

# Ntinga Ntaba!

#2

January 2014

*Ntinga Ntaba! is the newsletter of Ntinga Ntaba kaNdoda, an organisation that promotes community self-empowerment in Keiskammahoek South.*

Keiskammahoek South villages where Ntinga Ntaba kaNdoda works: Burnshill (Mkhubiso), Lenye, Madubela, Ngcamngeni, Lower Ngqumeya, Upper Ngqumeya, Ngxondorheni, Rabe, Lower Rabula, Upper Rabula, Zanyokhwe, Lower Zingcuka & Upper Zingcuka

**W**elcome to the 2<sup>nd</sup> edition of the Ntinga Ntaba kaNdoda newsletter! This edition is directed at our sisters, brothers, uncles, aunts & other relatives & friends who stay & work outside Keiskammahoek, who visited their homes during this December 2013/January 2014 summer holiday period. In this edition we introduce you to Ntinga Ntaba kaNdoda: our community development organisation in Keiskammahoek South.

As Ntinga Ntaba kaNdoda, we have had an exciting 2013, full of activities, achievements, fun, lessons & new openings. In this newsletter, we share with you this exciting news of our powerful 2013 activities & our plans for 2014. Finally, we appeal to you as *amagoduka asebenza* in Johannesburg, East London, Port Elizabeth, Cape Town & elsewhere to join & support us in whatever way you can. **Enjoy the read! Send us comments & ideas on how we can improve our work.**

## Who & what is Ntinga Ntaba kaNdoda?

We are a non-governmental organisation that promotes sustainable rural development in Keiskammahoek South. We are owned & controlled by the local communities who came together & formed this organisation in September 2002. We are run by a Board of Directors elected at a General Assembly held every two years. The next General Assembly is due in June 2014. Members of the organisation are villagers drawn from our 13 Ntaba kaNdoda villages. The first quarterly Village Assemblies will be held in March 2014. These will be the local forums where members have a direct say in the life of the organisation.

Our vision: "Decent life of dignity for all in Ntaba kaNdoda communities". We actively promote community-driven, integrated & ecologically sustainable development. We host the Annual Ntaba kaNdoda Heritage Festival.

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Ntinga Ntaba kaNdoda has 5 programmes:

1. Community heritage, arts & culture;
2. The solidarity economy alternative for sustainable livelihoods & development (this includes agriculture);
3. Quality public education;
4. Youth development; &
5. Rights-based participatory democracy.

The Board, an Executive Director & 14 field workers located in our 13 villages undertake our work. We also work with official partners & volunteers from Fort Hare, Wits & Rhodes Universities.

With our support, the dwellers of 13 Keiskammahoek South villages are actively mobilised to envision & drive sustainable rural development themselves. Our work directly benefits the more than 15,000 people estimated to be resident in these villages.

### Community heritage, arts & culture

Since 2002, we have organised 6 Annual Ntaba kaNdoda Heritage Festivals. These are well-supported community events held over the Heritage Day weekend. Festival activities normally include a visit to the grave of Maqoma (Aaah Jongumsobomvu!) at the Ntaba kaNdoda site, choirs, poetry, marimba, book readings, indigenous dances & games, izidlo zikaNtu cuisine, board games, soccer, netball, horse races & horse dressing shows.



Foundation stone at Ntaba kaNdoda.

We are currently working with the Amathole District Municipality for the resuscitation of the Ntaba kaNdoda heritage site.



The old tombstone for Jongumsobomvu. The then Ciskei homeland government built the "stop-nonsense" structure.

In 2012, we undertook the traditional cleansing of the site given the atrocities committed during the era of the Ciskeian homeland & as part of preparing for the reconstruction of the tombstone of Jongumsobomvu. By the end of September 2013, the new tombstone had been installed & will now be unveiled in the first quarter of 2014.



The new tombstone for Jongumsobomvu built with the support of the Amathole District Municipality.

We are still awaiting a response from the South African Heritage Resources Authority to our July 2012 application for the declaration of the Ntaba kaNdoda site as a national heritage site. Such a declaration will be a key step in the development of the envisaged Keiskammahoek Heritage Route. In addition to Ntaba kaNdoda, such a route will include other historical sites: King Ngqika's grave, the site of the Burnshill Wagon Battle, Fort Cox, Sandile Dam, Booma Pass, Princess Ntsusa's grave, Dyrha's cliff, Mount Hoho, Khoi sites, German graves, rock art & local forests.



