

Wonderful Williams

EVERY month Zanemvula introduces you to one of the Housing Development Agency's (HDA) employees. Everyone plays an important role and makes sure there is delivery and that new homes are built.

In last month's issue of Zanemvula we spoke to Nobuntu Gwaxu. This month we get to know financial administrator, Naairah Williams.



NUMBERS NAAIRAH: Making sure the finances are in order to bring you your home, Naairah Williams works hard behind the scenes for you everyday.

Where did you grow up?

I grew up in Malabar, Port Elizabeth and have stayed in the same suburb all these years until a year ago when we moved to Cotswold.

What is your fondest memory as a girl?

Coming from a very close-knit family there are so many wonderful memories but I think watching movies on our

VCR in the evenings as a family was the fondest memory for me. I can still picture it and it puts a smile on my face.

What was your favourite toy or pet?

I had a puppy named Tiny. He used to follow me everywhere. One day he even jumped onto the bus with me, it was so embarrassing trying to catch him in the bus to get him off. Eventually I got him off but missed my bus.

What did you want to be when you grew up?

A school teacher, playing school was a favourite game of mine growing up.

Are you married, how many kids do you have and do you have sibling, how many?

I'm married. I am blessed with a beautiful daughter and three stepsons. I also have two brothers, who I love to bits – I am the middle child.

How did you decide to become financial administrator at the HDA?

Prior to working at HDA, I worked for Standard Bank as a teller for a good few years. I always had a flair for figures and money, thus ended up in finance here at the HDA.

Why do you enjoy it and what does it mean to you?

Paying contractors means houses are being built, thus more homes are being made available for beneficiaries. It is always heart-warming when you hear about the happiness and joy in peoples' voices when they receive their homes.

What challenges do you face in your work within the project?

Getting claims for contractors processed timeously.

What are you most grateful for in life?

My daily blessings which include, my health, a roof over my head, food on the table and to be able to say thank you each day for waking up and having all my loved ones with me.

Who is your role model and why?

Easy! My mum. My mum is a strong, spiritual woman. Her belief in herself and God has never wavered no matter what the circumstances. My mum has been my pillar of strength all my life and I hope that I can be the kind of mother that my mum has been to me. My mum is funny, fabulous and my very best friend.

Describe yourself in three words?

Loving, caring and strong.

What is your life motto?

You only live once, so live each day as though it is your last. And say 'I love you' to those who matter most.

What message do you have for the readers of the Zanemvula, included in which are those waiting for and received houses?

Life is full of challenges. No matter how grey and cloudy today may be, the sun must come out tomorrow. There is always hope...

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: Call from cell phone: 112

Childline: (help when a child is in danger) 08000 55 555

Eskom customer care: 0860 037 566

Public transport information: 0800 656 463

Land Invasion: Macdonald 082 4105 066 /
Hlela 079 4900 531

Fire: 041 585 2311

Water Leaks, Power outage etc: 0800 205050

General Emergencies: 041 506 2735



human settlements

Department:
Human Settlements
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA



Province of the
EASTERN CAPE
Human Settlements



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Inside:
HDA Roles and Responsibilities
New Principle at Alfonso Arries
Jobs and Homes

Zanemvula

Bringing the Rain

Community Newsletter • May 2013

ISSUE 16

The Zanemvula housing project launched in 2007. 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 22 700 houses.

A job and newfound joy for beneficiary



CREATING COMMUNITIES: Thabisa Mgaguli points out some of the homes handed over to beneficiaries with her help as relocation officer.

THE benefits from the Zanemvula human settlement development project in Nelson Mandela Bay reach much further than just a roof over someone's head. The project also provides much-needed jobs to the communities in which the houses are built.

Thabisa Mgaguli is just such an example. Not only did she receive a home for her family to live in, but also worked temporarily as a relocation officer for the Housing Development Agency (HDA) – the implementing agent of the Zanemvula project.

Some of her duties included serving as a "middle-man" between the community and the HDA during the house handover process.

"I would receive a list of beneficiaries whose homes were ready every week or two and had to read out the names to everyone. It was a great feeling – everyone would come together and hope their name was read."

Mgaguli said she was patient and only read her own name several weeks in, "I

learnt a lot in my time working with Anele Ngwekazi, the HDA project administrator. I understand how the system works. It made it easier for me to explain to my friends, neighbours and other beneficiaries when they were worried or had come to me with problems."

As a mother of three and devoted wife, she was especially thankful for the extra income she made being employed by the HDA, "I was able to save money to spend on my home and family. That meant the most to me – I had my own house, and money to make it a home for my family."

