



MASAZANE
SOUP KITCHEN & CHILD
PROTECTION PROJECT

Easter 2023

Dear friends and supporters of Masazane Soup Kitchen,

We're currently going through a number of changes at our project.

Our Chair, **Judy Cooke**, has retired from her position after 10 years at the helm. We are so very grateful to her for all that she has done for MSK, for her drive and commitment to the wellbeing of the children of Mbekweni, and to the women who work there on a daily basis. Thankfully, Judy will remain as a member of the Board of the project, so there will be continuity and we will continue to benefit from her experience.

Judy pictured with the gogos and volunteers last year



Our new Chair is **Claudine Bill** (left). She is a medical doctor who has worked for many years at Philani Maternal, Child Health and Nutrition Trust. We are so grateful that Claudine has agreed to join us – there is clear overlap between her qualifications and experience, with our project, and we were very excited to welcome her to her role at our AGM held in March.

Brian Davison, who has been our Treasurer since the project started, has also retired. We have valued his dedication to MSK, his advice and guidance as we grew the project, becoming a registered NPO. He has kept a close eye on our finances through the years, and we will miss his input at our Management Team meetings as well as on the Board. Thank you, Brian!

We were hoping to be able to announce the name of our new Treasurer, but this will have to wait until the next newsletter.

We've also had a bit of a turnover in the team of gogos who work in the kitchen. Dila Vellum has had to retire due to ill-health, but we welcomed Nomathembu Boyi to the team, pictured right. I hope to introduce you to them over the next few newsletters.

*Nosihlalo Mditjana, Nontobeko Nofemele
Nomhle Leholo, Martha Mdingi*

Nomathemu Boyi, Julia Sijaji, and volunteer Frances Barnett



Daily Maverick (dailymaverick.co.za) is an excellent independent source of news, analysis, and investigative journalism in South Africa. Last month it published two articles that have given me much food for thought, and while many of us were celebrating Easter, I picked out some of the sobering facts the articles present. Thanks to DM for the articles and the graphic.



The main gist of one of the articles was a call that has been made by David Harrison, the executive director of the DG Murray Trust and long-time friend of MSK. He is calling on the big food retail chains in South Africa to reduce their prices on 10 key foods by one-fifth. We look forward to the outcome of his proposals, which were submitted to government.

We wish him well on this campaign!

Thirty-two percent of 5,604 people who were interviewed reported that they saved for food, while **43% had to borrow money for food**.

A 3kg bunch of carrots costs nearly R30. That's **almost 10%** of a Social Relief of Distress (SRD) grant.

According to section 27 of the Constitution “everyone” in South Africa has a right of access to “sufficient food” and the state must take “reasonable legislative and other measures” to achieve this right. Further, **section 28 provides “every child” with an unqualified right to “basic nutrition”**.

20.4% of South African households are food-insecure.

One in five families are sending a family member out to beg, while another 46% rely on “less-preferred and less-expensive foods” – meaning cheaper and nastier.

Given what the Constitution states (see above), it was interesting to see the DM article by Sue Segar, one of our volunteers, asking if NGOs are now in fact doing the work of the state. Indeed, while we wait for government action, hungry children need feeding, and that is our *raison d'être*.

Read the articles here:

https://www.dailymaverick.co.za/article/2023-04-05-are-ngos-doing-the-work-of-the-state-should-they/?utm_source=TouchBasePro&utm_medium=Email&utm_content=NRS&utm_campaign=Afternoon+Thing++5++April+2023&utm_term=&utm_id=82331bb2-30f6-4d6c-b354-5128bdef9a48
https://www.dailymaverick.co.za/article/2023-04-04-a-serious-proposal-to-overcome-child-hunger-but-will-we-choose-it/?utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=Maverick%20Citizen%204%20April%202023&utm_content=Maverick%20Citizen%204%20April%202023+CID_6c044d1f220b4d2883710c63ffaf0791&utm_source=TouchBasePro&utm_term=here

**We continue to do what we can to keep some of the children in our corner of Mbekweni from going hungry, but we can only do it with your support.
THANK YOU!**

We are so grateful for what you have done for this project thus far, and look forward to a continued partnership with you as we try to ensure that some of the most vulnerable children receive the protection and nutrition that they need at this time of great need in South Africa.

Our special thanks go to our supporters and donors:

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OTB Africa
Outliers
Plymouth Congregational Church(USA)
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Soroptimists – Stratford Upon Avon
Valcare Trust

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Contact us:

Claudine Bill
claudinebill502@gmail.com
076 118 7180

Gogo uMartha Mdingi
073 569 7822

Shireen Willemse
084 662 3427

Kate Laburn Peart
katelaburnpeart@gmail.com
073 144 9277

Donations to:

Masazane Soup Kitchen and Child Protection Project

First National Bank
Rondebosch

Account number: 62783960894

Swift code: FIRZAJJ

NPO: 207-414

Please request a tax receipt from us should this be helpful.

We are thankful for the support from Rondebosch United Church, Cape Town, through their Samaritan Partners Trust, contributions from church services, and ongoing prayer support.

Masazane Soup Kitchen 207 414 NPO
c/o Rondebosch United Church
18 Belmont Road, Rondebosch 7700, South Africa
www.rondeboschunited.org