

Handing over the baton

Mfesane is excited to announce the appointment of a new CEO, Mrs Yolandi Afrika, taking the organisation into a new season.

In operation for over 43 years, Mfesane reaches out to communities in the Western Cape, Eastern Cape and Cape West Coast. Working closely with partner organisations, government, local churches and the communities themselves, Mfesane’s teams provide support, skills and services that are sustainable and empowering. Their community services include ongoing projects to support children and families, youth development, health care and skills training.



Mrs Afrika takes the baton from Mrs Nomvuyo Baba who served Mfesane for 20 years. “I am fully confident in Mrs Afrika as the new leader of Mfesane,” said Mrs Baba. “Having led our West Coast team for 15 years, and represented Mfesane in South African alliances and on numerous occasions, I know that she has the experience, skills and compassion that are needed to take Mfesane forward.”

Mrs Afrika recently graduated with a Masters of Art in Social Science in the subject of Social Work from UWC. She has 28 years of experience in social development services, including community development, research, service delivery, reporting, project management, financial management and human resources.

“My passion is to see sustainable community development leading to communities that are positive, healthy and strong,” says Mrs Afrika. “Mfesane is the Xhosa word for compassion. Here at Mfesane, we put compassion into action.”

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Photo & caption	Mrs Yolandi Afrika, the new CEO of Mfesane (right) with Rev. Almero, the first CEO of Mfesane (centre), and outgoing CEO Mrs Nomvuyo Baba (left)

ABOUT MFESANE

Mfesane is a Christian development non-profit organisation working to eradicate poverty. Their vision is positive, healthy and strong communities. Mfesane has three areas of focus:

1. **Care and support of children, youth and families** : Our teams offer family counselling; family strengthening, positive parenting and fatherhood workshops; as well as youth camps, life skills training in schools, after school programmes, Safe Parks and support of young mothers.
2. **Community healthcare services**: including TB and HIV screening, counselling, home care, education and referrals.
3. **Training and development**: Mfesane offers a comprehensive skills training programme with both accredited and non-accredited courses.

By serving local communities Mfesane aims to build the capacity of communities to respond to their own needs sustainably. Their focus is on using internal and external knowledge and resources, and facilitating networks and partnerships with the community and other development organisations.