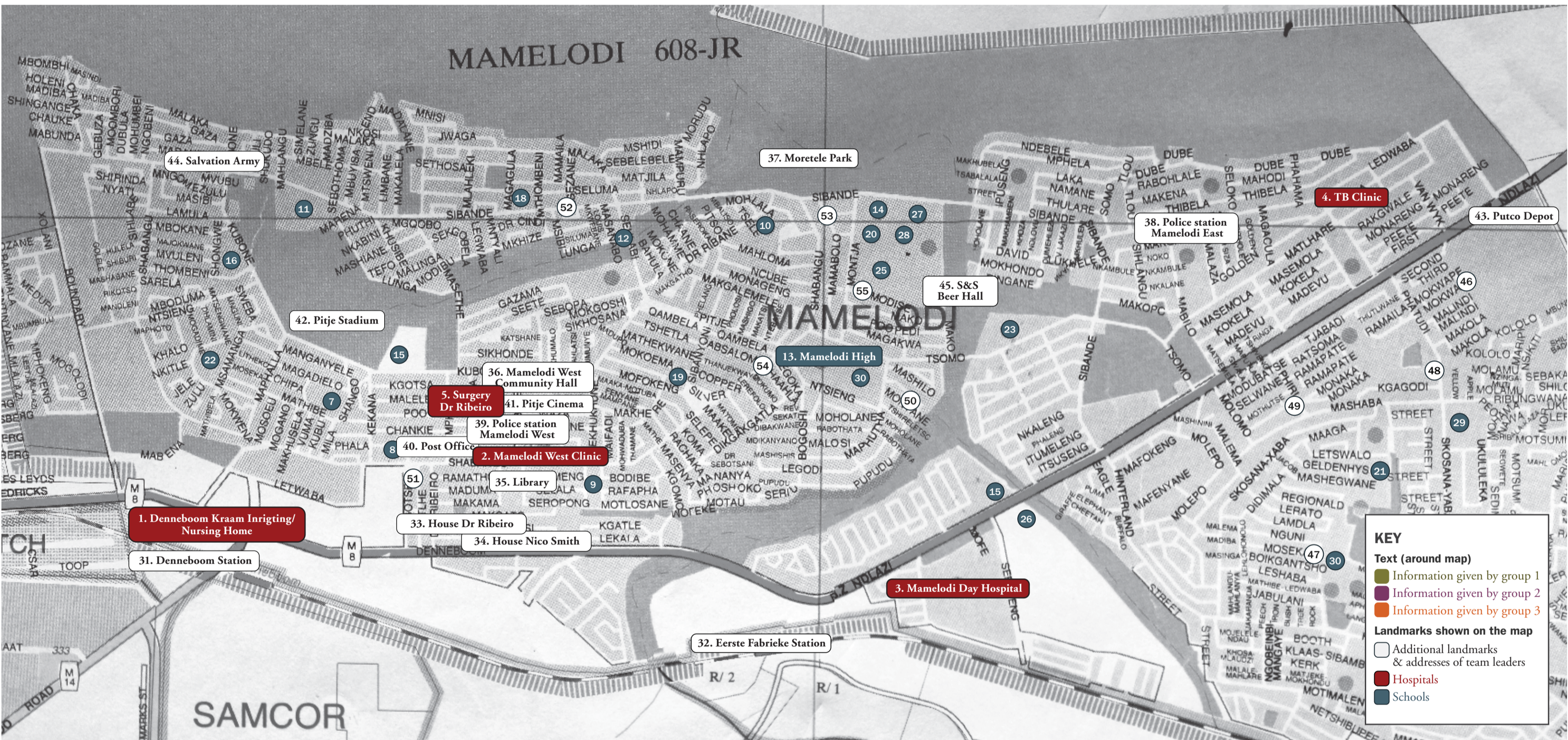


# A narrative of health in Mamelodi during the 1980s: perspectives from a group of professional nurses who lived and worked in and around Mamelodi during the struggle period

