

news

Those who know Sinxolo Mafevuka only as a victim, remember her hands; where they found her clothes; what "those guys" did to her.

But to the people who knew her, she personified her name: "We have peace."

During an interview on an unusually warm autumn day in the house they used to share in Khayelitsha's SST informal settlement, her sister-in-law describes Sinxolo as "a quiet and kind child". Sinxolo's boyfriend says he knew they were a match when he noticed that - unlike previous girlfriends - she wasn't violent.

The corrugated iron structure she called home for more than a year is covered in bright-blue paint. From the lounge chairs where we are seated, you can watch TV or look out on to the neat yard through the open front door.

Sinxolo's old room is now the kitchen. The books in which she used to write are nowhere to be found. "She loved to write poems ... Most of the time, she would write about her life," says her sister-in-law, Iminathi Mafevuka (22).

One of the things Iminathi will remember about Sinxolo is that she "did not want to see bad [things] happen to other people".

Siwe Coka, an activist whose work includes gender-based violence, says Sinxolo's attackers didn't share her sentiment. "The manner in which they killed her was very, very sad.

"They made it a point that she wouldn't survive. Putting her head right under the pipe [below the cistern] ... I mean, what does that tell you?"



FIGHTING
Activist Siwe Coka is encouraging the victims of sexual abuse in SST, Khayelitsha, to come forward

PHOTO: ZINGCE QAMISO



NIGHT TERROR
Iminathi Mafevuka walks towards the communal toilets in Blowey, SST, where Sinxolo Mafevuka, her sister-in-law, was found raped and murdered

PHOTO: ZINGCE QAMISO

363 steps

We count the steps from Sinxolo's home to the communal toilets where she was found, brutalised, less than two months ago.

Some 363 steps on, we reach a filthy toilet cubicle with a cross resembling a vote on its green door: the place where the 20-year-old's body was dumped, or rather positioned in such a way that her head was stuck behind the back of the toilet and her genitals were clearly visible.

Sinxolo's death - she was strangled - was the result of jealousy, the police's investigating officer testified during the bail application of the two brothers accused of her rape and murder.

The accused are two men Sinxolo knew well. Had she accepted her boyfriend's marriage proposal, they would have become family.

"They were close," says Iminathi of Sinxolo's relationship with the accused - two of her boyfriend's cousins.

Her boyfriend, who cannot be named because it indirectly identifies his cousins, in contravention of a court order, joins the interview part of the way through.

He has an upturned collar. In his hand is a chips packet and a R20 note.

The 22-year-old, who works in construction, speaks softly when he discusses Sinxolo. His voice rises when the topic turns to the attention police have paid him, and to the fact that some members of the community doubt his innocence.

"They know that I am mourning. They are the ones who were conspiring against me, saying I was there when the incident occurred when I was not even there."

His shack has been broken down by community members, as have those of the accused.

"No," comes the answer after a brief pause when I ask him if he can forgive the men who did this to Sinxolo.

"Our dream was to get married someday. This year, I was working for her. I wanted to make her mine. What they have done ... they have really hurt me," he says.

Welcome to Blowey

A small boy, whose name has been written with a black marker on his oversized yellow school shirt, walks past the homes near the communal toilets where no one heard Sinxolo scream. They call the area Blowey.

Beyond the fence behind the 12 communal toilets, locals say, people relieve themselves "in the bush".

Iminathi says Sinxolo moved to Khayelitsha from Hermanus 18 months ago to live within walking distance of a school. Sinxolo recorded the day she started at Thembelihle High School as a life event on Facebook.

Was it significant? "She wanted to further her studies, get a decent job and build her mother [Nowethu] a house," says Iminathi.

But she was sickly. Sinxolo left school because she had TB.

On March 1, Sinxolo was seen leaving the house, toilet paper in hand.

Says Iminathi: "We let her go because she was going to the toilet. But it was not dark. Around 8pm or 9pm, we all accompany each other when we have to go to the toilet. But it was before 8pm and there was still light."

When she didn't come back, her family thought she was with a friend or that her boyfriend, who was away for work, had returned.

Iminathi discovered that Sinxolo had died the next morning when she went to use the same communal toilets. She has stopped using these toilets and now asks a neighbour if she can use theirs.

Having to ask to use a toilet is common practice here. Many of the communal toilets are locked, which means those who don't have keys have to borrow a key to get access.

The City of Cape Town says it provides locks and keys to families who share toilets - the distribution of which is managed by community leaders. However, Blowey residents say people become "owners" of particular toilets when they go out and buy a lock themselves.

This might explain why three new locks have appeared on toilet doors adjacent to the toilet where Sinxolo was found.

The informal key system complicates matters in an area where the ratio of toilets to households is one toilet to every 6.4 households, less than the city's "self-imposed" target for informal settlements of one toilet for every five.

