in the organisation by given monetary, emotional, and mentoring support through their capacity building and good governance workshops. SCAT helped the organisation to grow and get access to other funders. I am so grateful to SCAT for giving us a voice to give a voice to the voiceless!!!!





STRYDENBURG

FUTURE LEADERS ORGANISATION (SFLO)

Strydenburg is a typical arid, semi-desert Karoo town in the Northern Cape located halfway between Cape Town and Johannesburg. It is 181.3km south west of Kimberley, 55km south-west of Hopetown and 75km north-west of Britstown in the eastern part of the Northern Cape.¹ The name is Afrikaans for 'town of argument' which refers to a disagreement amongst the town's founders about which farm the town should have been situated on.²

Strydenburg and Hopetown are managed by the Thembelihle Local Municipality situated in the heart of the Karoo in the Pixley Ka Seme District of the Northern Cape.³ The mostly agricultural landscape of the district is rich in natural resources. Today the main economic activities of the Pixley Ka Seme district are community services (26.6%), agriculture (16.6%), transport (15.1%) and trade (12.9%). According to Census 2011,⁴ there are 2987 people living in Strydenburg, 83.90% who identify as coloured, 10.21% who identify as black African and 5.19% who identify as white. The predominant language spoken is Afrikaans (93.56%). Strydenburg is a poor rural town, wracked by unemployment which particularly affects the youth.

Strydenburg Future Leaders Organization (SFLO) is a youth focused community based organisation based in Strydenburg. The SFLO has played a key role in educating the local community about human rights. The organisation helped to provide school leaving youth with meaningful job opportunities in local business and government departments They also facilitate a Community Workers Programme which benefits around 150 local youth.

1. Strydenburg Travel Information. (2019). Retrieved October 13, 2019, from www.karoo-information.co.za/routes/town/508/strydenburg website: <https://www.karoo-information.co.za/routes/town/508/strydenburg>
2. Raper, P. (1987). Dictionary of Southern African Place Names (Vol. 46). <https://doi.org/10.1080/10228195.2015.1113434>
3. Thembelihle Local Municipality - Overview. (2019). Retrieved October 13, 2019, from Municipalities of South Africa website: <https://municipalities.co.za/overview/1178/thembelihle-local-municipality>
4. Frith, A. (2019). Census 2011: Main Place: Strydenburg. Retrieved October 13, 2019, from census2011.adrianfrith.com website: <https://census2011.adrianfrith.com/place/374004>

FAST FACTS

NAME: Strydenburg Future Leaders Organisation (SFLO)

LED BY: Ronald Matjan

MAIN CHALLENGES FACED BY THE COMMUNITY: unemployment, drug abuse, low education levels, teenage pregnancy

MAIN ACTIVITIES: youth development; youth bank

ADDRESS: 269 Kliniek Street, Strydenburg

CONTACT: Phone: 053 683 0001, Cell: 053 683 0001

Email: ronald.matjan@gmail.com

A NEW ERA



Wilma Johannes, Anisa Hendriks - SFLO Administrator, Roelf Jantjies- SFLO Chairperson, Ronnal Matjan - SFLO Project manager.



Strydenburg Future Leaders Organisation (SFLO).



Jan Kersai, Booï Baartman, Anisa Hendriks.

RONALD MATJAN HAD A WELL PAYING JOB AS A PAPER TECHNICIAN IN GAUTENG. THE DEATH OF HIS WIFE BROUGHT HIM BACK HOME TO RURAL STRYDENBURG SO THAT HE COULD HAVE SUPPORT TAKING CARE OF HIS TWO SONS. IT WAS BACK IN HIS HOMETOWN THAT RONALD DISCOVERED HIS PASSION FOR INSPIRING YOUTH THROUGH THE STRYDENBURG FUTURE LEADERS ORGANISATION (SFLO).