## CONTRIBUTORS: TEAM LEADERS & RESEARCHER



### Mamelodi West



### Mamelodi East

1991 Map of Mamelodi

## 3. SIGNIFICANT PEOPLE:

**Drs:**  
**Dr Cindi & Dr Mahabane** - First doctors in Mamelodi, wife and husband both helping poor families  
**Dr Motsiri Itsweng** - Was giving bursaries to school children  
**Dr Ribeiro** - Engaged in helping vulnerable families - played a big role in apartheid  
**Dr Maaga** - Very good children elements; the community in Mamelodi loved him to bits. I took my first born to him; "What made Dr. Maaga popular was that he was the first doctor to work in the clinic" (referring to Mamelodi West Clinic)  
**Dr Madiba**  
**Dr Makhene** - also giving bursaries to deserving children  
**Dr Matlala** - Looking after vulnerable people  
**Dr Rambau**  
**Dr Ribane** - Very active in helping in sports. Died in an accident  
**Dr Sebotsana**

**Nurse:**  
**Sister Veronica Khosa** - First nurse to start home based care (HBC)- Tateni clinic (Tateni founded April 1995 - "This was in response to the growing need to provide health and home care nursing services to the growing number of HIV/AIDS patients that were being dismissed from hospitals since there was no cure for the disease".  
**Sister Francine Mathapo** - One of first nurses at Mamelodi West Clinic  
**Ms Mogotsi** - Second matron of Mamelodi Hospital  
**Sister Jane Motshabi**  
**Ms Ramutla** - First matron of Kalafong Hospital  
**Mrs Jacobeth Selepe** - 2nd in charge of Mamelodi West Clinic; was one of the first nurses at Mamelodi West Clinic; started the Newborn Home before going to Mamelodi West Clinic

**Fighters against apartheid:**  
**Stanza Bopape**  
**Solomon Maghlangu**  
**Rev. Mengoai** - Arrested preaching against apartheid - 29 Dec 1988  
**Rev. Nico Smith**

**Teachers:**  
**Mr Jack Lekala** - Very influential person - especially towards education; prominent Teacher at Mamelodi High  
**Mr Phillip Lekgothoane** - Prominent teacher at Mamelodi High  
**Mr Dick Maphalele** - Prominent teacher at Mamelodi High  
**Mr Koos Matli** - Prominent teacher at Mamelodi High  
**Mr Phelad Matsapola** - First graduate female teacher in Mamelodi  
**Ms Mokhele** - TUATA (Transvaal United African Teachers Association), excellent teacher, highly religious  
**Mr Joe Mothuba** - Prominent teachers at Mamelodi High  
**Mr Carl Motsepe** - First principal of Mamelodi High, he was very political. He skipped the country  
**Mr Nokaneng** - Good in Northern Sotho lecturing - humorous  
**Mrs Tshabangy** - Principal, active in the community - formed Masupa Tzela Aged Forum  
**Rev. Sekati**  
**Mr Serudu** - Lecturer at UNISA influencing everybody to study

**Mayors:**  
**Mr Piñje** - 1st Mayor and business man and used to help the needy with food parcels; owner cinema, stadium built after him  
**Mr Aphane** - 2nd Mayor - chairperson hospital board  
**Mr Kekana** - 3rd Mayor - highly religious  
**Mr Ndlatzi** - Active young mayor; Founded Moretele park recreation area, formed VVF; street named after him  
**Mr Mbalati** - Good business man

**Business People / other:**  
**Mr Jonathan Buthane** - Librarian, Mamelodi West  
**YMCA** - Mr Buthane, Mr Kutumela, Mr Tau, Mr Kekona, Mr Nywato  
*"The YMCA played an important role in developing the youth of Mamelodi, in the late 70s and in the 80s. In the 90s the place was abandoned and run down. The current director of the YMCA, Victor Ntsoi, was one of the youth who benefited from the YMCA when he was young. After achieving his degree from a US university and working overseas, he came back and started to rebuild the place step by step. He is dedicated to make the place again a beacon and stepping stone for local youth, the way it has been for him."* - [http://www.seetrust.com/?page\\_id=832](http://www.seetrust.com/?page_id=832)  
**Mr Makhabeni** - One of the first lawyers in Mamelodi  
**Ms D Ngwenya** - Business woman started exercise group, touring club; religious

**Artists:**  
**Julian Bahula**  
**Joe Lopez**  
**Vusi Mahlasele**  
**Phillip Tabane**  
 \*All four artists were also mentioned by group 1

## 1. HEALTH CARE FACILITIES USED:

Those who did not have money to go to a physician or private doctor went to the clinic and got proper treatment.