*The "Ciskei National Shrine" at the Ntaba kaNdoda site, built by the Ciskei homeland government from 1978 to 1981.*

Our other heritage work includes:

1. Holding a *Heritage, Custom, Rights & Development* conference which we will co-host at Sandile Dam with the Rhodes University's Department of Music & School of Languages in February 2014;
2. Our funding application to the National Lottery Board for the development of a Keiskammahoek Heritage Route;
3. Writing a popular history of Ndoda, Hoho, the Khoi, Ntsusa, Ngqika, Maqoma, Canon Arthur James Calata, Livingstone Mqotsi, Professor Randall Langa Peteni & other prominent local individuals for use in heritage education in local schools & for use by tourists;
4. Production of games & other learning aids on local heritage for public education & use in heritage education in local schools;
5. Continuing research on indigenous music & language practices in partnership with Rhodes University; &
6. Research on women & gender in local heritage & histories.



*Important books with the history of Ntaba kaNdoda, Ngqika, Maqoma, Keiskammahoek & the Amathole district.*

### **The solidarity economy alternative for local development**

We work with the people of Upper Ngqumeya & Ngxondorheni to pilot the idea of an Integrated Community Development Plan (ICDP). The ICDP process will involve villagers in mapping out their local assets & resources, & use these to develop a long-term vision, programme & plan for community-driven development. This plan will aim to create sustainable jobs & sustainably develop the local economy in ways that create solidarity & self-reliance. Upper Ngqumeya has already formed its ICDP Forum & has run planning workshops.



*Ngqumeya community planning workshop.*

Our community participation & research to date shows that it is possible to start the following enterprises in 2014:

1. Light manufacturing from recycled paper, tins & glass;
2. Arts, crafts & ceramics;
3. Small scale production of household goods (soap, detergents scented with essential oils from indigenous herbs);
4. Tourism & heritage (lodges, heritage trails, hiking & biking trails, horse trails, water sports & sampling of indigenous cuisine); &

- Home industries (baking, indigenous cuisine, other African foods, dried meats, & cheese-making).

Our estimates show that these enterprises can create about 200 jobs in total. In some of the villages, there is also quarry & natural stone which can be mined & used as an input into making stone-based products.

### Agriculture & food sovereignty

In August 2012, a delegation from Rhodes University addressed local farmers at Fort Cox Agricultural College about opportunities for small farmers in providing fresh produce & processed foods to the University's dining halls. These halls provide 3 meals a day to 5,000 students for 9 months a year (a total of 135,000 meals). We are working with local small farmers to ensure that they can provide part of this food. Already, the Seven Stars Cooperative (working from the old "dairy scheme" just outside the Keiskammahoek CBD) produces at least 10,000 litres of milk from irrigated pastures. The Zanyokhwe Central Cooperative produces vegetables from some 200ha of irrigated land with a potential of reaching another 300ha of irrigated production.

Beyond the Zanyokhwe Central Coop, there is another 1,000ha of fertile arable land that can return to productive agriculture. To achieve this goal, Ntinga Ntaba kaNdoda also works with the following cooperatives: Fort Calata Goat, Sinenjongo Poultry, Zizamele Agricultural, Vuka Dliso Farmers & Burnshill Baking. We provide training, advice on registration, linkages with extension officers & volunteer trainers. From January 2014, we will host 4 Agricultural College graduates & current Agricultural Science students from Fort Hare who will work with local farmers. There is a need for many more cooperatives in agriculture & agri-processing.

To date, we have identified the following potential areas for agriculture, agri-processing & timber-based enterprises:

- Vegetable & maize production;
- Processed vegetables (chopped & cut vegetables, pickles & preserves);
- Indigenous herbs & other herbs for essential oils' extraction;
- Red meat, poultry & piggery & dairy products (local sales, dried meats, sour milk, yoghurt, cheese, eggs, bacon & parts);
- Beekeeping for honey, mead (iqhilika), beeswax for hair products & candle-making;
- Leather tanning;
- Timber, charcoal & biomass for biofuels from the black wattle & thorn trees.

These activities will help ensure that local communities achieve food sovereignty without depending on outside or purchased food sources for

their healthy living.

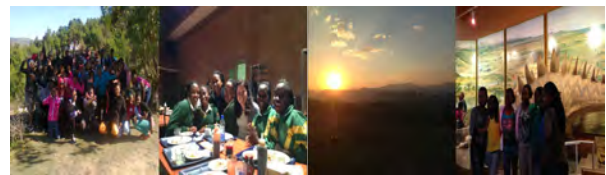
Food sovereignty is the right of peoples to control their own food & agriculture. Food sovereignty requires protection from unfair outside competition. It is about an agricultural system that protects the rights of local communities to safe, healthy & ecologically sustainable production. In addition to producing healthy food for own consumption, local production should also provide a marketable surplus.

