

Elizabeth Rantoetse

Elizabeth Rantoetse is a hardworking woman that serves as one of the community leaders in Flamingo Crescent. She moved to the settlement in 2005 and is currently living in structure F23. Elizabeth has two children: Riaan (6 years old) and Wesley (4 years old) and is married to her husband Lionel.



A Little Bit More About Elizabeth

Elizabeth was born and grew up in Kimberly where she lived with her mother and her two sisters. During those years, she attended school and studied until she graduated grade 9. Later on, in 2002, she moved to Cape Town to take a job opportunity as a domestic worker. During her first years in Cape Town, she worked and stayed in her employer's house. However, the conditions were not adequate. They did not treat her well nor did they consistently provide her with compensation. Therefore, in 2005 she decided to change directions and moved to Flamingo Crescent, where a friend already lived. Later in 2007, she met her husband and they moved in

together. This was then followed by the birth of their two children Riaan and Wesley.

Interests & Hobbies

After finishing her job as a domestic worker, Elizabeth has dedicated herself to her children and the wellbeing of the community. She is currently a member of the Project Steering Committee and acts as the community's voice in the committee along with fellow Flamingo residents. She also actively works to record all community members' savings information for the reblocking project in Flamingo. She has a very active and helpful role within the community and with the WPI students that came to help in the settlement. She also attends church at the New Anointing Church weekly and spends some of her free time there. Elizabeth enjoys going to the beach, as one of her favorite activities is to swim. She also loves to cook and uses this skill to provide food for all the children in the community.

Being a Community Leader

Elizabeth's desire to help the people in Flamingo improve their current living conditions motivated her to become treasurer of the savings program developed through the reblocking process. Her dedication to this process and involvement in the early stages of the upgrade got her elected as a community leader and member of the Project Steering Committee. Initially, her main job was to record each community member's savings for their future structures. Therefore, she had to talk to people about the reblocking and figure out with them the best option for their savings. Recently

her role has broadened, as she is also taking the lead in establishing a crèche in Flamingo Crescent.

Elizabeth faces challenges through her role as a community leader. Being the savings collector is a complicated job and Elizabeth occasionally encounters angry people that shout at her, criticize the savings process and accuse her of stealing. Another big challenge that she faces is finding ways to help the people in the community that are currently unemployed and are unable to contribute to the project. However, she always seeks resources in the City or any other group willing to help in this matter. Elizabeth believes that the change in Flamingo should start with the children. Providing a better environment and doing good things for the kids are her main goals. Also she believes that in a year's time, the finished reblocking will provide better opportunities for the children, as well as create a better environment and better structures for all the members of the community.



A Glimpse into the Future

One of Elizabeth's main aspirations in life is to work to attain her own formal house. She imagines it made out of bricks, with a toilet and proper water service. When this opportunity arrives, she would like to give her reblocked house at Flamingo to someone in need. She also wants her children to get an education and work hard to have a better life. In terms of the community, she hopes that after the reblocking is completed, common problems such as floods and fires will stop. She also believes that building a crèche, a park or other social initiative will help the kids. She believes the reblocking in Flamingo will create small jobs to help community members start improving their lives. Ultimately, she hopes that all this hard work will lead to a better environment in Flamingo Crescent.

Skills

- ✓ Communication
- ☐ Engineering
- ✓ Leadership
- ☐ Entrepreneurial
- ☐ Cultural
- ✓ Caring
- ✓ Building
- ☐ Crafting
- ☐ Musical
- ✓ Cooking
- ✓ Teaching