Nelson Mandela Township Youth Empowerment

On Youth Day, June 16 2006, 30 years after the start of the youth uprising against the apartheid education system, Minister Stofile officially opened Nemato Rowing Club.

This year on Youth Day, we celebrated our tenth birthday!

Youth Day 2016: our tenth birthday!

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.

Youth Day

It's ten years ago, on Youth Day June 16 2006, that Minister Stofile officially opened Nemato Rowing Club. We have come a long way! We celebrated our ten years with a great lunch, a gigantic cake and awards with great prizes donated by Alexander van Assendelft, Lesley Lambert, the Port Alfred Rotary, Jan Blom, Sports n All, Rhodes University Rowing Club, and Brett Malila. Siphamandla Baku won the most important award: the Member of the Year Award. It came with a tablet donated by Alexander van Assendelft.

A week later the provincial Youth Day celebrations took place in Port Alfred. We assisted with the organisation of the fun run and our top gymnasts did a show for the provincial Minister of Sport and the Premier of the Eastern Cape Province.
Nemato Change a Life Centre

After a long and challenging process, the preparations for the building of the Nemato Change a Life Centre have started. The frames for the wall have been made in Port Elizabeth. Hopefully soon all the paperwork will be approved and signed, and we’ll start building.

We are the first in Port Alfred to use the sand bag building technology. We are proud to work with Richlabs Architects from Johannesburg and Neville Prinsloo (House of Sand) from Port Elizabeth.

The centre will be built by our own members, and two of them will be trained to have all the skills needed to start their own building projects.

Theory of Change

Our funder The Learning Trust is assisting us with the restructuring of our youth empowerment programme. Based on UNICEF guidelines, we are using the Theory of Change to rethink what is needed to achieve what we stand for: Success in Life. Step by step we are adding, changing and deleting programme elements, to become as effective as possible. We are also introducing systems to measure if what we do is working. The first results are very promising: in our grade 7 to 9 maths class we see that participants double their marks.

Sport for Social Change Network

Nemato Change a Life was represented at the Transformation and Development through Sport (TADS) conference by Jan Blom. The event was organised by the Sport for Social Change Network Southern Africa and the Department of Sport and Recreation, and took place in Johannesburg. We had great speakers, workshops and site visits. Probably the UNICEF presentation will have the most impact on the direction our organisation takes. Their guidelines for "Problem Free, Fully Prepared and Fully Engaged" youth will be applied as we rethink our programme.

NMMU Open Day

We organised a trip to the Open Day of Nelson Mandela Metropolitan University (NMMU) in Port Elizabeth. We had enough space in our minibus so we could also invite youth
who are not in our programme. It’s one of those important events that most disadvantaged rural youth are excluded from. It’s great that we could offer youngsters this opportunity.

Rotary Award
Our founder Jan Blom received a Merit Award for leadership from the Rotary Club in Port Alfred. As a township based organisation it’s great to receive recognition and appreciation from town.

Counselling
Six Nemato members, who were suspended for drug abuse, completed the counselling sessions at the hospital. We allowed them back into our programme. Hopefully all of them will test negative in our future drug tests.

Donations
We thank Alexander van Assendelft for his very generous donation to Nemato Change a Life!
Nemato Spar has become a keen supporter of Nemato Change a Life. We get discount for our groceries and Spar made this incredibly large cake. The cake sold very quickly and all income was donated to us. Thanks a lot Nemato Spar for your support!
Many thanks to all our funders and donors!
Do you also want to help? You can make a safe credit card donation from anywhere in the world. Visit our website and click the donate button. Or maybe you have books, clothes, tools or gifts you are not using. You are most welcome to drop them off if you happen to be visiting Port Alfred.

NEMATO SPORTS CLUBS
Our sports clubs offer four small Olympic sports: rowing, gymnastics (tumbling and trampoline), handball and fencing. Sport is an important part of our youth empowerment programme. Our athletes compete at provincial, national and even international level

SA Rowing Champs
Akhona Quma and Odwa Ntamo were invited by the Rhodes University rowers to join them at National Championships in Pretoria. Odwa won silver in the Under 15 single scull.

Rowing camp
With 12 rowers we went to a rowing camp in East London. It was organised by the Eastern Cape Rowing Association and clubs from Port Elizabeth, Mthatha, East London and Port Alfred participated. Thanks for the nice initiative!

Masters & Novice Rowing Regatta
The Masters & Novices competition in East London was a nice event for master rowers, novices and anybody in between.
We spent the night at the clubhouse (thanks!). The competition was great. Our novice Sinothando Gonxo won in a mixed quad with ZRC, Odwa Ntamo won in the scull and he coxed another winning mixed quad that included our coach Lunga Mcetywa as rower, who also won the scull in his age group.

Gymnasts in EC Academy of Sport event
The Eastern Cape Academy of Sport invited our top gymnasts for a show during the launch of their Mobile Sports Coach programme in Port Elizabeth. It was a show by the top gymnasts for our club and Mandy's club from Port Elizabeth. The event was attended by dignitaries like the provincial Minister of Sport. The gymnastics show was the highlight of the event.

Gymnastics Trials
The first Eastern Cape Trials for National Championships took place in Port Elizabeth and Uitenhage. It was also trials for African Champs. Nemato had a strong team that won many medals and impressed everybody with its performance. We also had some young new gymnasts winning medals. We even win medals in tumbling without having a tumbling track!

Gymnasts in international selection
We are proud to have become the strongest tumbling and trampoline club in the country. Nemato gymnasts were selected for the following international competitions:

- **African Championships** (Namibia): Onke Mangele, Liyema Nxobo and Siphamandla Baku.
- **Junior Commonwealth Games** (Namibia): Onke Mangele
- **Indo Pacific Championships** (New Zealand): Onke Mangele, Siphamandla Baku, Liyema Nxobo, Khanyile Mbolekwa and Siyabulela Siwa.

