

The KZN Gaming and Betting Board is the regulator of the KZN Gaming and Betting Industry. As part of the Board's mandate, it is incumbent that the entity safeguards the interest of the general public. This is achieved through overseeing the programmes that are undertaken by licensees in terms of Corporate Social Investment within the communities that the business operates. In this edition of CSI News, the efforts that are undertaken by one of the casino licensees, Peermont Umfolozi Casino has been highlighted.

Ukhukanya Development Club: Mevemhlope Gardern Project"

The Ukhukanya Development Club (UDC) is situated on the Madlebe Traditional area, Lower Umfolozi District and is an area of great poverty. The club was initially founded to care for the great number of AIDS and HIV orphans, by providing vegetables to these families and ensuring their involvement in self-help projects, in an attempt to break the poverty cycle.

The driving force behind a flourishing agricultural business, Mevamhlope resident Lilian Sibidi (66) has proven that having little does not define one's journey to success. As founder of the Ukhukanya Development Club, Lilian has been supplying fresh vegetables to local businesses and the community since 1999.

With no choice but to find a sustainable way to look after her family, Lilian planted a small vegetable garden near her home which quickly grew into a successful business.

Together with more than 10 local women who joined the initiative, Lilian put all her time and effort towards the precious merchandise. But multiple challenges such as transportation and water hindered her vegetable business at times and Lilian soon found herself with fewer helping hands. It was when a chance to travel abroad to learn more about the industry arose that Lilian's luck changed and she soon found herself on her way to Japan. The sponsored trip allowed Lilian and her co-workers to gain valuable knowledge. Arriving home with a fresh perspective of the industry, Lilian was quick to expand her organisation and now occupies a large piece of land opposite her home which boasts a number of fruits and vegetables

Umfolozi Casino and UDC

The partnership with Lilian (Founder of the organisation) and the Ukhukanya development Club began in 2013, with a humble donation of seedlings and gardening equipment.



The casino still assists UDC by periodically reviewing the needs of the organisation, and supporting where necessary. In 2015, during a visit and handover of more gardening equipment, the challenges that the organisation were facing:

- The drought and severe heat had caused much of Lilian's produce to perish, many of the plants could not be grown in direct sunlight.
- Goats, chickens and other small animals, could now make their way through the rusted and

damage fencing, and eat the produce before it has been harvested.

- Lack of personal transport, hinders sales, as she must take public transport to the markets and local families. Not much produce can be transported at on each trip, and has become a great challenge.

Understanding the needs of the organisation, Umfolozi Casino endeavoured to take-on this project in 2015, and have successfully remedied these issues, allowing Lillian and her team to focus on their original goals and objectives.



Fencing:

Umfolozi and Security fencing removed all fencing and cleaned the entire perimeter of the land. The fencing used was a galvanised stiff-stay, square-knot fence design which is much stronger and more durable, to ensure a longer life,

and will be difficult for animals to break through. Further, the fencing was put into the ground, to avoid animals being able to dig underneath the fencing.

Before



After



Shading:

Many produce cannot flourish under direct sunlight, this combined with the severe drought experienced in the area caused much of the gardens produce to wilt and die. This had become a problem for Lillian as she was unable to provide these types of vegetables and was thus losing

business. Together we identified an ideal area of the garden to shade and erected 4 shading ports

Before



After



Transport:

The final contribution for 2015, and the cherry of top of a most successful year, Umfolozi Casino handed over a Nissan NP200, to Lillian for the transportation of goods to the local markets, supermarkets, and homes as needed.

'I have no words. I don't know what to say. I am just so happy,' said a tearful and most appreciative Lillian.



As you will see from the pictures below, the gardens are flourishing and yielding healthy and quality produce. It is through the hard work and diligence of the workers and Lillian that the gardens are able to flourish. The infrastructure

we provided is being well maintained, by the workers. The team is now able you focus on the growing, harvesting and sale of the produce, while begin able to realize their original Mission and Vison.

More before and after photos of the Gardens below.

Before Umfolozi Casino Intervention:



After Umfolozi Casino Intervention:

Before Umfolozi Casino Intervention:



After