



# the voices of **CLOVER MAMA AFRIKA**

Edition 03 | April 2021 | Ukwakha Isizwe



## Foreword

The way we live nowadays is very different. We are now in a 'new normal'. Having to adjust to the changes has been a bit challenging for many of us. Let's be honest, however, we have adjusted very well and have been able to get on with our lives and still deliver our day-to-day responsibilities with continued passion and commitment.

This is true to how Clover Mama Afrika has been and continues to be – we embrace our new normal. I for one, am very proud that we have not let anyone down as all needs have been seen to timeously. The same can be said of our Clover Mama Afrikas.

I am proud to share our third edition with you and would like to thank all our supporters who gave positive feedback on our electronic newsletter. In this issue we also share what our Clover Mama Afrikas had to say about the recent Smarties Week held in Cape Town.

*Prof. Elain Vlok*

*Manager: Clover Mama Afrika*

## Contents

1. Foreword	p.2	7. 2021 Sewers return for an advanced course	p.15
2. Thank you for your positive feedback	p.3	8. Another valued baking course	p.17
3. What the Mamas had to say about Smarties Week 2021	p.5	9. Bernette b70 Deco machine winners claim their prize	p.19
4. Welcome to the Clover Mama Afrika sisterhood	p.7	10. Mama Engelina's bakery is up and running	p.20
5. Clover Mama Afrika receives its 14 <sup>th</sup> consecutive PMR.africa Diamond Arrow Award	p.11	11. Universal Paints: transforming one centre at a time	p.22
6. Worthy journey to Seshego and Upington	p. 12		



Email us your thoughts to [info@clovermamaafrika.com](mailto:info@clovermamaafrika.com)



# THANK YOU FOR YOUR POSITIVE FEEDBACK

The following feedback really inspires us to continue sharing our work with you. We humbly thank you for your valuable feedback.

“ So good to hear from you and I really enjoyed reading the newsletter. Thank you for sending it. I even saw our team! You really do the most amazing work and I am always moved when I see how you help the wonderful Clover Mamas to achieve. So important and even more so during this terrible pandemic. ”

*Jenni Newman  
(Jenni Newman Public Relations)*

“ Dit is wonderlik om te sien hoe jul projekte mense bemagtig! Dit lyk asof julle baie pret gehad het in 2020. Dankie vir die nuusbrieff. ”

*Imogen Popich (Clover Formulation Specialist: Commercialisation)*

“ Wat 'n merkwaardige klomp vroue! U kan trots wees op wat u vermag het oor die jare. ”

*Marinda Boolsen (Clover Payroll Administrator)*

“ Wow, dis awesome!  
Dankie vir die deel! ”

*Jan Botha (Jan Botha Photography)*

“ A beautifully illustrated and informative newsletter. ”

*Yvonne Dell (Siyabonga Africa)*

“ So lovely to hear from you and really great to receive the newsletter and see pictures of the people and projects you are working on. I often try to imagine the faces behind the names and what the Clover Mama Afrika project encompasses when I am making your beautiful garments and see the names and measurements in print. Now, I can actually visualise them and that means so much to me. ”

*Kate Jankelowitz (Fluidity Clothing)*

“ Thank you so very much for this lovely newsletter and for once again inviting us to be part of the very special occasion. ”

*Gerda Tuffin (Cape School of Floristry)*

“ Thank you for sending us the Clover Mama Afrika newsletters. I must congratulate Prof Elaine and the rest of the team with the Feb'21 edition. With 28 pages of content and photographs, it is quite a formidable achievement! Also, to do it during these challenging Covid times, is even more impressive. ”

The various articles and information in the newsletter are interesting and gives a very good overview of the recent activities and success stories. Also, being in digital format makes it very economic to send to all interested parties. I also particularly liked some of the recipes and will ask my wife to try them out. ”

*Johan Botha (Marketing Manager, Dairy Group)*

“ Love the newsletter. Particularly the pictures of the happy faces. It is very well put together and tells the story of Clover Mama Afrika's success. ”

*Greg Galatis (Regional Sales Manager, Clover Fonterra)*

“ Ongelooflike nuusbrieff en werklik indrukwekkend. ”

*Marietha van der Merwe (Sri Lanka Quilting)*

# WHAT THE CLOVER MAMA AFRIKAS HAD TO SAY ABOUT SMARTIES WEEK 2021



## **MAMA SIPIWE SOLOMONS of Hazyview**

This has been our most challenging time to show our loyalty and commitment to the program. Despite all the odds we managed to have a fruitful year with the virtual baking and cooking classes. We thank the Clover Mama Afrika team for such an innovative plan of continued support. Our Smarties Week allowed us to draw new energy, network, refresh current skills and learn new skills. Our sincere gratitude to Prof Elain who invested her life into the program ... Long live Clover Mama Afrika!

