

Khulisa Social Solutions conducted several conflict resolution sessions at Extension Seven, Rasta Village, and 22<sup>nd</sup> Avenue, with various stakeholders, to discuss, understand, and resolve disputes between parties pertaining to waste dumping in the Jukskei river.

16 NOVEMBER 2022

### EXTENSION SEVEN

#### SESSION 1:

*Water Sanitation Community Forum (WSCF) and West Bank Community Leaders (WBCL)*

Dumping by trucks at the East side, as instructed and paid for by Rasta 1, drives the river to its West bank, and the residence reciprocated with a temporary push-back solution via the application of sand-filled-tires. However, the continuation of the corresponding response requires resources (funding) and does not present a long-term solution which necessitate the construction and placement of barriers at the riverbeds, such as stone gabions, sandbags, and additional tires, or ideally, the immediate discontinuation of river-dumping. The community was willing to meet and engage with Rasta 1 to resolve differences and find meaningful and practical solutions.

#### SESSION 2:

*Water Sanitation Community Forum (WSCF) and Rasta 1*

Although Rasta 1 acknowledged his share in river-dumping, he failed to take responsibility as the original and only perpetrator and denied the existence of conflict regarding the matter. Moreover, he admitted to receiving funds from truckers that promotes his financial earnings and improves his livelihood. Rasta 1 proposed the erection of barriers to address the river-dumping but emphasized the importance of service and implementation costs.

The WBCL and Rasta 1 agreed taking action, in the form of peace-making, community building, and requesting financial assistance to ensure the river's cleanliness and address possible negative consequences for the health, safety, and housing concerns of the community. In addition, create an opportunity for tourism to benefit the region.

### RASTA VILLAGE

*Water Sanitation Community Forum (WSCF) and Community Elders*

WSCF sought support from the community elders to oppose the shutdown of the water sanitation plant, which the WSCF regards as a heritage site. The dream is to convert and recognize the plant as a museum that in turn will promote tourism and benefit the Rasta community. River-dumping was raised as an obstacle to the realization; however, the elders pledged their support for the matter and welcomed future peace-making and community development initiatives.

It was requested that Khulisa plays a monitoring role, involve the elders, and support the efforts of and partner with the WSCF (already enjoying the wider community support) to secure a fruitful and favourable way forward, which in the short-term involves the erection of gabions and securing funding thereof.

### 22<sup>ND</sup> AVENUE

*Water Sanitation Community Forum (WSCF) and Concerned Citizens*

Concerned citizens highlighted their experiences with the Jukskei river as causing havoc for the residence, such as the collapse of housing. Their combined efforts to implement safety precautions have been to no avail as a permanent solution demands the implementation of gabions and other barriers. Although politicians have visited the area, aware of the river's condition, with promises of accountability, no aid or assistance have been provided.

02 DECEMBER 2022

### EXTENSION SEVEN

*Water Sanitation Community Forum (WSCF), West Bank Community Leaders (WBCL), and Rasta 1, 2*

The aim of the meeting was to unite and find viable solutions to address the river-dumping and develop a healthy environment. Gabions and engineer approval, brick laying, fencing, and funding needs were discussed. In addition, the utilisation of garbage disposal facilities at the riverbank could encourage residence to refrain from river-dumping. Although some individuals displayed animosity during previous sessions, parties agreed and committed to cooperation.

### RASTA VILLAGE

*Water Sanitation Community Forum (WSCF), Community Elders, and Rasta 2*

After investigation of the water sanitation plant, dumping of industrial and building waste seemed to continue and increase. The assumption remains that individuals receive remuneration for looking the other way. Evident that the no-dumping policy was ignored, the ward councillor will be approached to report the incident and non-compliance and invite them and the ward committee to attend future sessions. The goal remains to discontinue river-dumping and make way for possible entities to reflect a healthy, safe, and welcoming environment.

The sessions were met with excitement and optimism as the process steadily progresses and parties honour their commitments. Riverpreneurs will be invited to future sessions to discuss the brick-building project and progress at the sites.

09 DECEMBER 2022

### EXTENSION SEVEN

#### *Water Sanitation Community Forum (WSCF) and River-preneurs*

Concepts and ideas of peace-making, conflict resolution, and restorative justice as it pertains to the river were explained. The ECO-bricks project was described and elucidated on how recycled material can be utilised to manufacture at least 6,000 bricks per day; business plans and marketing and sales development to follow. The project, confined to a particular area around extension seven and eight, will create employment and entrepreneurship opportunities for at least 23 people (19 women and four men), distinct from the Water Warriors initiative already performed at the river. The placement of gabions (expected employment for the River-perneurs) is dependent upon Khulisa securing funds for engineering and implementation which is unfortunately a lengthy process. Khulisa undertook to keep all parties informed regarding planning and execution.

Conflict is normal and can present opportunities for growth, better understanding, and transformation. The interventions of November and December 2022 brought together hostile East and West bank leaders who have pledged to work together with the common purpose of cleaning the river and its environment.

Rasta 1, Janky, George Lai Thom (conflict resolution specialist – independent contractor to Khulisa)



Rasta 2 and George Lai Thom (conflict resolution specialist – independent contractor to Khulisa)



River-preneurs Meeting



River-preneurs and George Lai Thom (conflict resolution specialist – independent contractor to Khulisa)



Water Treatment Plan Site

