

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.

## Military veteran happy in his new home

**In 1983, a 24 year old Meshack Merhile left South Africa to join the Mkhonto Wesizwe army to fight against the Apartheid government.**

In 1992, Nelson Mandela visited the Mkhonto Wesizwe army camps in Lusaka, Zambia. In his speech he begged the soldiers to lay down their arms and return home as the war had ended. In the 1994 unity government all veteran soldiers were promised work and housing, but this took time to fulfill. "As soldiers, we understood that the focus was 'Batho Pele' - people first", says Merhile.

Merhile has stayed for many years with his in-laws with his wife and children. When assessing his house subsidy the Human Settlements Subsidy (H.S.S) repeatedly rejected his application. The reason was because he was living in his wife's family. It was only when President Zuma signed the Military Veterans Act that people like Merhile could seriously have access to state benefits.

Against this backdrop 491 houses for military veterans are being built to accommodate all beneficiaries who fought bravely for us to enjoy our freedom. The houses are to be situated in Chatty 491 and already the construction is starting. It is a military veteran cooperative that has been given the mandate to build the houses. "We hope that we as former freedom fighters will be able to learn skills from this cooperative", Merhile says.



Former Mkhonto Wesizwe Fighter Meshack Merhile relaxing in his new home.

Merhile is the first ex soldier to occupy a home as he was moved to the show house. On 30 November 2015, Minister of Human Settlement Lindiwe Sisulu handed Merhile the keys to his home. "My government has brought back my dignity. My children have a beautiful home and my wife is proud of her house."

## Responsibilities of owning a home

**To own a home 'akuyondl'yanetha an old Xhosa saying will tell you. To own home comes with a lot of responsibility. A house changes your perspective of life. We went around Zanemvula to hear what people are saying about owning a home .**

1. A homeowner tends to be more involved in their community. They attend community meetings because whatever is decided they are part to it.
2. Homeownership boosts the educational performance of children. To have a home means to have a stable life and it becomes easier to focus to children to their dreams as their fundamental need, shelter is met.
3. With the home ownership comes the pride of ownership financial surety your house can be used for collateral for further investments not for *amazila* or *ibhekile* that's not investments
4. A sense of accomplishment and dignity is naturally restored
5. Owning a house elevates a beneficiary to a homeowner thus reduces welfare dependency.



# WiFi a strategic development for growth in our communities



Residents of Nelson Mandela Bay townships could soon have free internet access after the Switzeland government and the Metro signed an agreement. The high-mast lighting project is already being piloted in Port Elizabeth's Walmer township and KwaMagxaki-Veeplaas area.

Recently, the Department of Telecommunications and Postal Services has put weight behind the access to internet for townships by investing R6 million towards the rollout of free public Wi-Fi.

"We have already connected Korsten, the Traffic Department, the Customer Care Centre and the Public Library to free Wi-Fi," Minister of Telecommunications and Postal Services, Siyabonga Cwele, said on Friday. Speaking during the launch at the Nelson Mandela Bay Municipality, the Minister said the rollout of free public Wi-Fi affirms government's commitment to the National Development Plan's vision of a robust information society and knowledge economy that is both inclusive and prosperous.

"Let me announce that once you have connected to the free public Wi-Fi, you will be allocated 100MB per day on each device you connect at speeds of 10mb/s," Minister Cwele said.

"Access to the internet is the single most powerful tool we have in combating the inequality experienced in the delivery of quality education.

"A child with access to internet in Joe Slovo has access to the same educational material as any child in the bigger cities and anywhere in the world," Minister Cwele said. **Ask your councillor for information on the rollout of Wifi in your area.**

## One-on-one

**Every month Zanemvula introduces you to a person who you might not know, but who has an impact your on life.**

This month we speak to Nokuthula Ndevu popularly known as 'Thuli'

### Who is Thuli

Thuli is a young lady originally from King Williams Town. Moved to Cape Town in 2004 to study at UWC and completed a BA Honours Degree. Started working for the HDA in 2011. She's an optimistic person, also very realistic about the current situation and how satisfactory or unsatisfactory it is.

### What is your role at HDA

I am the Client Liaison Officer, who's role is to establish and maintain an effective relationship between communities and HDA.

### How is your experiencing impacting your role here at HDA

My solid experience and knowledge in this field has offered me a powerful blend of theoretical knowledge and practical implementation skills. Being seconded to the PE office allowed me to gain more exposure and helps me in adjusting myself to the new environment

### How does it feel to part of a team that changes people's lives

The sense of fulfillment it brings is amazing. Helping others and changing people's lives enabled me to see the bigger picture.

### What motivates and where do we see yourself in five years' time.

Success motivates me. I love a challenge and proving that I can do



Thuli is very proud of her work.

something that someone else thinks is beyond me. In 5 yrs time I see myself living life the way I want to, that alone motivates me!

### What do you do in your spare time?

Shopping and spending time with family

### Last words

"Go out into the world and do good until there is too much good in the world" Larry H. Miller

## Working mothers

May is a busy month of the year. May 1 commemorates workers around the world, and the first week of May also commemorates mothers with Mother's Day. We spoke to a working mother, Nokuphumla Jolisa, from Veeplaas on how she balances the two.

Nokumphula runs a small construction company and is a mother of two. She has been working in a variety of places between the construction and catering industries over the last 20 years.



Nokumpla Jolisa on the right with a friend. She calls for mothers to fight for their rights both at work and home.

### What does Worker's Day mean to you?

People are still oppressed in their work places, so for me this day means we need to reinforce worker's rights. Employment agencies taking half of your money while you work is not fair.