I was born in Strydenburg, a rural area with not a lot to offer. We face high unemployment, crime, alcohol abuse, teenage pregnancy and HIV. Most families' income is based on social grants. During my childhood, I had to leave Strydenburg as our school only went until Grade 8. I completed my schooling in Port Elizabeth. After matriculating I joined Sappi Fine Paper, studying papermaking technology through the research centre of CSIR in Pretoria. In 1998 Sappi promoted me and also transferred me to Sappi Fine Papers Extra Mill in Springs, Gauteng. The position was well paid, permanent and had some very good employment benefits, it allowed me to settle in Gauteng and purchase a house. I married Renchia and two boys were born from that marriage. In June 2008 tragedy hit our family when my wife passed away. I now became father, mother and friend to my two boys. This was a difficult period in my life as it was never planned for. My work required a lot of my time and little was left for the demanding development of my two boys. The challenges that were put on me made me do a lot of introspection. I decided that to give my boys the greatest love and respectful upbringing I would have to move back to Strydenburg. I took an early retirement package from my workplace, packed up and moved back to Strydenburg. I had never thought I would return to stay let alone raise my children in a place with no resources.

On my arrival in Strydenburg I heard of a visit by the Minister of Social Development as part of the election campaign. Everyone in Strydenburg was talking about the event since our community hardly gets visits by any such high dignitaries. There was a huge white tent, with podium, air conditioning, lots of black ministerial cars, security and huge trucks with Gauteng equipment. Ah what an event! As busy as I was, I managed to secure a front seat. This was purely a beginning of a new era in my life. Minister Bathabile Dlamini



RONALD MATJAN



took to the podium and made an announcement that the Strydenburg Future Leaders Organisation (SFLO) would be launched on 3 April 2012. The aim of the organisation was to address social ills such as school dropouts, HIV/AIDS, teenage pregnancy, youth unemployment, end teenage pregnancy. WOW, I immediately realised that I needed to be involved and started sharing ideas with the Department of Social Development official and we exchanged numbers. I could not sleep that night as a lot of ideas were running in my mind. I needed to be part of this, and make a difference in my community

The next day we had a community dialogue. It was mentioned that we needed to formulate a business plan, establish a board and open a bank account for the organisation as DSD had secured funding for the organisation. I immediately offered my help. Office premises were already identified. I knew that with all the knowledge and skills that I learned in PE and Gauteng, I could help make SFLO work. DG Murray Trust was responsible for the renovation of the building. SCAT helped us with capacity building, governance and financial management. SCAT helped transform the organisation into a South African Pilot Programme on our way to put Strydenburg on the map. SCAT's capacity building has done a lot to help change the outlook of our youth in Strydenburg to be ready to grab any opportunity. In no time we attracted more and more funders. The organisation now employs fifteen community members who all receive a stipend. This stipend brings financial relief to households and community challenges have been addressed for the first time. The programme grew and created more employment as SFLO was getting more government departments on board. School dropouts have been reduced. Strydenburg was once seen as a backward rural area but now the level of education of community members is drastically improving. This brings a lot of new challenges as these young educated youth need employment.

Strydenburg is served by the satellite offices of the government departments of Justice, Home Affairs, Education, Health, Social Development and SASSA. All staff of the different departments only visit Strydenburg once a week. At our community dialogues we clearly identified that these government jobs should be held by educated people from Strydenburg. This suggestion was not well received by some of these government officials as most of them are deployed with low levels of education.

SFLO is a community-based organisation and the input of the community determines the direction of the future of the organisation. The outcome of our dialogue with the community was that SFLO must continue to capacitate youth interns with skills and improve their level of education. Those youth that have acquired skills should be placed back into the community to do what they were trained to do. The community agreed to formulate a petition to all government departments including the Department of Social Service and Development to give clear direction on the operations of the organisation. All of these obstacles have been overcome and we now have learnerships in plumbing, bricklaying and local government studies.

This work reassures me that moving back to Strydenburg with my boys was worth it. My fears in terms of what I want for my children is overcome by the work done by this organisation. SFLO will carry on by investing in skills development and improving the once low level of education of community members in rural Strydenburg. To me being part of this flagship makes me feel good. I feel great joy when I am able to improve someone's life.

TOUWS RIVER

ADVICE OFFICE



Touws River, more commonly referred to as Touwsrivier, is a former railway town 182km from Cape Town, 82km north-east of Worcester and 54km west-south-west of Matjiesfontein. It was originally built in the late 1800s as a station for the main railway line between Cape Town and the newly discovered diamond fields in Kimberley. The town is named after the Touws River. "Touws" is the Khoi word for "ash" which locals say describes the predominant colour of the river.¹

There are 8126 people who live in Touwsrivier 84,91% who identify as Coloured, 7.52 % who identify as Black African and 6.67% who identify as White. Afrikaans is the main language spoken by 93% of the population²

More recently in 2013, the town's fortunes have changed with the development of the largest concentrated photovoltaic (CPV) solar plant supplying 22 megawatt-peak (MWp) of electricity to Eskom developed by the French company Soitec.