Our initial projections show a minimum of 500 local jobs in the above activities. This will require investment in planning, skills development, extension services, provision of agricultural inputs & access to finance for a minimum of 100 small farmers in the 13 villages where we work.

To kick-start the above, we plan to start a Keiskammahoek Women's Solidarity Economy Fund to financially empower local women with a revolving local loan fund. We require an initial seed grant from which to grow & sustain such a local fund.

### Quality Public Education

We work with 8 local high schools & 15 local primary schools in Circuit 9 under the King William's Town District of the Department of Basic Education.



*Pictures from the various education activities.*

In 2013, we organised a local revision camp for some 80 matriculants & a special tuition programme at Rhodes University for 42 matriculants who have the potential to obtain an exemption pass in the grade 12 exams.

The **Local Revision Camp** took place at Tembani Secondary School & brought 26 tutors from Fort Hare, Stellenbosh & Wits universities. They helped Grade 12 learners to prepare for end-of-year exams. Subjects covered included Accounting, Business Studies, Economics, Science, Life Science, Agriculture, History & Geography. The **Rhodes University Matric Exam Preparation** worked with 42 learners for 1 week. It provided an intensive focus on Maths & English covering everything from Calculus to trigonometry to English literature to English grammar. The students were challenged with six hours of lecture daily, as well as nightly homework assignments. The learners stayed in dorms, ate in dining halls, attended the Grahamstown Schools Festival, & got a true taste of university life.

On 16<sup>th</sup> November 2013, we held a planning

workshop attended by Ntinga representatives, local schools, volunteers & external partners to develop a plan for education interventions for 2014. These will include the above activities, homework support, Saturday classes, revision camps, mobile kits for Biology & Science experiments, DVDs & other self-study kits, career guidance & stronger partnerships with both faculties of education at Fort Hare & Rhodes universities. We will also undertake a baseline survey of local schools.

Working with the Siyakhula Living LABS at Rhodes & Fort Hare Universities as well as the All Saints Education Development Trust, in 2014 we will roll out **Computer LABS at the local high schools** with desktop computers with relevant software & educational material. To date, we have received some 50 PCs from Sibanye Gold. We still need another 110 PCs & support for furniture, cabling, & security fences.

### Youth development

In July 2013, we sent 39 students from Grade 8 to Grade 10 to Hogsback for a non-academic, personal development Holiday Camp, with help from the MylifE organisation. The camp was aimed at helping the learners' personal development, communication, teamwork skills, problem solving ability, & leadership development. The campers had a whirlwind of a week, doing everything from hearing about their right to an equal education to learning how to live sustainably. They were challenged to work in teams & cook for themselves, to plant trees & compost, & to hike 20km in one day to see the cascading Madonna & Child Waterfall.

Zenande Kwinana, one of the learners who attended the camp, said: *"I learned a lot about myself & focusing on my fears"* while Sihle Mboru reported that *"this camp has changed my life...I learned new things & there was nothing I could not do here because everything in life is possible."*

In 2014, we plan to hold 2 more youth camps together with regular sports, self-development & motivational activities.

### Early Childhood Development

From September 2013, the Centre for Social Development (CSD) at Rhodes University began a 24-month education & training programme with 20 Early Childhood Development (ECD) practitioners from local ECD centres. This will ensure a minimum level qualification for most practitioners in our local ECD centres.

Since the training started, the ECD practitioners have formed a Keiskammahoek South ECD Forum as their voice & weapon to solve their common problems. We have also organised retired teachers to join & work with this ECD Forum. Our goal here is to achieve high-level, high-quality ECD provision to ensure that the rural African child gets the best that matches that is offered in so-called fancy urban areas.



Local participants & children at sports event held at Zanyokhwe in December 2013. Organised with the help of volunteers.

### Rights-based participatory democracy

We have trained our 13 field workers & community leaders on local government laws, the Constitution, laws concerning rural governance & traditional leadership. We mobilised communities to make submissions to the Restitution of Land Rights Amendment Bill, the Traditional Affairs Bill & the Traditional Courts Bill. For 2014, we plan the following:

1. Promotion of self-organised women's groups;
2. Research project on access to land by women living under customary law; &
3. Research on the living land laws of Keiskammahoek.

### Volunteers

From 16<sup>th</sup> November to 13<sup>th</sup> December 2013, we hosted some 30 eager, committed & active volunteers from Fort Hare, Rhodes & Wits universities. They worked with our field workers & communities on the various programmes above. They provided us with some additional 3,000 labour hours which we could not otherwise have.

