

**HALLO. IT IS US AGAIN: NONKULULEKO NDLELA, NOMUSA MADLALA, AND THENJIWE MNIKATHI.**

This is the second part of the photo tour of our township.

We have a river that passes through our township. Its name is Msunduzi river. We sometimes play along the river. On the picture, some of the children in the township are seen crossing the river. When it is rainy season, we cannot cross the river. It becomes flooded. You can see that we have a soccer ground across the river. During rainy season, it is difficult to go and play our soccer there.



Some of the families keep animals. Some keep chicken. There are two kinds of chickens. They are those that are hybrid. They are supplied by the department of agriculture. People eat them. But they do not enjoy them because they do not have a good taste. They taste like rubber. Then, we have our traditional chickens like the one below. The bones are hard when we eat them. People like them. But the traditional chickens are very very clever. They run very fast. Unlike the hybrid chickens, the traditional chickens are easy to keep. We do not have to buy special food for them. In the morning, we just let them out into the ground. They then go about looking for food for themselves. Then, at night, they come to their cage. We do not have to look for them. They know their cage. When it is getting dark, they come back into the cage.



Other people keep goats. Goats are very important for us. We use them for memorial rituals. We use especially the black ones like the ones on this photo. When somebody dies, after one year, we usually do a memorial ritual for the person. During the ritual, we use the blood and the meat from goats. They are rituals that are done to accompany the killing and the eating of the goat. In the future, when our elders give us the permission, we may take and send you photos of some of the rituals. It is difficult to get the elders to give us permission to take photos. But we shall try.



A few people keep cows. The cows cause problems on the road. They walk about on the roads. A cow is very important animal especially for marriage. To marry a girl, you have to give cows to the family of the girl. We call it lobola. It is a way of showing appreciation to the family of the girl. But some families abuse the tradition. They charge a lot of cows. Some charge for example 30 cows. If they charge too much, their daughters may remain single for long time. If they divorce, sometimes the family of the husband demand that the family of the wife give back some of the cows.



Some people do small business of selling chickens in the street. You can see some ladies selling chickens. Three months ago, somebody started the business of a small restaurant. He called it **OBAMA FAST FOOD**. He named it after the president of United States. His business has since collapsed. Although people like **OBAMA**, they do not like to buy and eat food in a container. They like to eat at home, and not in a container.



We have one primary school in our community. It is called Esigodini primary school. Here is a sign at our primary school. We have two kinds of schools in South Africa. We have public schools and then private schools. Education is not good in the public schools. We pay small fees. The teachers are sometimes lazy. In the private schools, they pay a lot of money for school fees. The teachers work hard. Such schools are usually for children from rich families. Our school in Esigodini is a public school.



Long time ago, there used to be a problem of violence at school. At the entrance to the school, they put this sign. Now, the problem is not there.



We also have a railway that passes through our township. The train makes a lot of noise for us. It passes through our township early in the morning at five o'clock. It disturbs our sleep. Then, it passes again at one o'clock in the afternoon. Then, in the evening at five. This railway line joins Pietermaritzburg city and Johannesburg city. In Pietermaritzburg, it goes to a very famous railway station. It is famous because Mahatma Gandhi was offloaded from the train in Pietermaritzburg. It was the time of apartheid. He just arrived in South Africa from India. He took a train to Pretoria. As an Indian, he was told to ride in the third class, and not in the first class. He refused and bought ticket for the first class. He fought with the train inspectors. They threw him out of the train when the train arrived in Pietermaritzburg. At the center of the city in Pietermaritzburg, we have a statue of Mahatma Gandhi.



When we get ill, we go to the hospital. The photo below is the hospital that we use. Its name is Edendale hospital. Just like schools, we also have two kinds of hospitals. We have public hospitals and private hospitals. In the public hospitals, things are not okay. There are a lot of problems. When one is ill, one has to first go to a clinic. The clinic would give you a referral letter to take to the hospital. If one goes to the hospital without such a letter, the hospital will not help you. When you get to the hospital, you have to go there very early, sometimes around five o'clock or four o'clock in the morning. When you get to the hospital, you have to queue for almost two hours to get your patient file. Then, you have to queue for another two hours or more to get to the doctor consultation room to be seen by the doctor. The doctors are overloaded. There are too many patients and very few doctors. They are therefore very quick when examining a patient. When they give you a prescription, you then go to the hospital pharmacy to collect your medicine. At the pharmacy, you have to queue again for more than two hours. By the time, one is done at the hospital, one is more tired and more ill. Sometimes, the people who work in the hospitals are rude because they are themselves very tired and overworked. Others are of course just lazy. Some expect you to bribe them with some money.





**WE THANK YOU FOR TAKING TIME TO TAKE A TOUR OF OUR TOWNSHIP. WE PROMISE TO TAKE YOU ON THE THIRD PART OF THE TOUR SOMETIME IN DECEMBER WHEN WE ARE ON OUR SCHOOL HOLIDAYS.**