After living in a shack for over 15 years, Mgaguli believes she is finally home and thanks the government, "When I lived in a shack, it was a day-to-day struggle. Keeping warm, dry and healthy were all we worried about. We had no electricity or warm water. In this home we have all these things. I can now plan ahead and I don't just have to try and make it through the day – I feel like I can plan for the future now."

Community links key

WORKING together to build a brighter future is the order of the day for community members and the Housing Development Agency (HDA).

The task of creating sustainable communities is only achievable when there are good lines of communication and cooperation.

"Facilitators play the very important role of managing tensions which crop up from time to time in the running of a project. They are a link between the community and project managers. They are an important part of coordination and communication channels of projects," said project manager Anele Ngwekazi.

Ngwekazi said working with facilitators like Mgaguli was a pleasure. "We employed her as a relocation officer. She balanced her role as an employee and her responsibilities as a community leader with skill."

Ngwekazi said that working alongside Mgaguli in the Project Steering Committee of the Chatty 1347 project promoted a good relationship with the community. When community members represent the HDA it creates more awareness around important issues and information.

Community members also benefit from HDA projects through other work opportunities that arise as a result of the construction taking place on-site, "contractors appointed via the HDA tendering process must guarantee 70% of the labour required comes from the local community; and 20% of the value of the project will be allocated to local sub-contractors."



FAMILY FIRST: Thabisa Mgaguli sits with her youngest son. Mgaguli is motivated by her family to be a community leader.

Roles and responsibilities of the HDA

THE roles and responsibilities of the various authorities are sometimes difficult to understand. It is important that you know who the role-players are in your housing project and what they are there to do.

As the Provincial appointed project managers and implementing agents, the Housing Development Agency (HDA) has many responsibilities to fulfill.

Listed below are a few of the most important of these tasks:

- Working closely with the National Department Of Human Settlements (NDOHS), Provincial Department Of Human Settlements (PDOHS) and Nelson Mandela Bay Metro Municipality (NMBMM) in matters related to the Zanemvula project.
- Helping potential beneficiaries to fill in subsidy application forms correctly and submitting them to the PDOHS for approval or rejection.
- Making sure contractors comply with the necessary standards and regulations when building homes. The HDA also only appoints contractors who are registered with the National Home Builders Registration Council (NHBRC).
- Having homes inspected by the PDOHS, NMBMM AND NHBRC before handing them over to beneficiaries.
- Along with NMBMM combat the invasion of homes built for specific beneficiaries (Note: There is a long list of approved beneficiaries – The HDA is working hard to assist everyone.)
- Facilitating site meetings as needed and submitting progress reports to PDOHS. The HDA must take full responsibility for the successful implementation and delivery of the project.
- Managing and relocating of all beneficiaries to their temporary and/or permanent homes.
- Assisting in the development of a system to educate beneficiaries regarding their new responsibilities that come along with being a home owner.

The HDA has been established to assist all spheres of government to combine efforts and make the best use of resources. When you apply for a home, remember it forms only a small part of the work and dedication that goes into you receiving your home.



Jobs and Homes

ASTRID Zaal paints a nearly finished home for the next happy home-owner.

Bringing the rain is Zanemvula's catchphrase, and homeowner and construction worker Astrid Zaal agrees it is the perfect description of what the human settlement development project is doing for their community, "We get homes and many of us are also now employed thanks to the construction taking place to build more homes."

Zaal worked on the project for a contractor for nearly three years. She is overjoyed to have finally also moved into her own new home only a few weeks ago. "I have been patient, and it has paid off."

The project forms part of 500 new homes the contractor is building in the Chatty 1380 project.

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BHODLA SAY IT ALL

What does your community still need?



Ria Mapoe

Ndisayilindle eyam indlu. Xana ndigqitha kwizindlu ezimoshwayo kwaye ezingagqitywa ngethuba, iyandi- khubekisa lonto ngoba nam ndisalindele eyam indlu. Kuyafuneka sibenaye owethu uceba e Chatty kufutshane nezindlu zethu kwenzele sisokwazi ukufumana iingcukacha nolwazi ngezinto zase Chatty.



Griffiths Stofile

We have to walk very far to buy electricity. We can't afford to buy a lot at once, so we have to make two to three trips a week sometimes. If we take a taxi or bus for some of the way, our R30 electricity costs us almost double with the transport. We need a store close by to buy electricity.



Xolani Maramba

The roads need to be tarred. The muddy clay is not just messy and gets into our homes, but is dangerous when the kids walk to school, or we go to work. Someone could get hurt badly.