## **MAMA FELICITY MALULEKE of Soweto**

Smarties Week 2021 was fun, and I enjoyed every minute of my time with the Clover Mamas. Learning new skills was good, especially the flower arranging. I am also overwhelmed and proud to have been selected as the "Personality Clover Mama of the Year". Thank you for everything. Please take care of yourselves. Love you.



## **MAMA ALBERTINA BLOKO of Alexandria**

The 2021 Smarties Week was 100 percent. I liked the practical work which included art, mosaic and Sri Lanka sewing. The teachers were so kind and I'm happy to receive all these ideas which I always apply with my learners after a Smarties Week. To Prof Elain, I want to say that there is no one like you and I wish to say thank you.

## **MAMA PHOMOLO RAISA of Botshabelo**

Smarties Week 2021 was a challenge because of Covid-19, but when I got there, I found that the organisers made sure that we were all well protected. I had a wonderful time during our workshops. It was not about me, but about EVERYBODY. Thank you Proffie and team for taking care of us and making us feel like queens with all the nice gifts.







### **MAMA SELESTIEN MOSES of Ashbury**

Thank you for an amazing and wonderful week. It once again showed me that we are more than Clover Mamas, we are a sisterhood. There are no words that can describe how I feel. Everybody said that I was glowing. Thank you, Prof Elain for always believing in me and for taking me under your wings and moulding me into the woman I have become. I love you all. God Bless you.

### **MAMA LIZZY MAGAMA of Olievenhoutbosch**

Prof Elain is the mother of the nation. Thank you for your big heart. You know when life is rough, and you make it better for all of us. You have made me into a better person. Thank you for another wonderful Smarties Week that was filled with proactiveness and sisterhood. We love you!



### **MAMA MIRRIAN TONI of Mbekweni**

Thank you for everything, it was an amazing Smarties Week with all the other fellow Clover Mamas. I thank you for the opportunity. It is painful to hear the news that Proffie is leaving, but we will never forget her and will love her always!

### **MAMA ENGELINA MOLETE of Dobsonville**

What an experience! I have learned a lot of things that I thought I wouldn't be able to do – painting, flower arrangement and the most interesting was the mosaic workshop which I am going to implement in my community. Proffie, thank you for sharing what you have with us. The sad part is that you exit when I was looking forward to knowing you more (but we will stay in touch).

I promise that the skills that you have equipped me with, will be rolled out to community members. You have taught me to be self-sustainable and most of all, you have made sure that the goals I have set are met. Proffie, I know you have a plan and I wish to continue to work with you even in the next era of your life. May the good Lord of peace watch over us when we are away from each other and may He also bind us together with the chains that will never be broken.





### **MAMA NONDUMISO MPITIMPITI of Amalinda Forest**

Proffie, I can never be thankful enough for the thoughtful gift you gave us. Thank you again Smarties Week and for celebrating together. I am blessed to have a generous Mama like you. I learned that if you want to be successful in any walk of life, hard work is a necessity!



### **MAMA YVONNE DU PREEZ of Upington**

This Smarties Week, I learned a lot about teamwork – standing together united. I also learned not to be shy to ask for what you need in life so that you can be confident and make a success of yourself - to plan well is important. Always do what makes you happy – never stagnate. I will always be grateful for what I have learned thanks to Prof Elain.

### **MAMA GAIL KOEBERG of Magaliesburg**

Thank you for an awesome time at Smarties Week. At least this time I was not so overwhelmed as with my first Smarties Week. I thoroughly enjoyed every workshop. I have learned so much and I understand mosaic much better and how to arrange flowers. I am still amazed at the creativity that came to the fore.

To Prof Elain, I am eternally grateful to you for your love and support and for allowing me to discover my potential. Thank you for all the gifts received – it is greatly appreciated. May God bless you abundantly for everything that you have been sowing into my life and for the investment you made so far. I know that you will receive an abundant return on all investments made. Love and appreciate you very much.



### **MAMA DORIS NDINGANE of Keiskammahoek**

Thank you so much for the love, kindness, generosity, joy and happiness you gave us during Smarties Week. Though it gives me nightmares that Proffie is leaving the project, I believe that God has got a plan. No one can take away this change in our lives over the past years. There is only one Prof Elain Vlok. No one will do the work you did, never ever. I will miss you.







# WELCOME TO THE CLOVER MAMA AFRIKA SISTERHOOD

We have appointed our 48<sup>th</sup> Clover Mama, Mama Kedibone Miyambo of Moepathutse Children Centre situated in the heart of Hammanskraal.

"From the moment we drove into the centre, you could feel the positive energy of a well-maintained place. It was an absolute pleasure to be welcomed by Mama Kedibone who took us on a tour of an extremely well-structured and beautiful centre," Prof Elain.

