



Nemato Change a Life
success in life – for youth, by youth

newsletter

April – June 2021

NELSON MANDELA TOWNSHIP YOUTH EMPOWERMENT

Nemato Change a Life - Highlights

15 years!



We celebrated the 15th birthday of Nemato Change a Life. On Youth Day in 2006 Minister of Sport Stofile officially opened our organisation as Nemato Rowing Club.

trials for world championships



Three Nemato gymnasts, Siyabulela, Khanyiile and Liyema, competed at the trials for the South African team for the World Championships. We are waiting for the announcement of the team.

website



We are upgrading our information system. We are now 'in the cloud'. For example, our coaches can register attendance on their phones and the attendance percentages of the athletes are automatically updated on our website.

lockdown

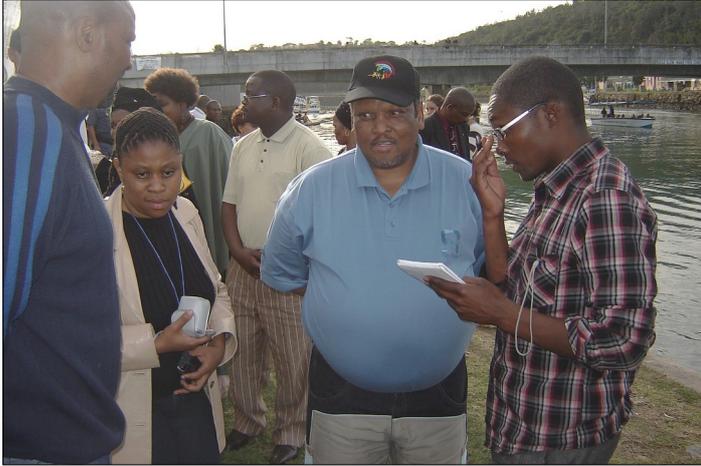


The third Coronavirus wave is hitting South Africa hard. We are back in lockdown. Our classes are closed and we only allow four people in the office. But we still offer sport and outdoor activities. Here members are mixing cement to build a foundation for our trampoline.

SUCCESS IN LIFE - FOR YOUTH, BY YOUTH

Nemato Change a Life offers a holistic set of youth empowerment programmes for disadvantaged youth from the townships in Port Alfred: Nelson Mandela Township (Nemato), Thorn Hill and Station Hill. We give our youth the mindset, knowledge, skills and support to escape from poverty, for *success in life*.

15th birthday



We celebrated the 15th birthday of Nemato Change a Life. On Youth Day in 2006 Minister of Sport Stofile officially opened our organisation as Nemato Rowing Club (see picture).

We have come a long way. Who could have imagined 15 years ago that we would now have our own centre, offer a 'cradle to career' empowerment programme, offer four sports, have athletes at world championships every year, and have members who have graduated from university.

But we are not done. There are still many challenges facing our youth. Why can't our youth become well trained welders and plumbers? Why is there still hunger? Where are the jobs? With all its talent, why is South Africa not on top of the world in gymnastics? And so on. There is enough to do to keep us busy for another 15 years!

maths class



How do we make mathematics more exciting? Firstly, let's get up and be active. The next step is to move from solving equations to building apps to solve equations: deeper thinking and more relevant skills. That's what we do in our class on Sundays. After the lockdown we'll start using challenges in computational thinking by Nelson Mandela University.

information system



We are upgrading our information system. We are now 'in the cloud' with Google Sheets. All data, like attendance to sessions can now be captured on our computers and on phones. For example: our coaches can now register attendance during the sessions on their phones. The percentages of attendance to our class and sport sessions are automatically updated and instantly available on our website. Also our day programme, events calendar and activities are available on our website and can all be updated instantly on a phone. Our spreadsheets are linked to each other, to make it much easier to produce information based on age, gender, school grade and more. This is just the start. We are working on many more ideas. All of this is self made, with the involvement of our members, as part of our IT initiatives.

members support



We are constantly looking for opportunities for our members to grow. One example is Lihle, who passed matric last year. His passion is playing the piano/keyboard. He is talented and plays in church and at weddings and funerals. To help him strengthen his career, we offered him piano lessons. He is now learning to read and play sheet music.