### What does Mother's Day mean to you?

Mother's Day means we need to celebrate the worker bee. Women work at work and come back home to work again. It is not an easy task to be a mother. We sacrifice everything into raising our children to putting food on the table. Yet, if anything goes wrong, the mother is always the first target – women need to support each other.

### How are women treated in the workplace?

I lost my job and I could not find a job anywhere till I decide to start my own business. People who above 35 years are told they are old when looking for work, yet very young for state benefits. No one wants to employ us. If employed, we are treated unequally, but we are expected to still maintain the home.

### On a lighter note, what are your plans for Mother's Day?

My husband likes to take me out to the Boardwalk on this day and we have a wonderful time as a family. For me this is appreciation as women although I expect appreciation every day, not just on Mother's Day.

### Your last words?

Viva to working mothers! Keep the home fires burning and fight for your rights: both at home and at work.

## Project Updates:

### Soweto-on-Sea Rectification

- To date, 2039 of 2500 houses have been rectified Chatty 1380- 1273 houses are complete and have Final Unit Reports issued by the NHBC

### Soweto-on-Sea/Veeplaas 500 Unbuilt Sites

- 2 Established Contractors and 4 SMMEs appointed
- 75 new houses completed
- New houses are built in accordance with the new specification which is in line with the new National Building Regulations and SANS 10400 Part XA (Energy Efficiency).

### Walmer Q Phase 3 189

- 1 Established Contractor appointed
- 5 SMMEs appointed as Nominated Sub-contractors
- 161 Houses have been completed and handed over to beneficiaries
- New houses are built in accordance with the new specification which is in line with the new National Building Regulations and SANS 10400 Part XA (Energy Efficiency).

### Chatty 491

- Construction commenced
- 1 Showhouse has been completed and handed over to beneficiary
- Houses will be of 50m2 in size
- HDA has appointed a CBO to construct the project and entered into an SLA with it

### Chatty 1060, JSW 2000 (Top Structures) and -Sisulu Hlalani (Village 18)

- construction has commenced
- Contractors have established site camps
- Designs in line with new Building Regulations and SANS 10400 Part XA (Energy Efficiency) approved by the Municipality

### Chatty MPCC

- Construction being disrupted by numerous stoppages linked to SMME issues
- At the time of termination, only 38% of the project had been completed
- Attempts to secure new contractor have commenced



# "Huntshu Rhulumente", utsho uMadlomo

Umama uPumla Fente uMadlomo isiduko oneminyaka eyi 60 waseVeeilplas eMasakhane Street akabulibali ubomi kunye neentsuku zakhe elala ebobosini. Ebalisa intlungu yakhe emva kokuba zele zinyanga zimbalwa wafumana indlu. "Uve xa kunetha ibengathi imvula le idlala u-Do -Re-Mi-Fa-So-La-Ti-do" utsho ke uMadlomo. Eqhubeka lokaMadiba ubalisa ngeempuku ezinkulu, amagundwane asuka kukhukhuza umntwana wakhe. Umama Fente uhleli iminyaka elishumi elinesihlanu phambi kokuba afumane indlu. Kude kube ngoku uthi iba ngathi uyaphupha amane ezikrwempa ukuqinisekisa ukuba nyhani -nyhani yindlu yakhe le.

Ebulele kodwa kubonakala ukuba akakwazi ukungaceli kule yabantwana uMama uFenti uthe, "Ndicela ukumbulela urhulumente ngokundenza umntu ebantwini. Isidima sam usibuyisele kangangokuba abantu abapheli apha kam. SingamaDlomo, ooMadiba, ooNgubengcuka sithi Huntshu rhulumente". Ebongoza kubantu abasalinde izindlu esithi, "Nawe liyeza elakho ixesha masingayivumeli into yokuba abantu bangene ngeenkani ezindlini zabantu kaloku jongani apha kum ndithi ekunyamezeleni ukhona umvuzo", utshilo. Umama uFente uhlala nabantwana bakhe ababini, uThembinkosi kunye noSisanda kunye nomzukulwana uLiqhayiya.



Umama uPumla Fente kunye nabantwana bakhe kwikhaya lakhe elitsha eVeeilplas

## Do-It-Yourself: six ways to decorate your yard

### 1. Plant trees and shrubs

A good-looking yard is full of life. Plant some shrubs by transplanting indigenous bushes into your yard, perhaps even a hedge around your yard. The Eugenia bush is cheap to buy and produces a tasty red berry full of vitamin C that the children will love.

### 2. Tidy your yard

If you have plants, you will have weeds and weeds will make your yard and your home look untidy and unkempt. Pull the weeds regularly. It is also a great chore to give the children to do!

### 3. Paint

Look around your house for any faded or peeling spots. If you don't have the time and money to do a proper job of waterproofing

and painting your house, then make temporary measures by scraping off peeling paint and splash on a coat of colour until you can fix it permanently. Rising damp needs a proper fix as it can not only make your home look scruffy, but cause health ailments too.

### 5. Tend to Your Lawn

It's easy to just mow the lawn and forget about it, but if you want one of the nicest yards in the neighborhood, you'll have to do some extra work. Keep it low and neat.

### 6. Get an Old Bench

It's amazing how something like a bench can transform a space in someone's yard. Also, if you have a stoep area, put out some hanging plants and a sitting area to give yourself an outside living space. You will be the envy of all walking past.



### 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: 08000 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

Booysens Park Clinic 2 in Booysens 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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Department:  
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