Financing these trips is a huge challenge. Your support is most welcome!

Handball in Fort Beaufort
After a long time of poor attendance, at last we had a handball team with good attendance and we went to Fort Beaufort to play matches. Our girls team, with all new players, delivered a nice surprised with a draw in their very first match. Our two boys got an opportunity to play by joining another team. It was

Khanyile running to jump at EC Academy of Sport event

strong Nemato team (green and white) at gymnastics trials

Handball tournament in Fort Beaufort

Nemato fencers Owethu and Sibusiso competing in PE

Change a life

Nemato Change a Life is proud member of:
a nice but slow drive to Fort Beaufort too, with monkeys, baboons, warthogs and a kudu on the road.

**Handball coach Lifa going to Germany**

Towards the end of July our handball player and coach Lifa Nxobo will be travelling to Hanover in Germany for a return exchange trip, following a visit by German sports youth last year to East London. The trip allows young people to experiencing each other's cultures and countries and learning from each other's experience in sport.

**Fencing training competition in PE**

Nemato fencers participated in a training competition in Port Elizabeth. Our fencers are doing very well against the fencers from PE who have more experienced coaches than us. Athule Nikelo won at the Under 11s, Owethu Nqowana was second and Anoxolo Salaze third at the Under 13s, Thulani Ngogela second and Mandlakhe Nikelo third at the Under 17s. After the competition we had some fun at the Boardwalk.

---

**Facilitated and Supported Programmes**

To make our programme stronger we facilitate programmes from organisations that are specialised in fields such as literacy. We work together with other youth organisations, benefiting from each other’s strengths. To make the best use of our capacity, we manage the office administration of organisations like the Nemato ECD Forum, the Eastern Cape Fencing Association and the Matinyana Bursary Fund.

**Matinyana Fund student**

We are proud to announce that Noluthando Nakani graduated at the Nelson Mandela Metropolitan University in Port Elizabeth. She studied Nature Conservation and has been given a contract with Petro SA Nature Reserve as an environmental education intern for a firebreak project in Mossel Bay. During her study she received support from our Matinyana Bursary Fund.

**Early Childhood Development (ECD)**

The Nemato ECD Forum has been renamed: **ECD Support Group Ndlambe East**. The change from forum to support group avoids confusion with the Ndlambe ECD Forum that formally represents the pre-schools to the Department of Social Development. The change from Nemato to Ndlambe East better shows the area we are serving.

The Level 2 ECD course is well on track. The one year course is the entry level course for pre-school teachers. With the support from The Learning Trust, Early Inspiration can offer the course for free to 12 teachers. Pre-assessments were done at the pre-schools of the teachers and discussed at the course. The teachers were very excited and started seeing the power of assessing their children.

We closed down our own pre-school, to focus our energy on supporting all disadvantaged pre-schools in our area.

---

Matinyana Fund student Noluthando Nakani graduated

Early Childhood Development course
**Bongisani Magopheni**

Bongisani became a member of Nemato Rowing Club in 2008. Right from the start he became an active member and in 2009 he started winning rowing medals. The next year he won our Runner Up Member of the Year Award. He represented our organisation at the magnificent Jack Cheetham Award event in the Johannesburg Town Hall. During other trips he visited Robben Island, the Cango Caves, the Parliament Building, the Moses Mabhida Stadium and much more. In 2011 he became our Member of the Year for his commitment to our programme. He became a keen member of our photography group.

With the support of Nemato Change a Life he moved to Port Elizabeth in 2012 to study engineering at PE College. Unfortunately, like all our engineering students, he got stuck on the very high level of maths at the college.

In 2015 Bongisani came back to Port Alfred. He volunteered with us as maintenance manager. We found an opportunity for him at an engineering workshop in Port Alfred to get training one day per week. Due to his commitment, this turned into a full time job in just two weeks. His focus is on learning as much as he can. Hopefully we’ll be able to find him an opportunity in future to be trained to become a qualified artisan.

"NCAL changed my life in a dramatic way. My friend got into smoking and heavy drinking at an early age. I would have gone the same route, if I wasn’t part of the club and sport". His advise to younger members: “Train for Gold!”

---

**Contact Details**

**Nemato Change a Life**

**Registration**
075-396-NPO (Nonprofit Organisation), 930033563 (Public Benefit Organisation)

**Address**
53 Tyali Street, Nelson Mandela Township (Nemato), Port Alfred, 6170, South Africa

**Website**
www.nemato.org.za

**Bank**
FNB Port Alfred, branch (sort) code 210917, swift code FIRNZAJJ, 1 Main Street, Port Alfred

**Account**
Nemato Change a Life, account number 6225 665 9461, cheque account

**Online donations**
www.backabuddy.co.za for secure online donations

**Leadership**
- **Siphamandla Baku** Chairperson 061 837 1321 vuyilebaku@yahoo.com
- **Akhona Quma** Treasurer quma.akhona@ymail.com
- **Lunga Mcetywa** Manager 073 795 5829 mcetywa1990lunga@gmail.com
- **Jan Blom** Founder 073 505 9168 matinyanafund@gmail.com

**Board of Governors**
- **Brett Malila** bmalila@hotmail.com
- **Lesley Lambert** lesley@wisenet.co.za
- **Athenkosi Hlekani** athenkosi@gmail.com
- **Simlindile Veto** simlindilehumphrey@gmail.com

---

**Our Supporters**

Nemato Change a Life is proud member of: