

# NEMATO

Change a life

*giving disadvantaged youth the mindset, knowledge, skills and support to become successful in life*  
12 February 2012, issue 1

## NELSON MANDELA TOWNSHIP YOUTH EMPOWERMENT & SPORT

The most important challenge during the holiday was to find study opportunities for our older members. We are proud to announce that six members started studying in Grahamstown and Port Elizabeth. Members that leave Port Alfred don't leave Nemato Change a Life. As long as a member stays focussed on success in life, we offer lifetime membership: this holiday we started our Nemato Alumni.

### NEMATO CHANGE A LIFE

#### Study

We are very excited that we got six members into FET studies in Port Elizabeth and Grahamstown. FET stands for Further Education and Training and combines academic learning with skills training. It is three years of study. The minimum entry level is grade 10. The quality and level of education is much higher than at our township schools.

On one hand there is massive unemployment in South Africa, but on the other hand there are an estimated 800 000 vacancies due to lack of skilled people. FET studies offer an excellent chance to bridge that gap and get good qualifications and much needed skills.



Leaving to study in Port Elizabeth

We see FET as a great opportunity to offer our members a way forward in life, but we realise that it is a tough challenge coming from township schools that don't teach sufficient basics in mathematics and literacy. We wish all our FET members all the best with their studies!

In our homework class we already started looking for study options for our grade 9 members for studies in 2013. A positive side effect of these developments is that about 10 old members reapplied for membership.

#### Summer school

Around the summer holiday Allen (Xu Hui) from China volunteered for our organisation. He is a Stenden student who studied in Port Alfred for a few months. He introduced us to the concept of summer school: lessons during the holiday to improve school results. We used summer school to prepare members for the FET studies. The lessons showed us that we have to improve our mathematics lessons in the homework class for grade 7 to 9 to get the members ready for FET.

#### Homework class

The start of the homework class was unfortunately delayed, as we had no classroom. Only last week we found a building we can use for the homework class. The next challenge was to find transport for our school furniture. Thanks to Tony Bryant for helping us out.

Our homework class has started now and we are trying to put a better maths programme in place. We are looking for

volunteers to assist us in our homework class! No high level mathematics teaching skills needed, just some passion. Can you help? Please contact us!

### **Alumni**

We started an Alumni for the members who are now studying outside Port Alfred. As long as members stay focused on success in life, they'll have lifetime Nemato membership. It is about staying in contact, motivating and helping each other and growing a network. Nemato helps the members, the members help Nemato, the members help each other. The alumni should grow over the years to a strong and important part of the organisation. Already the alumni members show a keen interest in staying connected.

### **The Learning Trust**

We are proud to announce that The Learning Trust has become a funder of our learning programme. This is fantastic news. It not only gives us a broader financial base to run our empowerment programme, but it is also a sign that we are doing a good job. The Learning Trust will support our homework class and the crèche for Early Childhood Development (ECD) that we want to start this year. Additionally they offer much needed support for our sports clubs.

### **Office work**

For most of the holiday we were without internet, waiting for Telkom to install a landline to our new office. Soon after the landline was installed, the municipality started renovating our RDP house. All this made it difficult to do the usual office work on time. Hopefully in February we'll be able to get most of the outstanding work done.

### **Utility challenges**

Difficulty with water and electricity supply and the toilet form part of running an organisation in a disadvantaged township.

It took the municipality about a month before they come to empty our full (non-flushing) toilet. That was not enjoyable and definitely not suitable for a picture in this newsletter.

We don't have electricity in our office, we use from our neighbour, but somehow the prepaid electricity system often doesn't recognise their box number, making it regularly impossible to buy electricity.

About half the time our tap is dry. Sometimes we are lucky and the municipality brings water by truck. Now they filled up our water tank, so that there is water for us and our neighbours all the time. Our tap water is not great anyway. It is not healthy and sometimes it is so muddy that you can't look through a glass of water. We are busy installing our water filter for drinkable tap water.

The kids growing up here are used to dealing with these challenges.

### **Food Fund**

We introduced instant porridge with milk powder as a healthy all day meal for the members. Any time of the day, self service. We also offer a cooked meal once a day. Thanks to Change a Life, Port Alfred Soup Kitchen and our donors for making it possible!

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## **NEMATO ROWING CLUB**

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### **Old rowers back**

Probably because of the success of getting members into good studies in Grahamstown and Port Elizabeth, a lot of old rowers, who left our organisation, came back. We allowed them back-in under the conditions that they do all the hard work that comes with being a member, and that they stick to our rules like no drinking, no smoking and no drugs. We are very happy they are back, but we'll have to see who can keep up with the tough requirements.

### **Lottery**

The equipment we ordered with Lottery money started arriving. This month we received a very nice little coach boat with a 8hp 4-stroke motor supplied by Mr Water Yamaha. We are looking forward to receiving new rowing boats in the next few months. John Waugh is busy building them.

### **Beginners course**

The beginners course didn't pull a lot of new rowers so far,

probably because we didn't make much publicity. There is still time. For at least another two months the river water will be warm and nice for basic swimming and rowing lessons.



New coach boat donated by Lottery



## NEMATO GYMNASTICS CLUB

### Landing mats

The district office in Grahamstown of the Department of Sport, Recreation, Arts and Culture has donated a set of landing mats to Nemato Gymnastics Club. This was most welcome, as the old landing mats are falling apart due to intensive use and outdoor conditions. We want to thank Mzondeleli Matthews, the owner of our office, for offering us his garage to store the new mats.