Add to this the safety concerns and the number of toilets that are not working, and it becomes clear why open defecation and the use of buckets remain a reality.

A social audit of the janitorial service for communal flush toilets, conducted by the Social Justice Coalition



IN MOURNING
Iminathi Mafevuka (right) says her sister-in-law, Sinxolo Mafevuka (left), was 'cool. I remember her chats, her laughter, everything'

PHOTO: ZINGCE QAMISO



DYING FOR A TOILET

Sinxolo Mafevuka moved to Khayelitsha so that she could be within walking distance of a school. She had big plans, among them to get a decent job and build her mother a house. Sinxolo was raped and murdered less than two months ago, after leaving the corrugated iron structure she called home, to head to the communal toilet 363 steps away. **Liesl Pretorius** reports



SCARED Nosisi Pilingane and her six-month-old son, Bukho. She refuses to use the toilets where Sinxolo Mafevuka was found murdered

PHOTO: RAY JOSEPH / CODE4SA

and other partners in July 2014, found that 26% (138 of 528) of toilets in four informal settlements in Khayelitsha were not working. SST was not included in the audit.

The City of Cape Town says it has received 864 complaints about faulty communal toilets in Khayelitsha in the six months to April 30 - one complaint for every eight such toilets in Khayelitsha (mobile flush toilets are excluded).

Buckets and the bush

For protection, Blowey resident S'bu Ratia (28) carries a bread knife with him if he is forced to use the communal toilets at night.

"It's not safe for girls, for guys, for everyone who stays in the shacks," he says.

Ratia says buckets are only kept for night-time urination. "No one is sh**ting in a bucket. That's a lie."

In an emergency, matriculant Lindokuhle Dukumbana (19) would rather brave the communal toilets at night, accompanied by her mother, than use a bucket. "I wouldn't sleep well. It's gonna smell."

But Fezeka Fokwana (50) says a bucket is her back-up plan. "If your stomach is running at night, you can't go there [to the communal toilets]."

Nosisi Pilingane (20) does use the communal toilets at night, but she won't use the row of toilets where Sinxolo died - not even during the day.

The difference, she explains, is that "when you scream, they can come and save you". Pilingane's toilets are closer to more shacks.

She was unaware of the municipality's offer of a portable flush toilet (a small mobile toilet with a tank for water and a tank for waste, which is serviced by the municipality) to anyone who asks for one through their ward councillor - particularly to use at night.

Pilingane, who thought they were "kids' toilets", says it's impractical for parents with children who could grab the toilet at any time and make a mess.

She says if people can't find an open or working toilet, they "go in the bush".

NGO Social Justice Coalition's Axolile Notywala says the distance from homes to the toilets is another reason people are defecating in the open. "In some areas, the bush itself can become a toilet."

An example is Endlovini (Monwabisi Park), in the south of Khayelitsha, known for the fact that a serial rapist in 2010 lured children to the bush with sweets.

The ratio of toilets to households there is one to every 18 (excluding portable flush toilets). Based on the average household size in Khayelitsha, which is 3.3 members according to Stats SA, 59 people share a single toilet.

Life on the outside

During the interview with Sinxolo's boyfriend, activist Coka jokingly asked if they had other girlfriends or boyfriends.

In the subsequent bail application, it emerged that Sinxolo could have paid with her life for seeing another man.

I ask Iminathi if the family believes in the boyfriend's innocence despite the revelation in court that he and his cousins - the accused - had been looking for Sinxolo in the days before her death, when they suspected that she was seeing someone else.

"Ja," she says. "He's still outside [jail]."

● Department of water and sanitation spokesperson Sputnik Ratau said a ratio of one toilet for five households is considered an acceptable standard of delivery, based on the National Housing Code's provisions for emergency housing. "The department is currently in the process of reviewing its norms and standards for water and sanitation services, which will address policy gaps that exist in the sector," he said.

● During the bail application (the case is back in court on June 1), the court heard that Sinxolo's boyfriend had allegedly stabbed a police informant. The police in the Western Cape would not say if any suspect had been arrested in the case.

324

THE NUMBER OF COMMUNAL FLUSH TOILETS IN KHAYELITSHA'S SST INFORMAL SETTLEMENT

206

THE NUMBER OF ADDITIONAL FLUSH TOILETS THE CITY OF CAPE TOWN PLANS TO INSTALL IN BLOWEY, SST, BY THE END OF JUNE

ON THE WEB AND TALK TO US

VIDEO: Explore Blowey through a 360° video
PLUS: Life without a toilet

How does government solve this problem?

SMS us on 35697 using the keyword TOILET and tell us what you think. Please include your name and province. SMSes cost R1.50

Why do things go wrong?

