

Making a success of her youth!

30-year-old Nontsikelelo "Ntsiki" Mangqasana was born and raised in Port Elizabeth. We chatted with her about her career to-date and her aspirations as a South African youth.



Nontsikelelo "Ntsiki" Mangqasana

In 2009, our company – Siyaphambili General Contractors – formed a joint venture with two of our construction clients. Wells Estate Joint Venture was formed and we tendered for and won a contract to build 668 houses in Wells Estate in Port Elizabeth. In 2011, we won our second bid for contract with the HDA to build houses in Chatty."

What do you do in your spare time?

"I'm not really outgoing but I enjoy reading and watching movies or having a braai at home with my family."

Who is your role model?

"Nelson Mandela is my motivation. I ask myself, 'If he could make it, why can't I make it?' It's nice to have a role model. People often say 'My mom is my role model'. I love my mom, but here is this other person who I aspire to be like; I want to be a leader like him. I want to succeed like him."

What words of encouragement do you have for the youth of today?

"If you look at our leaders – like Nelson Mandela – they started with nothing. God never promised that life would be easy, but he will take you through it. My advice would be to work hard; persevere; there's always light at the end of the tunnel. And also pray; prayer works. When I am really frustrated and I feel down, I pray. Prayer makes me feel content."

What do you currently do, and how did you end up doing it?

"I am a qualified accountant but am also involved in construction. It all started in 2007, after I passed my degree the previous year. I was approached about a partnership in a company that cut grass and cleared land, and I agreed to join."

Youth Day 2015

On 16 June, South Africa commemorated Youth Day. We remembered the more than 20 000 pupils from Soweto who marched against the Bantu education system. In the weeks after this march, about 700 people – many of them youngsters – were killed in violence and clashes with the police.

Useful contact numbers

The Housing Development Agency: 041 393 2600
Nelson Mandela Bay Municipality:
Customer Care (All hours): 041 506 5555
Service Delivery Centre (All hours for water, sanitation and all other services): 0800 205 050
Human Settlements Eastern Cape: 043 711 9500
Emergencies: (From cell phone): 112
Childline: 0800 55 555
Eskom Customer Care: 0860 037 566
Land Invasion:
Macdonald 082 410 5066
Hlela 079 490 0531
Fire: 041 585 2311
041 508 5505
Water leaks, Power outages etc. 0800 205 050
General Emergencies: 041 506 2735

Clinics

Chatty Clinic in Dullisear Street: 041 506 3070
Veeplaas Clinic in Kani Street: 041 506 1183
Zwide Clinic in Johnson Street: 041 506 7410
Soweto-on-Sea Clinic in Mbanga Street:
041 506 1191
Booyens Park Clinic 2 in Booyens Park Drive:
041 483 1590

Police Stations

Bethelsdorp Police Station: 041 404 3000/4/5
071 475 1938
Kwazakele Police Station: 041 408 7720
Zwide Police Station: 041 459 0213
KwaDwezi Police Station: 041 405 4712



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Zanemvula

Bringing the Rain

Community Newsletter • June 2015

The Zanemvula housing project launched in 2006. It is an informal settlement upgrading and human settlement project in Nelson Mandela Bay. The project is located in the Chatty, Joe Slovo West, Soweto-on-Sea and Veeplaas areas and involves the relocation of residents from the floodplains of the Chatty River, backyard dwellings and other stressed areas around Nelson Mandela Bay to decent human settlements. The project will deliver 13 500 houses.

Good news for the Alfonso Arries Primary School!

Learning and teaching will be much more comfortable experiences at the Alfonso Arries Primary School in Chatty when the doors re-open in July for the third school term.



The new classrooms and paved schoolyard are due to be completed in July

In February this year, work began to construct much-needed additional classrooms at the school where overcrowding is a major problem.

"Originally, the school was built to accommodate 800 children," says principal, Nomaxabiso Mkencele. "When I started here in 2013, there were 1561 learners; in 2014 this number grew to 1961; and this year we have 1798 learners. Many of our classes have more than 100 learners. Our biggest is a Grade 4 class with 124 children."