The TB clinic service was very good under city council. TB patients got food parcels which were milk and malt free. People with money went to a family physician.

Pregnant women delivered their babies at Denneboom Nursing Home but there were no doctors - some procedures were not done well because of the lack of Doctors and inexperienced midwives.

Kalafong Hospital received transfers from Mamelodi Hospital and Mamelodi West Clinic and private Drs. The service was good.

H. F. Verwoerd Hospital black section service was good - important cases were taken to the white section for study purposes.

## 2. HEALTH ISSUES EXPERIENCED:

**Children:**  
**Chicken pox**  
**Diarrhoea**  
**Diphtheria**  
**High infant mortality rates**  
**Infant Mortality** - Distance to clinic;  
*No antenatal care*  
**Lack of immunisation**  
**Malnutrition** - Ignorance (lack of information), poverty  
**Measles**  
**Paraffin Poisoning** - Negligence (wrong cold drink - mothers keeping paraffin in coke bottles)  
**Typhoid**

**Young Adults/Teenagers:**  
**Backyard Abortions** - Poverty, lack of facilities;  
*ignorance; fear of parents; many girls & women were dying of backyard abortions*

**Adults:**  
**Asthma** - psychosocial  
**Broncho pneumonia, bronchitis & pneumonia** - Poverty, exposure to cold, infection  
**Malignancy (cancer)** - Hereditary; ignorance; poor research; oesophageal cancer due to pipe smoking  
**Depression** - Psychosocial problems; poverty - financial problems  
**Diabetes** - Lack of knowledge, life style, poverty; diet, hereditary  
**Ear and Eye infection** - Not washing hands, Touching eyes  
**Food Poisoning** - Lack of Knowledge (expired food); Poverty (expired food)  
**Gastroenteritis** - Poverty, ignorance (lack of information), poor hygiene, over crowding  
**HIV- Mid 80s**  
**Hypertension** - Hereditary  
**Leprosy** - Ignorance; overcrowding  
**Lice (even in public hair)** - Poor living conditions; poor hygiene  
**Meningitis** - Ignorance; conditions  
**Scabies** - Overcrowding; poor hygiene  
**STI (Sexually transmitted Infections)** - Proximity; syphilis and gonorrhoea (STD), poor sexual habits; STIs were rife  
**TB** - Overcrowding; poverty;  
**Tonsillitis** - Bacterial infection

**About the information on the map:**  
 The map is a product of our shared understanding of memories and experiences collected at a certain point in time. The information and insights displayed on it are our own. They are subjective and we ask that you see it in this way. You are likely to have your own experiences to add and you may or may not agree with everything we say.

**Old People:**  
**Curative focus not preventative**  
**Lack of information & programmes on healthy lifestyle**  
**Lack of services - transport (to reach clinic & hospital)**

## INTRODUCTION TO THE MAP:

### About this map:

The map shows a collection of memories and experiences about health and health care during the 1980s struggle period in Mamelodi (then Pretoria, South Africa). It has been created by Nina Honiball, 18 professional nurses and other local residents. The participants manage ward health teams in the City of Tshwane/University of Pretoria community oriented primary care initiative. The map forms part of the researcher's doctoral study of maps and map making in community oriented primary care (COPC).

COPC is an internationally recognised approach to delivering primary health care that focuses on integrating primary health care to and from the home to clinics, practices and hospitals. The City of Tshwane started implementing COPC in Mamelodi in 2014.

### About the mapmaking process and its relevance to COPC:

To create the map, participants conducted one to two interviews with residents from Mamelodi who either were receivers or givers of health care in Mamelodi during the 1980s. Between October and November 2015 the researcher held mapping workshops and focus group sessions with participants. They were divided into three groups according to the municipal wards where they work. In these sessions they shared the information and insights they had gathered in the interviews. They also wrote about their own experiences and memories of health and health care in Mamelodi during the struggle period. They then worked with the researcher to group the collection of memories and experiences into categories. Using a map obtained from the archives of the Department of Geography, Geoinformatics & Meteorology (University of Pretoria) they placed their insights on an A1 size roadmap of Mamelodi that dates back to 1991.

