



ENANDA COMMUNITY NEWSPAPER

Produced by: Phoenix Settlement Gandhi
Development Trust
Printed by: Durban University of Technology

VOL. 2

September, 2023

BREAKING NEWS!

Reference Library, Archives and Research Centre at Phoenix Settlement is OPEN!

Come read books on non-violent resistance in South Africa and other countries, activism, political science, political economy, history, biographies and so much more.

Discover the distinctive feature of this resource center – the inclusion of the parliamentary debates of the National Assembly - meticulously curated from the formative decade of South Africa's constitutional democracy.



The Reference Library

For Whom?

Researchers, students and scholars at all levels of study are welcome to sit in our serene surroundings, read and write!

The Children's Corner

We have a corner dedicated to children and young adults. Here you will find children's books, educational games and arts and crafts. You too are most welcome to come over, read, write, draw, play checkers, chess or other games and learn in a safe and peaceful environment.

In the words of a member of the community: "We thank the Gandhi family, Phoenix Settlement and its partners (ACCORD and eThekweni Libraries). It is a once in a lifetime opportunity for our youth and children. We, the community are grateful and will protect this space so that our children can grow and learn."



The Children's Corner

ACT NOW

Are you de-cluttering, dealing with your departed beloved's books, or even planning your own legacy? Please consider donating academic and recreational reads to Phoenix Settlement.

Online Annual Gandhi Memorial Lecture 2 October | 6pm SAST

Keynote Speaker: Prof C Carson

Dir: World House Project, California, USA

Info: Ela Gandhi: +27 82 7816843

David Gengan: +27 82 5708492

>>>>>

BISHOP VERRYIN

In gratitude to Bishop Verryn and a call to address the dangerous living conditions in Bambayi



Some residents from Bambayi, the informal settlement adjacent to Phoenix Settlement, viewed the “mini-cyclone” as an act of retribution from God. They were traumatised with fear when they saw their belongings and parts of their homes flying off while those of their neighbours were intact. After the unrest of July 2021 and the floods of 2022, this extreme weather event was a bit too much to cope with.

Another member of the public who was there said, *“I feel very happy with the arrival of the Bishop because now I can even live with people with whom I couldn't before. May God be with him in his methods, and we praise God for his power.”*

Phoenix Settlement hosted peace processes in 2021, including individual counselling sessions with Bishop Verryn to help in the healing process. In 2022, after the flood, Phoenix Settlement provided shelter to women and children. Bishop Verryn came to help with group and individual trauma and again, now, in 2023 he flew in from Johannesburg to help the people to cope with the trauma as many were struggling to deal with all these catastrophes piled upon each other. It was particularly difficult for young children.

In the words of a community member:

“We are so thankful to the Bishop especially for our young children who observed all these tragedies. We were scared that all of this might cause our young ones to grow up with hatred and fear, but the arrival of Bishop has made things return to normal.”

The disaster of the fire in Johannesburg threw light on the dangers of congested informal settlements. In Johannesburg it was a high-rise building. In Bambayi, it is a sprawling, densely populated informal settlement. We have experienced those runaway fires and other humanitarian crises. Phoenix Settlement, Gift of the Givers, Bambayi Project and other civil society organisations helped with different forms of tangible aid to the community. But we need the government to play its role in addressing the housing problem so that our people can live in dignity and not at the mercy of “shack lords”, “drug lords”, and others who wield power over an already extremely vulnerable community.



Do you have influence in the INK area? Contact us - together we can help with housing, water, sanitation, refuse collection, lighting, recreation, security and all other requirements for our people to live in safety and dignity.

AUGUST - WOMEN'S MONTH

We celebrate women and their remarkable talents, highlighting their resilience and dedication to both education and community service. These stories emphasize the value of discovering our own skills to enhance our lives.

August 9 included a solemn blessing of the people, the place and the projects in and around Phoenix Settlement

The service was poignant, highlighting Gandhiji's profound spirituality and unwavering faith in God. Amidst the trials and tribulations, we witnessed heartfelt gratitude for God's grace, protection, guidance, and mercy. We appreciate the sincere prayers and blessings from all who joined.



IN THE WORDS OF A COMMUNITY MEMBER

We are grateful that we continue to see churches assembled in prayer, asking God for peace and security. It was an honour to be visited by pastors from various organisations here at Gandhi's Settlement and the Bambayi community to share and thank the mighty God for all of us."

Historic meeting between the grand-daughter of Ntombi Mbiko, Ongezwa Mbiko, and the grand-daughter of Mahatma Gandhi, Ela Gandhi.

Who was Ntombi Mbiko? A pivotal figure in Bhambayi's history with an honoured legacy - and the road to Gandhiji's Phoenix Settlement bears her name:



- 1994 Peace Deal: Successfully mediated between rival factions
- Bambayi Reconciliation: Played a prominent role until her passing in 2002
- Helping Victims: Committed to aiding political violence survivors
- Peaceful Reconciliation: Focused on promoting peace, housing, and security

AUGUST - WOMEN'S MONTH

Phoenix Settlement honoured Three Phenomenal Women of Bambayi



Mama Anna Mokoena has devoted many years to museum and heritage site management, including over a decade of overseeing exhibits and heritage areas at Phoenix Settlement.