Mrs Mkencele says relocation is one of the reasons behind the overcrowding; as families are moved into the area their children need a place to go to school. She says they try as far as possible not to turn any child away, but adds that this does not create an environment that is ideal for teaching or learning.

"We have 43 teachers. Because of overcrowding, they do not have the freedom to teach their curriculum as they would like or as they should be

teaching it. The cramped conditions also mean our children get sick often."

This situation is set to change within the next few weeks, as 12 new classrooms are being built for Grade 1 to 7 learners; and four more for the 178 Grade R learners.

"Going forward our classes will consist of between 40 and 45 learners. The kids will benefit and the teachers will have the freedom they need to teach. By the time we return from the June/July holiday, our classrooms will be complete and the new furniture moved in."

Mrs Mkencele adds that this is not the only exciting change that is on the cards for her learners and staff.

"The National Education Department has approved funding for a new primary school to be built for us in 2016. A site has already been identified for it in Chatty, which means the move to the new premises won't be too disruptive for our children. The existing primary school building will then be used as a high school – it'll be the first high school in the area."

Enrolment at Alfonso Arries Primary School

With the third school term of 2015 nearly here, Mrs Mkencele says applications for admission to Alfonso Arries Primary School are open.

"A challenge we face is that parents continue to bring their children in January at the start of the new school year. We do understand though that some can't help it because their families are sometimes relocated during December. The closing date for applications will be in September. This will allow us to plan ahead for books, stationery etc."

Meet: Nomaxabiso Mkencele

Nomaxabiso Mkencele lives in KwaDwesi and has been teaching for 36 years.



Principal Nomaxabiso Mkencele

"Back in the day nursing was seen as a very important field to work in. I chose to teach because I wanted to work with children. In 1977 I enrolled and spent three years in teacher training at St Matthew's College in Keiskammahoek. I started my first job as a teacher in 1979."

Between 1983 and 1993, Nomaxabiso taught at various schools before she took up a position at A Place of Safety (that assists troubled children) and also worked as a principal at Motherwell. In 1999, she moved to Erica House in Cleary Park before she applied for the post of principal at Alfonso Arries Primary School in 2012, and was appointed to start in 2013.

Nomaxabiso says she has a clear vision for the school.

"Holistic development of our children is very important to me. When I applied for this post, I had a vision in mind. I said I would like our children to be well-trained in practical subjects like computers. That is my intention.

When the current extensions are done, we will turn our staffroom into a computer-room. I've already written to companies to ask them to support us by donating computers. Classrooms were also part of my vision – no child should have to be out of school. Now that is a reality – the classrooms are here and the children are no longer outside."

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A 39 year wait is over!

90-year-old Miriam Buyelwa Mpongoshe has lived in Soweto-on-Sea since 1976 in an informal structure that was built from corrugated iron sheets and wooden panels. Her lot changed in April when she heard that she was to be the recipient of a new house.



Miriam Mpongoshe's home of 39 years

"When I heard the news, I couldn't believe it! By that time I had waited so long, that I had just about given up. I was so happy."

Miriam's new house is built according to new specifications that are being applied by the HDA in line with a move to energy efficiency and changes to the National Building Regulations.

The improvements include:

- Plastered internal walls
- Insulation in the ceiling
- Full electrification
- As far as possible, the longer side of the house is built to face East-West
- The number of East-West facing windows is the minimum required for daylight and ventilation

The idea behind these improvements is to increase the energy efficiency of the house and ensure that the required natural heat is retained to keep living areas like the lounge-, kitchen- and dining-areas warm.

The new specifications will first be applied to houses that will be built at the Soweto-on-Sea/Veeplaas 500 Unbuilt Sites. Going forward, all Zanemvula Project houses will be built with these new specifications included.

Miriam says that the things she enjoys most about her house are that she now has access to running water, that she has a bathroom inside and that she has electricity.