Some of the volunteers will return in January to continue with this work. About 3 of them will spend 6 months doing their required practical internships working with our local ECD centres.



*Volunteers at planning workshop.*

To cover the transport & food costs of the volunteers, we received generous donation totaling some R25,000 from about 40 individuals who are Friends of Ntaba kaNdoda. We still need another R10,000 from individual donations to cover the same costs for January & February. Can you help us? If so, please see how to donate below.

We also wish to say a big THANK YOU to the Lamntu, Kwinana, Mayekiso, Jara, Gibe, Jara-Morris & Zitha families who opened their homes & hosted the volunteers during December 2013. They provided a home from home for all our volunteers. *Nangamso!*

### Partnerships & Funders

None of the above work would have been possible without our good friends & partners in the following funders, organisations & institutions as well as individuals:

1. Friends of Ntaba kaNdoda (about 40 individuals);
2. The Learning Trust;
3. The Open Society Foundation;
4. The RAITH Foundation;
5. Cooperative & Policy Alternative Centre ([www.copac.org.za](http://www.copac.org.za));
6. Rural & Urban Livelihoods ([www.ruliv.org.za](http://www.ruliv.org.za));
7. Department of Music, Rhodes University;
8. School of Languages, Rhodes University;
9. Faculty of Education, Rhodes University;
10. School of Continuing & Further Education, Fort Hare University; &
11. The Equal Education Campaign.

### Help us raise funds

None of the work we do can go far without money. To keep this momentum going, we need monetary support.

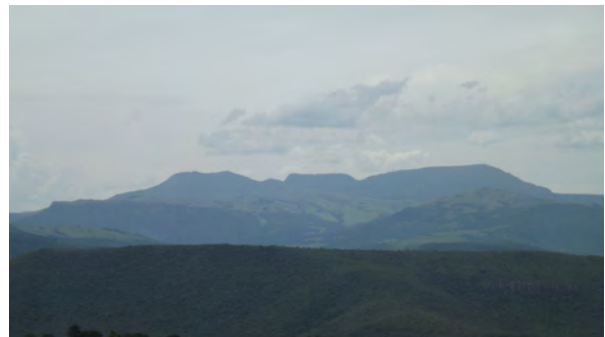
We only have R10,000 in our budget to start off 2014. We need at least R500,000 to meet our objectives. We have submitted various funding proposals. But we are still waiting for responses.

We need your help to apply to more funders. We also need skilled writers & researchers who can help us to research information on relevant funders & their criteria, to draft funding proposals & to help us set up a system for working with funders. We also need official representatives who can represent us in meetings with funders in Johannesburg & Cape Town where most funders are located.

We got a donation of 50 desktop computers from Sibanye Gold through the initiative of two **Friends of Ntaba kaNdoda** who had previously worked at that company. Another Friend introduced us to a funder who she had worked with previously. These are examples of people who are in the big cities using their networks to support our work. We request those who can help us in this way to let us know.



*Ihlathi likaNgqika, the high-rise & flat-ridge in the distance, just above Lenye village. Viewed from Ntaba kaNdoda.*



*The three "hogs": the Hogsback mountains, viewed from Ntaba kaNdoda.*

### Buy-a-brick: help us build our office

The community of Lower Rabula has allocated a 5-hectare site in the Ngqeqe village (at the off-ramp from the R352 road) for the location of our office. We have raised R10,000 for the construction of our first building at this site by the end of February. We will build it ourselves together with volunteers from the local community.

At this site, we will set up a 1-hectare demonstration permaculture garden & nursery, build a community hall, a community ICT & resource centre, a mini-museum & an open-air gym. We will also incorporate the existing soccer field into the landscape design.

We appeal for your help to raise R100,000 needed for the construction at our office site. Here are the ways in which you can help us reach this target:

1. Buy a brick & own a part of Ntinga Ntaba kaNdoda: a once-off donation of R500 or a monthly contribution of R100 for 12 months;
  - 10 Friends X R500 donations = R5,000
  - 50 Friends X R100 X 12 months = R60,000
2. Ask your friends to also buy-a-brick as above;
3. Help us identify & approach construction companies, hardware stores & other such companies we can approach for the donation of material or selling to us at a discount;
4. Donate second-hand computers & office furniture to us & mobilise others to do the same; OR
5. Give some of your time & volunteer to build the actual structures.



*Ruined buildings at the Ntaba kaNdoda site.*



*Ruined buildings at the Ntaba kaNdoda site.*

### Donate: become a Friend of Ntaba kaNdoda

We appeal to you to help us get money & a steady stream of volunteers. Please help us help Keiskammahoe help itself!