Zooniverse



We are doing scientific research into dark energy on the internet, analysing distant galaxies on Zooniverse, here in Nelson Mandela Township. How cool is that!

Ashley's crane course



Time for new skills: Ashley went to Gauteng for a course in fork lift and mobile crane. The sky is the limit!

college registration



Working towards success in life: we transported members to register at PE College. They joined a long queue that stretched around the corner!

fly farming



Our fly farm is working. We are now working on systems to keep the greenhouse warm in winter. We are also preparing for the next phase: piloting a fish farm, that will use the fly larvae as feed.

brighten up our centre



Our centre was painted in sand colour. Not bad, but we wanted to brighten up and stand out. Here are our new colours. All painting was done by our members. Do you like it?

new t-shirts and filming



We received new t-shirts from our main funder the Mike Thomson Change a Life Trust. They also sent a film team to make a video about our organisation for their donors.

ECD food support



Some years back we invited the township preschools in Port Alfred and Bathurst to form an association. It has brought in much needed support for the preschools, such as accredited courses by Early Inspiration from Gqeberha (PE) to train and qualify preschool teachers.

Early Inspiration involved the Acorn Foundation for food support for the preschools. Nemato Change a Life takes care of the logistics. The picture shows the introduction of the feeding programme to the preschools at our centre.

Steven's paintings



Local artist Steven Pogiso Xakawe visited us with his paintings.

He has been nominated for the 2021 MAMA Awards for best upcoming artist. You can vote for him by SMS: mama 1023 to 40439. It's R2 per sms. Closing date: 31 July.

We received a donation to start a small arts fund. With the donation we bought a few of Steven's paintings, which are now for sale at our centre. All payments for paintings will be used to buy art.

SUCCESS IN LIFE STORY

Buhle Ngcelwane

Buhle joined Nemato Rowing Club in 2008. He became one of our strongest rowers. In 2013 no school or club in the Eastern Cape could beat him in his under 16 double with Lindokuhle. In 2014 he was elected as chairperson of Nemato Change a Life. He took the role of chairperson to the next level with numerous interventions to inspire members to commit to success in life.



He became a student at the University of Johannesburg. Last year he graduated in Sport Science with three distinctions. He is now employed as rugby coach by Stanford Lake College in Limpopo: "A dream came true." Congratulations to Buhle for putting in all the hard work and succeeding in escaping the poverty trap! Well done and keep going!

(Picture left: Buhle as rower in 2013. Picture right: Buhle as rugby coach in 2021)



SPORTS

Our sports clubs offer four small Olympic sports: rowing, gymnastics, handball and fencing.

SA Champs Rowing



Our rowing team won the Men's C Quad race at National Championships in Pretoria.

handball trials



Our handball players went to Gqeberha (PE) for a friendly tournament and to East London for trials.

fixing fencing weapons



Axole and Asonle at a fencing blade fixing workshop offered by Bill.

trials for World Champs



Three of our gymnasts, Liyema, Siyabulela and Khanyile, competed at the trials for the World Championships. We are waiting for the announcement of the selection.

The World Championships will be in November in Baku, Azerbaijan. The costs for the trip of our gymnasts is for our account. Any help to cover the costs will be much appreciated!

fencing in Soweto



Our fencing team was in Gauteng for a national competition. It was hard, because our fencers were a bit young for this competition, but that'll make them stronger. We also did some sightseeing.

Hopefully later in the year our fencers will be able to compete in a national competition in their own age groups.

CONTACT DETAILS

Nemato Change a Life

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930033563 (Section 18A Public Benefit Organisation: South African donations are tax deductible)
Level 1 B-BBEE contributor (highest level Broad-Based Black Economic Empowerment certificate)

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