"Everyone I know was so surprised to hear that I would receive a house, because I had waited so long. I would encourage people in my community and in others to apply; see if you meet the criteria to qualify. It is possible for you to become a homeowner."



Miriam Mpongoshe in the doorway of her new home

Project updates:

Soweto-on-Sea rectification

- So far 2034 of 2500 houses have been rectified

Chatty 1380

- The NHBRC issued Final Unit Reports for 1273 completed houses
- Approved beneficiaries signed Client Handovers and took ownership of 1073 houses
- 1345 foundations, wallplates and roofs have been completed
- "New Norms and Standards" – such as internal plaster, gutters and downpipes – were installed in 1072 houses
- The completion of the project is affected by the illegal occupation of 176 units
- Site numbers and approved beneficiaries in occupation of units are being corrected on the Housing Subsidy System (HSS)

Joe Slovo West 4040 (Services)

- Completion Certificates were issued to all 4040 of the sites that were serviced

Chatty 1060, Chatty 491, JSW 4000 (Top Structures) and 500 Soweto-on-Sea/Veeplaas Unbuilt Sites

- All of these projects are in the procurement stages
- Principal Agents have been appointed for Chatty 1060,

Chatty 491, the 500 Unbuilt Sites at Soweto-on-Sea/Veeplaas and Joe Slovo West 4000 pending funding approval by the Province

- On 08 June 2015 a public tender notice was issued for top-structure contractors for the 500 Unbuilt Sites at Soweto-on-Sea/Veeplaas. A compulsory briefing was held on 17 June 2015 and the tender closes on 30 June 2015
- The two show-houses which were built in wards 27 and 30 are constructed in line with new specifications and National Building Regulations

Soweto-on-Sea/Veeplaas 380 Toilet/Bathroom attachments

- The project is in the procurement stage; and the evaluation process for bids to appoint contractors is complete
- Funding has not yet been approved by the Province
- The HDA intends to directly contract about ten SMMEs

Chatty MPCC

- Construction has been disrupted by numerous stoppages linked to SMME issues
- The HDA is in talks with the contractor who submitted a termination notice due to the stoppages
- At the time of the termination, only 38% of the project had been completed



Illegal electrical connections

Illegal electrical connections are a big, and potentially deadly, problem. According to the Nelson Mandela Bay Municipality, they are mainly found in areas where there is informal housing.

Mr Silby Mathew, Executive Director: Electricity and Energy, says illegal electrical connections pose a serious health and safety risk.

"Often, these connections are not carried out by authorised persons and hence they are – more often than not – poorly installed:

- The risk of fire increases when the size of the wire that carries the current is insufficient
- If the wires are not properly protected they could break off and either burn, or lay live in the street and pose a threat to the community
- If not properly earthed, the metal used to build an informal structure or fittings in a house (such as taps, lights, plug sockets or appliances) can become "live" and any pose a risk to anyone in the household who touches it."

The municipality is currently rolling-out its Illegal Connection Policy and Action Plan which is aimed at the removal of electrical connections. A large part of this plan is to educate communities about illegal connections, tampering with electricity supply, cable theft and energy-saving.

Mathew says illegal connections also impact on supply.

"In certain wards in Port Elizabeth, there are cases of large numbers of illegal connections that are causing a network overload and the failure of cables that supply legally connected properties. Street poles are drilled into so that illegal wires can be connected to the distribution board; and streetlights are disconnected so that holes can be drilled through to thread in illegal connections. In some areas, transformers have blown as a result of the overload caused by illegal connections. This leaves law-abiding consumers without any supply."

It is important to blow the whistle on illegal electrical connections – in the interests of your safety and that of your household; and to ensure that you have an uninterrupted power supply.

Report illegal connections to your local ward council office. Or make contact with one of the following offices:

Port Elizabeth:

Address: Munelek Building, 46 Harrower Road, Port Elizabeth
Telephone: (041) 392 4308

Uitenhage:

Address: Market Square, Electricity Building, Uitenhage
Telephone: (041) 994 1235