Sanitation and rural communities of Mzinyathi and Ngcolosi

- By Dudu Khumalo
- “the toilet is a part of the history of human hygiene which is critical chapter in the growth of civilisation”
  – (Dr. B. Phathak, India)
Toilets provided by the Ethekwini municipality

- Many families no longer use the provided toilets.
- The so-called VIP’s become full within a few months.
- They have two holes in one pit whereby the other side of the pit is full, take the bucket to the other side and start cleaning the other side.
No proper consultation and community participation

One important problem is that there was no proper consultation and community participation during the installation of toilets. Even if communities were happy about the toilets initially, as time goes on, they realised that there were huge problems:
- the lack of involvement in the planning, designing, financing and construction of sanitation supplies
- the lack of public and private sector resources to provide initial training and long-term support, including subsidies for operation and maintenance
- the choice of affordable, sustainable technology was limited
- there was no empowerment for the communities to take responsibility for their own service.
In these rural areas of Inanda (Durban) both cases the pit is far too shallow for the long term use.

Ud’s have two holes, meaning that the family has to use the first side for feces, and the other side for urine. And when the first side is full the bucket has to be changed to the other side and no proper training was given on how to deal with feces, except to dump it in the garden, whether wet or dry.
In this case one should realise that the communities cannot just take anything to the garden for fertiliser, because of many diseases surrounding us, whether the feces is wet or dry.

Some people within the family might have some kind of a diarrhoea at some stage and how does one know if the toilet fertiliser is good or not for veggies.

In the rural areas we have many ways of making fertilisers, including cow-dung etc.
Benefits and challenges of VIP’s or UD’s

- Structure of the toilets is good but does not accommodate disabled persons.
- The so-called municipal toilets stinks like no creature after its first month of use.
- Not able to clean when full, no training given.
- The burden of cleaning is left to women that are not always involved in training on new technologies or community development.
- When challenging the situation with the Municipal councillor, it is very difficult to get the positive response or you are taken from pillar to post or it's just that “communities are not thankful for mahala (free things)”
CONCLUSION

• To conclude this investigation it became clear to me that;

• People are aware and also understand the need for proper sanitation, except for municipal authorities who prefer to give lower quality VIP’s and UD’s to rural black people to save money

• Because of global warming and rising diseases like HIV/AIDS, Cholera and others related to water, there is a demand for cleanliness and proper sanitation among all people, even the poorest.
Rural can have flush toilets too.

- In this case because the Dam is just behind Umzinyathi (Maqadini) and in front of KwaNgcolosí people should benefit from this.