Mavis Wagner

Ons het nie geysers in ons huise nie. Sommige het, en ander nie. Ons het almal geysers nodig. Ek is vrou alleen en moet wanneer ek wil bad, die ketel ses keer kook voor ek my kan was. Warm water is veral belangrik in winter, ek wil nie siek word nie.



Henry Williams

We need the municipality to remove our rubbish more often. Our community has grown a lot since the beginning of the project and we want to be proud of it. Rubbish blowing everywhere doesn't look good.

Imisebenzi namakhaya - Jobs and Homes

UKUZISA imvula ngumtsalana weliphepha ndaba iZanemvula. Umninikazi wendlu nomakhi uAstrid Zaal uyangqinelana ngqo ukuba le projekti ka HDA iZanemvula yile nto iyenzayo eluntwini. "Sifumana izindlu kwaye singabanye sifumene nemisebenzi ukukwakhweni ezizindlu". UZaal naye kwezi

projekti wakhe wasebenza engumakhi iminyaka emithathu. Lo waka Astrid uziva eluchulumanco ngoba naye kwiveki ezimbalwa ezigqithileyo uye wafumana eyakhe indlu entsha. "Ekulindeneni ukhona umvuzo" Sithetha nje u-HDA wakha izindlu ezi 500 e Chatty.

Project Update: May 2013

THE Zanemvula mega-housing project in Chatty, Joe Slovo West, Soweto-on-Sea and Veeplaas is divided into four programmes and will deliver about 22 700 houses:

- the construction of 13 327 new houses in Chatty extensions 3, 4, 5, 12, 13 and 15, Joe Slovo West and Kwadwesi Extension.
- the informal settlement upgrade of about 1 565 houses.
- the rectification of about 7 500 houses in Soweto-on-Sea.
- the erection of some 323 rental houses.

Soweto-on-Sea rectifications

- 2 500 houses to be rectified.
- 1698 units have been rectified to date.
- 35 rectifications were completed in April 2013.

Soweto-On-Sea Multi-Purpose Community Centre

- The R22-million project was completed last year and handed over to the Nelson Mandela Bay Municipality. Requests to use the centre are to be made to the NMBM Facilities Manager on 041 506 2911.

Chatty 1347

- The project is now complete.
- The total number of contractor handovers is 1 339 houses.
- All sites are fully serviced, but 8 could not be built on as they were too steep.

Chatty 1380

- 1 380 houses to be built.
- 65% of beneficiaries have been identified and the municipality will identify the remaining beneficiaries.
- 266 houses have been completed and handed over to beneficiaries to date.
- 418 foundations, 392 wallplates and 385 roofs completed.
- 906 households have been relocated to date.

Chatty Multi-Purpose Centre

- Contractors have been procured and funds for the building have been applied for.

Chatty 496 Services

- 99% of sewers have been installed.
- 80% of water lines laid.
- 70% of connections laid.
- 100% of roadways cleared and level control excavations have commenced.

Joe Slovo West 4040

- 4 040 sites to be serviced.
- Contracts with contractors have been signed.
- Contractors have established site and have commenced servicing.
- Sewer and water lines are being laid.
- Servicing of sub-phases 1, 2, 3, 5 and 7 has started.

New principal to expand on education foundations

OPENING just a year ago, Alfonso Arries has come a long way from 800 learners in its first year to nearly 1 500 learners currently.

Mkencele has taken over from from principal Bruce Damons who was tasked with the opening and establishing the school in its first year. She is looking forward to her new position, "Mr Damons has done a lot in terms of starting up the school and cultivating community involvement in the school. I have some goals of my own and would like to build on what has already been done here."

She said classes were full with 82 children in a grade. Chatty is expanding quickly so there is a demand and need for education.

"We are waiting for the education department to build extra classes and I have requested more teachers for the foundation phase. As we are a 'young' school and have only been running for a year, I am hopeful that this request will be met."

Mkencele believes strongly in the



HAPPY HEADMASTER: New principal Nomaxabiso Mkencele, standing proud in front of Alfonso Arries Primary where she has taken over from Bruce Damons.

importance of the foundation phase for the learners and has made this one of her top priorities as the new principal.

"You need a strong foundation to build on; it is the starting point for a child. If it is given enough attention and done properly it could positively affect the child's whole education."

She also thanked the community

for their constant involvement in the school and their children's well-being, "We have so many volunteers; some are parents and other community members who have taken an interest and help out. The community is truly invested in their children's future and education – it is what every teacher dreams of."