

Mfuleni

The area got its name from the Xhosa language, which means “by the river”. The Community is situated on the east bank of Kulis River and approximately 30 km away from Cape Town. People started to settle there in the 1960’s. In the beginning it was a transit area for migrant workers. The first houses were built in 1976 and most of the dwellings are brick structures with a yard, but there are also informal shacks without water and electricity supply. Today the population has about 23 000 inhabitants. The majority are black Africans (91%) largely from the Eastern Cape with the result that Xhosa is the predominant language, followed by Afrikaans and English. The community has two high schools, three primary schools and eight kindergartens with good attendance and a low drop out rate. The unemployment rate is very high at more than 40%, the employment focused in elementary occupations. Social issues in Mfuleni include theft, gangsterism, teenage pregnancy and drugs.

Mfuleni Clinic

This municipal and provincial clinic with 10 consulting rooms was built in 1989. It employs 15 nursing sisters with a full-time doctor from Monday to Friday from 7:00am to 16:30pm to treat the patients. Nevertheless the waiting time to see a nursing sister is long. Common illnesses like HIV, AIDS, TB and also teenage pregnancy are treated. Daily this large facility receives approximately 350 patients. About 90 people are tested for HIV per month. The clinic has a special program for HIV infected mothers and their babies to avoid transferring the HI virus to the infants. About 70 babies are in this program.