The Touws River Advice Office was established in 2014. The LDA works with the local police and the community policing forum to promote safety on the roads and in the community. Their main focus is to provide paralegal services to farm workers in the neighbouring farming communities. The LDA also plays the role of a community organiser for the local municipality and are regularly called upon to assist with the various community events. They were also involved as community liaison for the Soitec plant supported by the Department of Minerals and Energy.

1. History of Touws River – The Karoo, South Africa. (n.d.). Retrieved October 15, 2019, from <https://www.karoo-southafrica.com/koup/touws-river/history-of-touws-river/>
2. Frith, A. (2019). Census 2011: Main Place: Touwsrivier. Retrieved October 15, 2019, from census2011.adrianfrith.com website: <https://census2011.adrianfrith.com/place/168001>

FAST FACTS

NAME: Touws River Advice Office

LED BY: Desmond Bezuidenhoudt

MAIN CHALLENGES FACED BY THE COMMUNITY: Unemployment, unfair labour practises, poverty

MAIN ACTIVITIES: Paralegal support to farmworkers; youth development

ADDRESS: 41 Logan Street, Touwsrivier

CONTACT: Phone: 078 075 6260

A LIFE OF CARE



Rosey Beukes, Administrator Touws River Advice Office.



Touws River Advice Office.



Desmond Bezuidenhout, coordinator with a client.



DESMOND BEZUIDENHOUT

DESMOND BEZUIDENHOUT USED HIS SKILL AS A TRADE UNION SHOP STEWARD TO FIGHT FOR THE RIGHTS OF FARMWORKERS AND YOUNG PEOPLE IN TOUWSRIVIER

I was born in Ravensmead in Cape Town. At the age of 5 years old, we lost our house because the woman who looked after us left the stove on after she made us porridge. We moved to Touwsrivier because my mother's parents lived there. The town is located between the mountains and it has a warm and friendly community. In the town there are no jobs and the youth need to seek work outside the town. There are the Extended Public Works Programmes (EPWP) and Community Work Programmes (CWP) where people apply for work.

When I was 21 years old I was married in Ceres where I stayed with my wife's parents. I then started working at the Good Hope Fruit factory as a general worker. Later, I was elected to be the shop steward at work. The organiser of the trade union which I was part of, asked me if I would like to serve on their management team. At a general meeting, I was elected as Vice President of the Union and once you were part of management, you would automatically become part of the national executive committee (NEC) of the Congress of South African Trade Unions (COSATU) As a result of this, I have had training on different labour laws and workers' rights at the University of the Western Cape and also at Ditsela Workers Education Institute. Because my mother became sick, I had to move back to Touwsrivier.

COSATU gave each member an NEC jacket and I wore it often. Because the community saw me in that jacket, they asked me to apply for a position at the Advice Office. I applied for a position but there was a large list of criteria you had to satisfy before you could be selected. My background in labour counted in my favour and I was one of ten people who were shortlisted. The ten people were then invited for interviews where a panel would give you marks. My background in labour and the certificates I received were a good indication that I knew what I was doing and I was very happy to be appointed as a field worker.

Following my appointment, I immediately took on a CCMA case. It was between Aquila Game Reserve and Peet Meiring. The company said that Peet Meiring used his sick leave maliciously because he did not have a sick letter and he just wanted to stay at home. I immediately referred the matter to the CCMA as an unfair dismissal with misconduct.

That same night, a million rand company loaded some of their farm workers on a truck with zinc plates and poles. The workers had to put up shacks in a village named Zion Park that was outside the town. The workers called me and told me what had happened, and I immediately went to stop the move. I called the police while I was on my way. They helped me to stop the move and to guide the truck back to the farm. When we arrived at the farm, the owner awaited us at the gate. The policeman asked her if she had an eviction order because she could not kick people off the farm. When she answered "no", he said that she had to have an eviction order, and that the trucks would have to take the people back to their houses. We then decided to leave the farm, after she told us she would get an eviction notice. This case went to court but the judge then threw the case out and told the farm owner to sort out her administrative work or come with suggestions.

