

Nofumene Mqweba



Current position
 Chair: Construction cooperative
 Member: Johannesburg Construction Forum
 Director: Zizamele Cleaning company
 Exco member: Yeoville Community Forum ('Under the tree')
 Exco member: Yeoville Community Policing Forum
 Independent candidate in Yeoville: 2011 local elections
 Provincial Secretary: SA Women in Mining
 Former unionist: SAMWU

Bio details
Born: 1963 in Vaalbank (Eastern Cape)
Family Status: Single, 2 children
Lived in Yeoville: Since 1998
Current job: Construction contractor, Cleaning contractor

Vision
 "I've formed a co-operative, with 22 members of Yeoville community. From the 1st of October, they are not going to sweep the streets of Yeoville without Yeoville community. Because we believe that this tenderpreneurship is not working, we are the residents of Yeoville and we want to see Yeoville clean. And Yeoville is not clean, but it is cleaned. If I can clean then nobody must come clean my house for myself. So people of Yeoville are getting together, they want to take their service provision in their own hands"



"I don't like fighting. Because we want to eat rather than, you know, always fight..."

Being an activist in Yeoville
 "My whole life I was in politics. For workers and now for entrepreneurs. Then I moved to Yeoville in 1998 and I was a member of the ANC... but I don't want politics anymore. That is why I stood up as an independent candidate. Things get ruined because of politics...
 In the last local government elections I stood as an independent candidate, because the people wanted me. Even last in 2006, there were some marches after they selected the candidate, because they were not happy. So I said let it rest and I'm no more interested anyway. And already the membership of the ANC had eliminated me from the list.
 I am a local activist, 120% or 200%, because everybody knows me and they know they can get help when they speak to me. I like to help people."

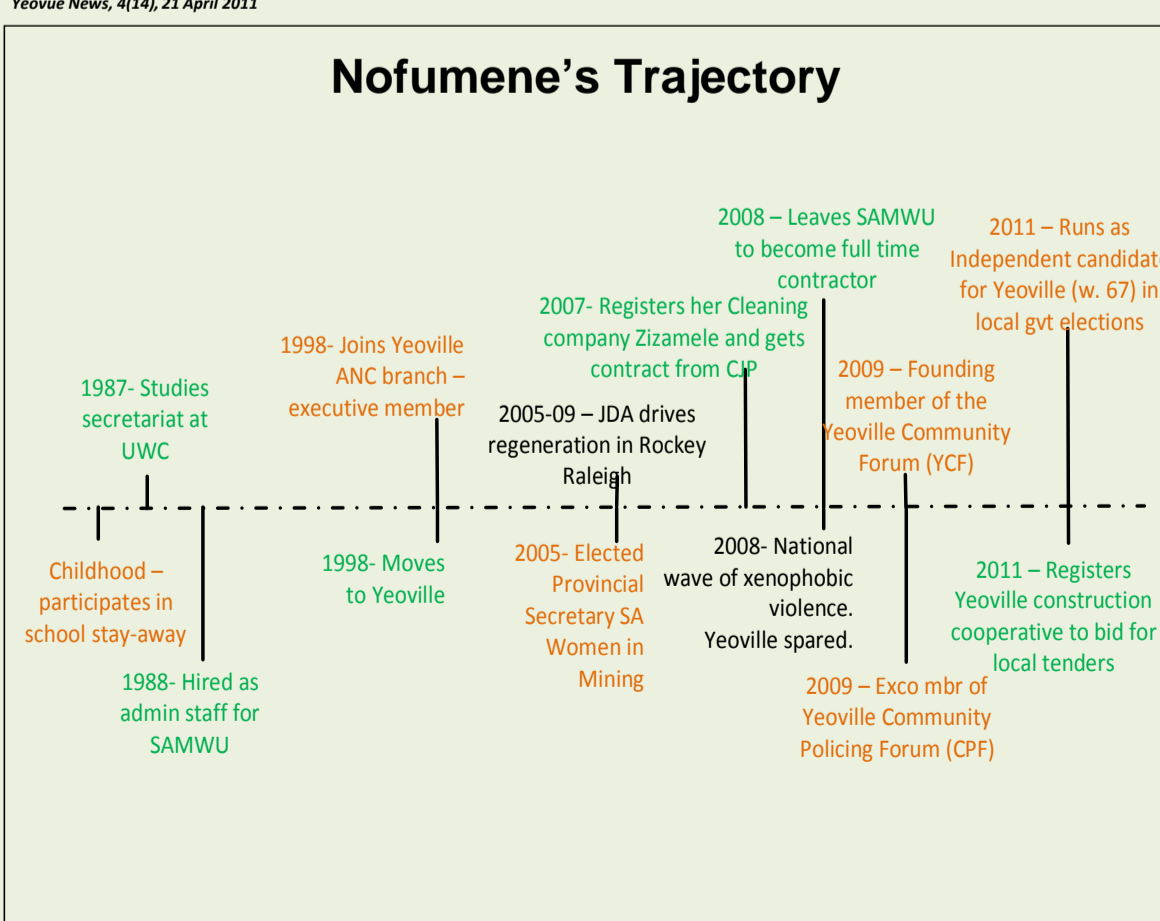
Marching for SMMEs' rights
 "This is a march by SMME sub-contractors. We are sidelined by big contractors who are awarded tenders. The municipality has put in a policy that is not working. It says that the SMMEs must be given 30% of the value of tender, and it's not happening. They are always hiding by saying, 'no I didn't know'. What we are demanding now is that in each and every tender it should appear that 30% should go to the SMMEs of the area.
 Like right now the Police station of Yeoville is going to be upgraded, I have to see the colonel at the police station because he is the one taking the project on. But come 1st October, I must know who is the main contractor, so that I can go and negotiate, rather than going on site while the person is not ready. I have been phoning him and I can't get hold of this colonel, before we fight in Yeoville."