We hope to reach a target of some R200,000 of funds raised on our own from our friends, people such as you & planned fundraising activities to be held later in the year. If we do not reach this target, we will let down so many local people whose hope, confidence & aspirations depend on our work with them. We ask you to reach deep into your pocket to help us reach this target. Every amount will help. If you may be able to help, please make a once-off deposit of at least R500 or a regular monthly amount of at least R100 to our bank account:

- BANK – ABSA
- Branch – King William's Town (Stone Towers Mall)
- Account – 9250245926
- Branch code – 632005
- Account name – Ntaba kaNdoda Heritage Festival (previous name of our organisation)
- Account type – Club Savings Account
- Reference – Friends of Ntaba kaNdoda Fund

Also useful as a donation, is airtime for our 13 fieldworkers who each need at least R100 airtime every month. Please let us know if you can donate airtime to us from time to time. Please also consider helping us reach others who may also donate.

In recognition of your donation, we will send you regular updates through this newsletter. We will also list you as a **Friend of Ntaba kaNdoda**.



Performance at the local sports day held in Zanyokhwe in December 2013. Organised with volunteers.

### Our Board & Fieldworkers

Here are our Board members:

1. Mr. Vizinto Mgunyasi (Chairperson)
2. Ms. Siziwe Dobo (Deputy Chairperson)
3. Ms. Ntombolundi Zitha (Secretary)
4. Ms. Nosipho Makhuzeni (Deputy Secretary)
5. Ms. Yoliswa Adonis-Ngoqo
6. Dr. Jongi Klaas
7. Ms. Rosalie Kingwill
8. Dr. Pumezo Lupuwana
9. Ms. Xolelwa Majiza
10. Ms. Ntombizodwa Mseleni
11. Mr. Sonwabo Sobetu
12. Mr. Mbuyiselo Sooi

Our fieldworkers are:

1. Burnshill: Thabisa Mhlahlo & Twoboys Nciza
2. Debe: Ntombizodumo Sogoni
3. Ngqumeya & Zingcuka: Phumla Mavakala, Ntombolundi Zitha, Sinxolo Mgunyasi, Virginia Magwaca & Vizinto Mgunyasi
4. Ngxondorheni: Vuyokazi Mqamelo
5. Zanyokhwe: Vukile Macingwana
6. Rabula: Siziwe Dobo, Nosipho Makuzeni & Thobeka Finca.

In November 2013 we received mountain bikes from the Bicycle Empowerment Network which our fieldworkers will now use for local travel.



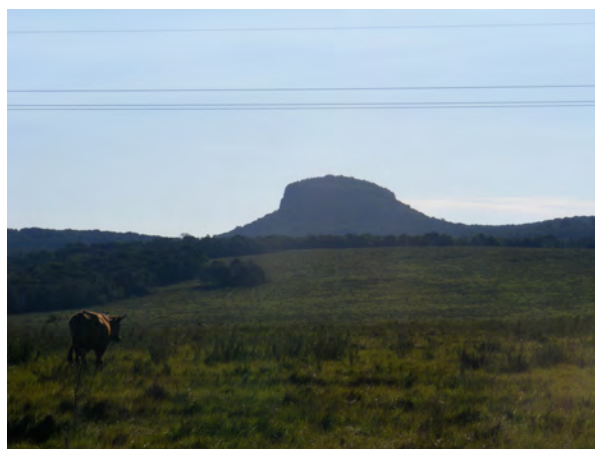
Ntaba kaNdoda viewed from Alice, some 40km away.

### Visit & contact us

If you have any questions or you would like to hear more about our work or our fund management policy, please do not hesitate to call us as follows:

- Name: Mazibuko K. Jara
- Position: Executive Director
- Cell: 083 987 9633
- Email: [mazibuko.jara@ntabakandoda.org.za](mailto:mazibuko.jara@ntabakandoda.org.za)
- Website: [www.ntabakandoda.org.za](http://www.ntabakandoda.org.za) - our media committee is working with Rhodes University to design & develop our website. It will be ready in March 2014.
- Postal: P.O. Box 601, Keiskammahoek, 5670.

You are always welcome to visit our projects & take a Qoboqobo Heritage Tour. We will happily host you & show you what we have started here. We hope to hear from you soon.



A close shot of the Ntaba kaNdoda mountain from Dimbaza.



A view of Ntaba kaNdoda from the R63 road to Alice. The village below is Ngcamngeni which is where Maqoma fought his first battle during the October 1818 War of Amalinde.