Around the country, **sanitation** has municipalities scratching their heads on how to provide and maintain decent toilets in informal settlements

LIESL PRETORIUS
news@citypress.co.za

Sanitation is not as simple as providing a toilet and "letting it be".
Dr Lina Taing, who researched the implementation of sanitation in informal settlements for her doctoral thesis, explains: "A toilet needs to be maintained. That ties into how people use the resource. If the toilet is dirty, people tend to treat it as such - by not looking after things."

In some cases, there is a disconnect between policy and practice in informal settlements. The City of Cape Town's janitorial service for communal flush toilets was a response to such a disconnect, says Taing.

National policy determined that users had to look after anything above ground while municipalities were responsible for infrastructure below ground.

"Things have changed a lot over the past few years. Especially at a local level: municipalities recognised that expecting users to look after everything above ground was not feasible. And the main reason is that, especially in informal settlements, people were not using systems as [policymakers and implementers] thought they would."

An example of the use of sanitation contrary to expectations is the disposal of solid waste.

Says Taing: "Sometimes they find things like kitchen waste and rubbish [in the sewer system]."

"But when you look at it from a resident's perspective, what are you supposed to do with that waste if the resources in place are insufficient to deal with that?"

An underlying problem in the provision of sanitation in informal settlements is that communal flush toilets require a different management plan from toilets provided on a 1:1 basis in formal areas, says Taing. "You know who's using them. You know who's responsible for cleaning and maintaining them."

Worlds apart

The reality in informal settlements is markedly different.

"People assume you can replicate what happens in water services, which is not the case. You can't translate what you know from your own practices either."

Then there is the issue of user preference. Given our history, solutions comparable with those used before 1994 "are not seen as being modern or appropriate".

Flush toilets are preferred, but "in Cape Town,

the majority of informal settlements are built in undesirable places for conventional sewerage. We have high water tables and sandy soils."

Containerised solutions (similar to the temporary toilets you would see at a concert) "tend to work", but they are "detested" by users, says Taing.

She believes the problems related to sanitation delivery in Khayelitsha are comparable to those in other informal settlements.

"Cape Town is not unique."

Ernest Sonnenberg, the City of Cape Town's mayoral committee member for utility services, elaborates on the city's problems: "Full flush [toilets] cannot legally be installed on privately owned property; in areas of extremely high density; under power lines; on landfill sites; in a road or railway buffer; within servitudes; outside the urban edge; in areas where there is no bulk infrastructure; in water bodies or retention ponds and floodplains; and in high-noise zones. Up to 82% of informal settlements are either fully or partially affected by one or more of the above-mentioned constraints."

Axolile Notywala, head of Khayelitsha-based NGO Social Justice Coalition's local government programme, recognises there are constraints to the delivery of sanitation in informal settlements, but says these should not be used as a blanket argument for all settlements.

Towards a solution

Where do things go wrong? I ask Taing. "Along the whole chain - from policy down to actual practices."

"It goes back to expectations. The policy, the general plans ... everything is not happening as people thought it would. There are so many people involved in this process it's not possible to consult everyone," she says.

Taing says she wouldn't be surprised if hundreds of people were involved - from the policy stage onwards - in the delivery of a single working toilet in an informal settlement.

"Who do you hold accountable if [something] goes wrong? Often, it's easiest just to point to the implementer [the municipality]."

Asked about solutions, Taing said: "People often say the sanitation problem is a housing problem ... The reality is that informal settlements will continue for some time. It's a problem everybody is trying to deal with, not just in Cape Town."

Notywala says the Social Justice Coalition's ultimate goal is to ensure that there are proper working toilets in informal settlements. To achieve this, he says, the city should treat the delivery of sanitation in these areas as a permanent - and not temporary - solution.



POLICY AND PRACTICE The communal toilets in Blowey, a section of Town Two in Khayelitsha

PHOTO: RAY JOSEPH / CODE4SA

SAFETY IN NUMBERS

LIESL PRETORIUS
news@citypress.co.za

The nature of public toilets, the distances people travel to communal toilets and the use of alternatives to toilets, including the bush, put women and children particularly at risk of sexual assault.

• A Johannesburg-based rape surveillance project at the University of SA identified public toilets as a possible site for attack.

"Public toilets are dangerous for women ... They are occupied by a woman at some point and they are enclosed."

"This is not an argument for the abolition of toilet cubicles, but it may be one for increasing security around them," said gender violence expert Lisa Vetten in a report in 2000 titled Geography and Sexual Violence: Mapping Rape in Johannesburg.

• Brigadier Zithulele Dladla, Khayelitsha's station commander at the time, told the Khayelitsha Commission of Inquiry that the use of communal toilets made people vulnerable to crime. And, according to the commission's 2014 report, residents raised the issue of sexual assault on women who used fields or the bush to relieve themselves.