Mama Lilian Mokoatle began her career as a caregiver and later expanded her expertise to include over two decades of dedicated work with children at the creche.



Sister Msomi has devoted more than four decades to the Gandhi Clinic, initially joining as a nurse during a period when young doctors provided primary healthcare services at Phoenix Settlement.

Kasturba Gandhi's Imprisonment Anniversary

Asha Ramgobin, **Kasturba's great-granddaughter**, summarised her great grandmother's biography: Gandhi recognised Kasturba's vital support, highlighting her unwavering commitment and assistance in furthering his goals. Her dedication was clear when Gandhi initiated a hospital for bubonic plague-stricken Indians; she rallied women to equip it effectively.

During the Salt March, **women were initially excluded** from participation, including Kasturba Gandhi. Instead of marching, she traveled from place to place, using various modes of transport, to rally women in picketing liquor stores and promoting the use of homespun cloth. Her **dedication earned her the title of a "Satyagraha soldier."**

During the "Quit India" campaign in 1942, when **Gandhiji and other speakers were arrested on August 9th**, Kasturba courageously took his place at the rally, aware of the risk of arrest herself. She entrusted her speech to Sushila Nayar, emphasising a call to women to join the struggle regardless of caste or creed, with truth and non-violence as guiding principles. As anticipated, **Kasturba was arrested on the same day**, sensing she might not survive this time. Tragically, she passed away with her head on Gandhiji's lap, who expressed, "If I had to choose a companion for myself life after life, I would choose Ba."



AUGUST - WOMEN'S MONTH

The Inanda Peace March

The Inanda community is grateful to local organisations, including **churches, police, radio stations, and the youth who have stood against abuse, violence, and bullying.** A successful peace march led by students from Inanda Newtown Comprehensive School and Kasturba Gandhi Primary School expressed their outrage against child exploitation and gender-based violence. We commend all participants for promoting community peace, harmony, and unity.



A Focus on the Economic Aspect of Gandhi's Idea of Swadeshi

For Gandhiji, **Swadeshi was essential to address poverty.** He believed that encouraging and reviving **local industries was essential for economic salvation.** For him, this included local people developing what he described as *“such a high degree of skill that their articles should command a ready market. Today the villages are dung heaps. Tomorrow they will be like tiny gardens of Eden where dwell highly intelligent folk whom no one can deceive or exploit.”*

Phoenix Settlement's new education and training center empowers local residents to create valuable items by hand, starting with sewing skills.

Our approach is simple:

- Freedom to choose what to create, quantity, and target audience, without cooperative complexities.
- Independent management of sales process.
- Support provided with donated materials: fabric, needles, threads, beads, workspace.
- Access to tourist market and expert advice when needed.

The success of this opportunity depends on each participant's dedication.

We promote inter-generational learning, where experienced individuals mentor and teach young people. Thuli Ndlela, a member of the Phoenix Settlement team, created the first item at the skills center: a cell phone case. Her mother taught her sewing and beadwork since these skills were not taught in school. Her hand-stitching is exceptionally neat, and Roshan Kooblal, one of her mentors in the computer center, calls it her "hidden talent" discovered through the skills center setup.



AUGUST - WOMEN'S MONTH

IN THE WORDS OF A COMMUNITY MEMBER

"We can count the entire community of Inanda and its surroundings as benefiting from this opportunity. It is open for you to gain knowledge from and even if you are unable to make a profit from taking this opportunity, at least you can make things for yourself and your family. I call upon all the people of our community to come and learn how you can benefit from this opportunity at the Gandhi Settlement in Bhambayi."

13TH MAHATMA GANDHI MEDIA LECTURE

The Lecture, delivered by Dr. Denzil Chetty from UNISA, focused on **alternative media** and referenced Italian humanist and socialist philosopher Antonio Gramsci. Community-based **alternative media**, serving a non-profit mission, excels in spotlighting untold community narratives and concerns

Dr. Chetty delved into technological progress since Gandhi's 1903 debut of his first alternative newspaper, sparking a **lively conversation on the multifaceted potential of social media and other channels**.

A university student expressed thanks to Dr. Chetty, highlighting the lecture's inspirational value.

Stay tuned for more stories like these in upcoming newsletters, shedding light on the significance of eNanda and why it's a vital part of our heritage route. With its natural beauty and profound heritage, our responsibility is clear: we must preserve and cherish these places while warmly welcoming visitors, as they do in South Durban. By doing so, we can attract tourists, generate income from our local goods, and collaborate to build a strong economy and a united community. **With determination and effort, we can achieve this!**

We invite you to send in stories of achievements, experiences and important initiatives taken by members of the community and to contact us for more information on how you can help to make a difference

Can you donate? This group needs zippers, buttons, larger beads, an iron, an ironing board and any other sewing equipment speed up and scale their opportunity.

ACT NOW

Skilled seamstresses, bead-workers, embroiderers, and designers are welcome to share their skills and knowledge.

ACT NOW

Roof Repair - Can you contribute with skills, materials or funds to help repair a leak in the roof of the building that houses the education and training centre?

We further call upon the eThekweni municipality and tourist authorities to urgently help with this, especially as the rainy season is soon here.

 **Mzwakhe Mbatha +27 76 532 5012**



mzwakhe.mbatha95@gmail.com