The objective of making the map was to see if creating a historical narrative of health and health care during the 1980s would be of value to implementing COPC. We asked ourselves if health care teams would be able to use the information captured on the map after the mapping workshops. In a feedback session participants felt that the map was valuable because it stood as a record of their lived experience of health care during the 1980s. They also felt that they could use the map to educate community health workers about the types of diseases prevalent in Mamelodi during that time.

A person's lived experience of health is always in a community context. Through practicing COPC we set out to strengthen this experience. Doing a mapping project about historical diseases and health care resources in the community, gives health care providers an opportunity to compare what they are doing in the present with what happened in the past. It is making people aware of their history and simultaneously making history relevant to the present.

### About the map design process:

The researcher designed the map after the workshops and focused group discussions. She worked with the information generated by the three groups of participants and put the information together to create a unified map.

The researcher selected three colours and assigned a colour to each of the groups. This was done to make visible each group's contribution to the information on the map. A key (or map legend) in the bottom right corner of the map indicates the colours assigned to each group.

To make the unified map, she brought all the comments together to create the lists of information displayed. When reading the map, look out for moments where insight from two or three groups could be placed together to create a sentence.

### About the information on the map:

The map is a product of our shared understanding of memories and experiences collected at a certain point in time. The information and insights displayed on it are our own. They are subjective and we ask that you see it in this way. You are likely to have your own experiences to add and you may or may not agree with everything we say.

We hope that the map will honor the people who showed resilience and delivered quality healthcare to the local residents of Mamelodi during a very dark period in the Apartheid era. We also hope it will inform you about the diseases prevalent in Mamelodi as well as the location and kinds of facilities available to people at that time.

To find out more about COPC, please visit the website of the Department of Family Medicine at the University of Pretoria: <http://www.up.ac.za/en/family-medicine> or watch a launch video about COPC on YouTube by typing "Community Oriented Primary Care (COPC)" into the search box.

## 4. LANDMARKS:

### Hospitals:

- Denneboom Kraam Inrting/Nursing Home
- Mamelodi West Clinic - Sister Selepe, Sister Matapho and Dr Magga worked here
- Mamelodi Day Hospital - hospital was open during the daytime
- TB Clinic in Mamelodi East
- Surgery of Dr Ribeiro

### Schools:

- Boikantsho Primary School
- Bothabatsatsi Primary
- Dr Ribeiro Primary
- Egnes Tshidi Primary
- Gamelodi Primary
- Jafta Mahlangu High School
- J Kekana
- Mamelodi High - home of political activists & important teachers
- Mangoloane
- Morakama Primary School
- Mthunzini Primary
- Mveledso
- Ndema Primary School
- Phela Dinakeng
- Refendse Primary
- Ribane Laka High School
- Shirinda Primary
- Sindawonye Primary
- Somisanang Primary School
25. Technical
- Tlakkukane
- Tshwane Primary
- Tsunami Primary
- Uwane Primary School
- Vukani Mawethu High School

### Additional Landmarks:

- Denneboom Station
- Eerste Fabrieke Station - Was a distillery there was a Lord Nelmapius and it won prizes for liquor sold before it got closed down
- House of Dr Ribeiro
- House of Nico Smith
35. Library
- Mamelodi West Community Hall
- Moretele Park
- Police station Mamelodi East
- Police station Mamelodi West
40. Post Office
- Piñje Cinema
42. Piñje Stadium
43. Putco Depot
44. Salvation Army
45. S&S Beer Hall

**Addresses where team leaders lived:**  
 46. Sister Johanna Buthane  
 Sister Pumla Chokwe - not indicated  
 47. Sister Peggy Kambule  
 48. Sister Naomi Mabena  
 Sister Magdaline Mangwane - not indicated  
 49. Sister Agnes Mfetané  
 50. Sister Sannah Mokhele  
 51. Sister Edith Quaking  
 52. Sister Lillian Papo  
 53. Matron Stella Sebati  
 54. Sister Liza Serithi  
 55. Sister Nomalizo Tau