• In 1998, the police's Crime Information Analysis Centre studied the dockets of 538 rape cases that had been reported in 1996 in Gauteng. It found that 27% of these rapes happened in open spaces.

• A survey of 1 800 Khayelitsha residents, commissioned by Khayelitsha's inquiry, found that one in three residents (32.7%) felt safe using communal services during the day.

When asked about the use of these services at night, the proportion dropped to one in five (18.9%).

• Among the reasons for the occurrence of rape, given by 492 Khayelitsha residents participating in a Rape Crisis survey in December 2015, was the use of "dangerous facilities". This included treating the bush as a toilet.

• Close to one in five households (19.5%) nationwide identified the use of communal toilets as a threat to their physical safety in the

six months before Stats SA's 2014 General Household Survey.

Khayelitsha's SST section

The City of Cape Town said it provided locks and keys to families who shared a toilet. But "in many cases, these were either stolen or removed", said Ernest Sonnenberg, a mayoral committee member for utility services.

He said the city would provide a portable flush toilet for any family that requested one.

"Public lighting is provided in communities as much as possible," he said.

But "rampant cable theft and vandalism - largely the responsibility of the SA Police Service (SAPS)" - made this challenging.

Sonnenberg said the city was not able to provide more safety measures on its own, "as we simply do not have the resources to be at all the thousands of toilets all the time".

He said this was so for any municipality in the country.

Asked if the police had taken action to ensure safety in SST Section after Sinxolo Mafevuka's death, police spokesperson Lieutenant Colonel André Traut said: "The SAPS is responsible for policing, as stipulated in section 205 of the Constitution, and providing safety and security for the community, irrespective of whether it is in a formal or informal environment."

TALK TO US

Have you been a victim of crime, intimidation or violence while using a communal toilet?

SMS us on 35697 using the keyword TOILET and tell us your story. Please include your name and province. SMSes cost R1.50



LIMPOPO
PROVINCIAL GOVERNMENT
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

DEPARTMENT OF
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT, ENVIRONMENT & TOURISM

CALL FOR NOMINATIONS

Legal requirements

Composition
The Board will be appointed and composed in terms of section 5 of the Act and must consist of:

- A person who is qualified and admitted to practice as a legal practitioner in the Republic and has, for a cumulative period of at least five years after having so qualified, practiced as a legal practitioner or performed services related to the application or administration of the law;
- A person who is qualified as a chartered accountant in the Republic and has for a cumulative period of at least five years after having so qualified practiced as a chartered accountant;
- A person representing the Department responsible for gambling matters in the province;
- A person representing the Department responsible for financial matters in the province;
- A person with proven business acumen and knowledge of the tourism industry;
- A person with knowledge and experience in the field of community welfare and socio-economic development;
- A person with qualifications and experience in the field of labour relations; and
- Two persons with proven business acumen and experience in the gaming industry.

Qualification and disqualification for appointment to the Board

In terms of section 6 of the Act, to be appointed as a board member, a person must be fit and proper to hold office, of good financial standing and a South African citizen who is ordinarily resident in the Republic. A person will be disqualified for appointment to the Board if he/she:

- has or acquires a direct or indirect interest in any gambling enterprise or business, which may result in a conflict with that member's professional interest as a member of the Board;
- has a family member, partner or associate with a direct or indirect interest in the gambling industry;
- is an unrehabilitated insolvent or becomes insolvent;
- is a political office bearer;
- has ever been, or is removed from an office of trust on account of misconduct;
- is subject to an order of a competent court holding that person to be mentally unfit; or
- has at any time been convicted of an offence involving dishonesty or an offence in terms of the Act or other gambling legislation.

Nomination procedure

All nominations must be in writing and must contain the following information:

- Full name, address and telephone number of the nominating person or organization;
- Full name, address, telephone number and identity number of the nominee;
- A proper motivation for the appointment of the nominee to the Board;
- Signed acceptance of the nomination by the nominee;
- A comprehensive curriculum vitae of the nominee containing:
 - i. certified copies of all qualifications
 - ii. supporting documents that reflect the applicant's knowledge and experience that will contribute to regulating the gambling industry in the province;
 - iii. a sworn affidavit declaring financial interests and whether the applicant has any interests contemplated in section 6(2)(a) and (b) of the Act.
- A certified copy of the nominee's South African identity document;
- A written authority by the nominee to the MEC of the Department of Economic Development, Environment and Tourism to investigate all records and documents of the nominee submitted in terms of the requirements.

The closing date for nominations

31 May 2016. Nominations must be submitted to: The Head of Department
(For Attention: Ms. S Harmse) Limpopo Economic Development, Environment and Tourism | Private Bag X9484, Polokwane, 0700 or hand delivered to Evidiki Towers, 19 Biccard Street, Polokwane (3rd floor).



Note that no faxed or emailed applications will be considered