We also want to thank Rhodes University for the set of thin gymnastics mats we received.

### Gym for All

With our experienced gymnasts we are trying to put a five minutes show together for Gymnastics for All. This is a difficult and slow process. Hopefully we can make something nice for the Gym for All competition in March. At the same time we keep practising trampolining and tumbling for the

competitions later this year. With the new members we focus on basic skills for trampolining and tumbling.



New landing mat donated by the Department of Sport

## NEMATO NETBALL CLUB



The first handball session

### Handball

The netball club might change from netball to handball, which is a more dynamic sport. It is a small sport in South Africa, which is nice for us, because it'll take us out of our township for competitions to places like Port Elizabeth and East London. We had a first handball session coached by Hannes, a volunteer coach from Germany. It was nice. Soon the members will decide if we stay Nemato Netball Club, or change to Nemato Handball Club.

## NEMATO FENCING CLUB

### Equipment

Fencing is a priority sport by the National Department of Sport & Recreation and our Eastern Cape has been identified as one of the provinces that will receive support. Our club qualifies for support, but unfortunately government has complicated procedures

that make it difficult to act quickly. To keep the momentum going, Nemato Change a Life decided to use its funds for sport to buy a basic set of fencing equipment to get the club going. Hopefully the department will be able to assist with funding for some further equipment, expenses for courses for coaches and for competitions.

## CONTACT DETAILS

### Nemato Change a Life

Simlindle Veto	Chairperson			representing rowing
Nolufefe Ngotsha	Secretary			representing rowing
Nomzamo Platyi	Treasurer			representing netball
Asanele Veto	Member	079 357 0785		representing netball
Siphamandla Baku	Member		<i>siphamandlabaku@yahoo.com</i>	representing gymnastics
Jan Blom	Member	073 505 9168	<i>matinyanafund@gmail.com</i>	representing gymnastics
Chuma Nyendwana	Member	078 884 5834	<i>chumasande@gmail.com</i>	representing fencing
Zolani Fandeso	Member	073 856 4867	<i>zolani.nyoka@yahoo.com</i>	representing fencing
Registration:	075-396-NPO (Nonprofit Organisation),		930033563 (Public Benefit Organisation)	
Office:	12 Lindani Street, Nelson Mandela Township, Port Alfred, 6170, South Africa			
Fax:	046 624 5242	Email:	<i>matinyanafund@gmail.com</i>	
Bank:	FNB-Port Alfred, Nemato Sports Federation, account number 6225 665 9461			

### Nelson Mandela Township Rowing Club (Nemato Rowing Club)

Lindokule Nikelo	Chairperson	071 222 9791		
Zolani Fandeso	Secretary	073 856 4867	<i>zolani.nyoka@yahoo.com</i>	
Buhle Ngcelwane	Treasurer	072 461 7763		
Chuma Nyendwana	Head coach	078 884 5834	<i>chumanyendwana@yahoo.com</i>	
Jan Blom	Member	073 505 9168	<i>matinyanafund@gmail.com</i>	
Bank:	FNB-Port Alfred, Nemato Rowing Club, account number 6211 024 6651			

### Nelson Mandela Township Gymnastics Club (Nemato Gymnastics Club)

Thando Ngoqo	Chairperson		<i>t.ngoqo@yahoo.com</i>	
Jan Blom	Secretary	073 505 9168	<i>matinyanafund@gmail.com</i>	
Siphelele Qozi	Treasurer		<i>s.qozi@yahoo.com</i>	
Siphamandla Baku	Captain		<i>siphamandlabaku@yahoo.com</i>	
Bank:	FNB-Port Alfred, Nemato Gymnastics Club, account number 6211 024 6651			

### Nelson Mandela Township Netball Club (Nemato Netball Club)

Nomtha Veto	Chairperson			
Siphosihle Mgcokocha	Secretary			
Destiny Nelson	Treasurer			
Anelisani Makeleni	Captain	073 571 1102		
Chuma Nyendwana	Member	078 884 5834	<i>chumanyendwana@yahoo.com</i>	
Jan Blom	Member	073 505 9168	<i>matinyanafund@gmail.com</i>	
Bank:	FNB-Port Alfred, Nemato Netball Club, account number 6231 455 7242			

### Nelson Mandela Township Fencing Club (Nemato Fencing Club)

Chuma Nyendwana	Chairperson	078 884 5834	<i>chumanyendwana@yahoo.com</i>	
vacant	Secretary			
Zolani Fandeso	Treasurer	073 856 4867	<i>zolani.nyoka@yahoo.com</i>	
Jan Blom	Member	073 505 9168	<i>matinyanafund@gmail.com</i>	
Bank:	FNB-Port Alfred, Nemato Fencing Club, account number 6231 456 7720			

### Nelson Mandela Township Alumni (Nemato Alumni)

Lunga Vulindlu	Chairperson	071 011 4166	<i>vulindlulunga@yahoo.com</i>	
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### Internet

website: [www.matinyanafund.org.za](http://www.matinyanafund.org.za) email: [matinyanafund@gmail.com](mailto:matinyanafund@gmail.com)  
bookmarks: [www.google.com/bookmarks](http://www.google.com/bookmarks) (we are everywhere on internet, facebook, twitter, flickr, etc, check our google bookmarks list)

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