



KGATELOPELE

SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT FORUM (KSDF)

The Danielskuil settlement is 142km north-west of Kimberley and 72km north-east of Postmasburg in the arid Northern Cape.¹ The name comes from a cone-shaped depression six metres deep in the limestone with a domed covering. It is derived from the Biblical story about Daniel in the lions' den' (Afrikaans: kuil, 'hole', 'pit').² The Griqua leader Adam Kok is said to have used this depression as a prison, and to also have kept snakes in it. The Tswana name of Danielskuil is Tlaka le Tlou or Tlaka-lo-Tlou, 'elephant reed'. The area is known for rich asbestos deposits and for diamonds, while marble is also mined.³ According to the last census in 2011, Danielskuil had a population of 13,597, the majority (62%) of whom are Afrikaans speaking followed by Tswana speakers at 31%.⁴

The Kgatelopele Social Development Forum (KSDF) is an established Local Development Association located in Danielskuil. The strength of the organisation is drawn from a board that is made up of community leaders, business leaders and officials from the local mining industry. The KSDF has a communal food garden project that supports over 130 households in the community. The produce from the garden is packaged and sold to the local supermarket and also distributed to those in need in their community as part of their Home-based care programme. Members of the community can also buy seeds and seedlings from the project. The communal food garden also serves as a place where community members interested in starting their own food gardens could get training and support.

1. Danielskuil. (n.d.). Retrieved October 9, 2019, from <https://www.places.co.za/html/danielskuil.html>
2. Raper, P. (1987). Dictionary of Southern African Place Names (Vol. 46). <https://doi.org/10.1080/10228195.2015.1113434>
3. Danielskuil. (n.d.). Retrieved October 9, 2019, from <https://www.places.co.za/html/danielskuil.html>
4. Frith, A. (2019). Census 2011: Main Place: Danielskuil. Retrieved October 9, 2019, from <https://census2011.adrianfrith.com/place/382001>

FAST FACTS

NAME: Kgatelopele Social Development Forum (KSDF)

LED BY: Jeanette Mqomo

MAIN CHALLENGES FACED BY THE COMMUNITY: Poverty, unemployment

MAIN ACTIVITIES: Paralegal support; home-based care; food security

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SUSTAINING OURSELVES THROUGH SELF-SUFFICIENCY



Jeanette Mqomo (Project Manager).



Ksatelopele Social Development Forum (KSDF) office wall.



Front row - Irene Franse, Jeanette Mqomo, Bernadine Strauss, Sophia Booysen, Elizabeth Baum, Back row - Joey Ramohlobi, Frans Marwaane, Yolandy Leberberg, Hlompo Smith.

JEANNETTE MQOMO WRITES ABOUT LESSONS SHE HAS LEARNT TO ENSURE COMMUNITIES TAKE OWNERSHIP OF SOLUTIONS TO THEIR PROBLEMS.

I was born in a small town called Danielskuil in the Northern Cape. Our town has a high rate of unemployment and poverty with most people dependent on social grants. I finished my matric in 1996 at Kuilsville senior secondary school in Danielskuil. I am a person who likes helping other people, sharing clothes with those in need. I would go to other communities who are more fortunate and ask them to donate clothing that they don't wear to the community in need. I also like helping children who are in need and motivate them to attend school so that they can be able to be better people in future with good qualifications and professions.

In 2007 I started volunteering in my community and assisting community members who were affected by HIV and AIDS. A group of women were trained in home based care in order to provide support and care to those who are in need by the Ksatelopele Social Development Forum (KSDF). I was eventually hired to do administration for the organisation. In 2008 the Department of Social Development funded KSDF based on the need that was rising in our community. Many children in the community were orphans who were vulnerable. Some children didn't attend school as they were complaining of hunger. The feeding scheme was opened to the community to access food. As our community members were fed at the feeding scheme, we found that it would be good if we could start home food gardens and communal gardens for social grant beneficiaries.

In 2009 KSDF became fortunate to be part of SCAT which played a big role in providing KSDF with developmental skills. They provided training on food gardens, mentoring of staff, time management skills, Human Resources and fundraising. The communal food garden did very well and we managed to produce and sell vegetables to our OK foods local store and in the community.



JEANNETTE MQOMO



I tried to do my best to assist the community by providing skills and resources to maintain and build food gardens. Some community members were expecting more from the organisation to maintain and water their gardens which was not possible to do. This was very strenuous as we didn't have the capacity to do the work for them. The organisation was also assisting the community so they could take ownership and be self-sustainable. From the training I received from SCAT I tried my best to encourage our staff to educate our community with the skills they acquired. The training also helped me to do analysis before starting a project. It also helped me learn that a project should be explained properly so that the right targets are reached. We encouraged the community members who attended the food garden training not to start planting if they felt they were not ready.

I learned that the best way of selecting the right people to work on a project is to choose those who have an interest in the project. The food garden training and assessment helped the participants who showed an interest in the food gardening to avail themselves. They planted and produced vegetables. This made me happy as it was one of the reasons we wanted to assist. We also experienced challenges with climate change and the training helped as participants were taught when to plant different vegetables.

I have learned that when you want to assist people in a community to change their lives, the best method is to ask members of the community what will work for them so that they can take ownership of a project.



Gardener Frans Marwaane at Kgatelopele Social Development Forum (KSDF).