Two years ago, my wife had a stroke. I had to leave work to accompany her to Worcester hospital. I have to wash her and get her ready and give her food in the mornings before work. Because the work I do helps my community, I had to decide whether to work at home or at the office. I decided I would help my wife in the morning and then go to work. It allows me to do my job and also help my community. Then people do not have to come to my house to complain.

Our Advice Office makes provision for education and training for the youth. It is a good opportunity for our youth to better their lives and create a good future for themselves. For me, as a field worker, it is an opportunity to get our youth into various institutions as well as TVET Colleges. I am pleased that I can offer the youth a good opportunity by doing my job well and that I can also look after my wife.



ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The idea for this book was incubated a year ago around a fire with a group of “SCATtie” *old girls*. It is a sequel to *Rural Voice*, which was authored by Margie Orford. The book took shape in discussions with the SCAT staff and trustees, who made it a reality. Heather Robertson’s passion for story telling enthused a group of 29 LDA staff, SCAT staff and five students from the Law Faculty at the University of Cape Town (UCT) at a four-day workshop, where these beautiful stories were generated. The students, Damion Jacobs, Kudzai Mhepo, Clara Dybbroe Viltoft, Savannah Smit and Philile Ntuli were organised by Dr Kelley Moulton and Diane Jefthas of the Centre for Law and Society at UCT. Along with SCAT staff they assisted the writers, translated stories and have become valuable contributors to the SCAT team.

SCAT trustees, who give of their time voluntarily, also contributed with edits. Sue Anderson proof-read every story and Nkosikhulule Xhawulengweni Nyembezi and Lorenzo Wakefield gave the book final copy edits. SCAT staff made sure that we had all the names of people in the pictures.

Zeke du Plessis, our photographer, has beautifully captured the visual story of SCAT. He travelled long distances to capture the photos, which are so rich and vibrant.

I would also like to value and honour the role and contribution of past SCAT staff. They have walked through the doors of SCAT and brought the energy and diversity which has shaped our work.

In addition to the founder and current trustees in this book, there have been several people who have made valuable contributions to SCAT as trustees of the organisation. These include Priscilla Sigila (most recent chairperson), Nomfundo Walaza (ex-chairperson), Greg Erasmus (ex-chairperson), Annemarie Hendrikz (Director and ex-officio trustee), Bishop Mazwi Tisani, Mpho Ndebele, Professors Leila Patel and Barney Pityana, Peter Smith and Sibongile Mkhabela.

The Norwegian Church Aid (NCA) was our first funder and remained with us for 25 years. Bjarne Lindstrom then Consul General for Norway, and Reverend Canon Dr Trond Bakkevig were key role-players in securing this funding and relationship. We are grateful that NCA took that leap of faith and allowed the founder trustees to birth an indigenous organisation that continues to support transformative work in rural and peri-urban communities. Cordaid, with support from the Dutch Government, was also a long-standing funder of SCAT’s work. I am pleased that the Dutch Embassy will be funding SCAT in 2019/20. Dan Church Aid and the Church of Sweden, also long-standing funders, exited after the dawn of democracy. Other past funders of SCAT include: The Finnish Embassy, the Canadian International Development Agency, the DG Murray Trust, a local Foundation, and the European Union. The South African Government, through the National Department of Health, the National Development Agency, the National Lotteries Commission, and the provincial departments of Social Development in the Western, Eastern and Northern Cape also supported SCAT’s work. I would also like to acknowledge our former corporate funders: the ABSA Foundation, Anglo American Chairman’s Fund, De Beers Chairman’s Fund, Engen, First Rand Foundation, HCI Foundation, Ponahalo De Beers Trust, and WesBank.

Special thanks to the Global Fund for Community Foundations who funded the book writing process. I would also like to thank the C.S. Mott Foundation, the Constitutionalism Fund, the Ford Foundation, Joan St Leger Lindbergh Charitable Trust, the Irish Embassy and the Raith Foundation, who provide us with core funding and have contributed to the writing workshop and the staff time that we put into this work. I would also like to acknowledge the Social Justice Initiative, the Ackerman Pick ‘n Pay Family Foundation, the Foundation for Human Rights, and the Open Society Foundation who support our programmatic work.

The success of 35 years of SCAT does not belong to one person or institution. It belongs to many – a few of whom I’ve mentioned here. However, SCAT would not be able to do what it does, without our LDA partners. Their contributions to their communities and SCAT are acknowledged, through this book.

Joanne Harding: SCAT Director





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