As an independent candidate, I will focus on stopping evictions from residential properties, a housing and building audit, full home ownership with title deeds, an end to overcrowding, write-offs of electricity and water arrears, relocation of street traders, a youth and community information centre, skills development, community and school safety, illegal liquor outlets, a designated taxi rank, making provision for the poor and vulnerable, and promoting integrated community building. Local government is not a politicians' battlefield, but for service delivery.

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One week in the life of Nofumene
(Oct. 2011)

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday
Monday this week I was home because baba was not feeling well since we came from Utrecht where I had a contact last week	I went to Pretoria, at DTI enquiring about sponsors for cooperatives. I collected CIPRO forms to register my cooperatives.	Morning: Doing my washing Afternoon: Meeting with the Johannesburg Construction Forum meeting with Independent entrepreneurs Development to get advice on cooperatives
Thursday	Friday	Sunday
Morning: Mtg in Orange Farm (construction of a mall funded by DBSA) Afternoon: Mtg with a company about a contact in Krygersdorp Evening: Mtg in Braamfontein, Johannesburg Construction Forum	Ran a workshop for development of cooperatives	Afternoon: YCF 'under the tree' meeting (Yeoville Rec Center)



Why Yeoville?
 I won't move from Yeoville to go to Orange farm, Hay! I can't do that... If you are moving people out of Yeoville to locations, you are killing those people. Though Yeoville right now is not a good place, but we are trying because right now I'm participating in the community policing forum. We are trying to make it a peaceful area.
 Now we are facing this problem of housing hijacking in Yeoville. Whites left Yeoville ne, they locked their houses and went and didn't come back, since 1994. So it left people of Yeoville homeless at the end of the day, but foreigners have a house. They picked up when they saw this house is abandoned. So the struggle that goes much in Yeoville is the struggle of housing more than anything. There is a struggle of accommodation and work."