Mama Kedibone started her centre in 2006 and cares for no less than 118 children aged 0 to 20. Forty of the children lives at the centre and there are an additional 97 elderly. She also has an outreach programme where she cares for a further 143 community members. She is assisted by 15 permanent staff members and 11 volunteers. "Being overwhelmed at what I saw at the centre is an understatement. Mama Kedibone is an exemplary Clover Mama who has instilled value and respect with every member in her care. You can see this in every room of the centre, as well as the exterior of the centre. I look forward to assisting her with an upgraded bakery and her current sewing skills, as well anything that can provide her with what she deserves," Prof Elain.







*The colourful entrance and well-structured buildings and garden provide the orphans with a comfortable and safe home. It is also a place where other vulnerable children can find help and counselling.*



*Prof Elain with Mama Kedibone in the function hall where the children eat, as well as practice their musical instruments and 'theatre'.*



*The isolation room where children returning from school are screened before they enter the centre.*

**"If the child has a fever or is not well, he or she stays in this room and is monitored carefully or taken to the doctor. We want them to feel comfortable and safe,"**

Mama Kedibone







One of Mama Kedibone's mind-blowingly neat cupboards. "I do not lock anything in the house. I told my members that if they steal, they will be stealing from the children. The same applies to the children, they would be stealing from their brothers and sisters. Everyone here respects everything they have."

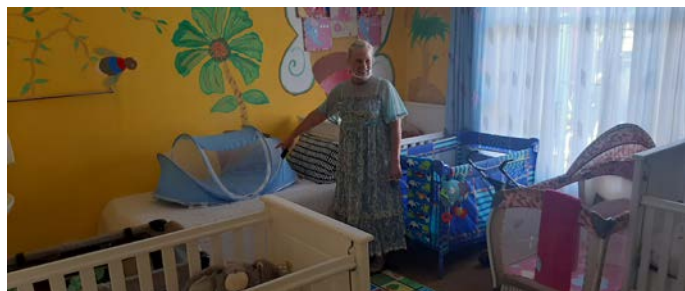


Mama Kedibone and her second in charge, Annah, love to sew. They are decorating ordinary t-shirts into "designer" shirts.

Each child's room (14 of them) is neat, clean, tidy and inviting. Their cupboards are equally tidy with all clothes packed with precision.







*"You can visit the children's rooms morning, noon or night and you will always find their cupboards this way. They are taught to value and have pride in their belongings. This is an important life skill as it helps them to implement structure in their lives," Mama Kedibone.*



*The bathrooms are equally neat and well maintained.*



*Mama Kedibone's food garden is as impressive as her lemon trees. "We won the Agri – Business and Young Farmer of the year Award in 2013 for best homestead food garden."*



*Mama Kedibone gets Prof Elaine to "shake her booty" with the specially made traditional woollen skirt made by the members.*

*Prof Elaine was proud to sign the Clover Mama Afrika agreement with Mama Kedibone. "I am proud to have Mama Kedibone join the Clover Mama Afrika sisterhood. She is truly deserving of skills and training that will take this 'already' wonderful centre to new heights!"*





*Prof Elain Vlok receives the PMR.africa Diamond Arrow Award*

## **CLOVER MAMA AFRIKA RECEIVES ITS 14<sup>TH</sup> CONSECUTIVE PMR.africa DIAMOND ARROW AWARD**

Johan Hattingh, CEO of PMR.africa said that, “an award cannot be given virtually, the PMR.africa awards needs to be handed over in person to the deserving winners.”

Clover Mama Afrika recently attended the breakfast ceremony where we happily received our 14th consecutive PMR.africa Diamond Arrow award. PMR.africa annually assesses companies and institutions in South Africa who promote economic development, growth and stability through corporate social responsibility programmes. Clover Mama Afrika was rated highest in the Business Sector: Food Manufacturer/Processors category with a score of 4.36 out of a possible 5.00.

“One cannot enter for these awards. An independent survey is undertaken to determine people’s perception and knowledge of CSI programmes. I am gratified to know how positive the respondents are about Clover Mama Afrika’s work. Thank you to PMR.africa for this worthy recognition which we’ve been receiving since 2005.”





*Mama Dorah stands proud amongst her fellow Clover Mama Afrikas.*

## WORTHY JOURNEY TO SESHEGO AND UPINGTON



*Prof Elain hands over Mama Dorah's well deserved trophy and award. We will report how this investment is going to be implemented.*

Prof recently visited three Clover Mama Afrikas in Polokwane and Upington. Her first visit was to Mama Dorah Semanya of Seshego who could not make the recent Smarties Week as she was not well.

The visit was not only to hand deliver her Clover Mama Afrika trophy, but to also discuss her prize as the "Ultimate Cleanliness and Hygiene Award" winner. Her prize is a whopping R60 000 courtesy of MiX Telematics.

***"I am overjoyed and so grateful for this prestigious award. I am even more blessed that Prof Elain came all the way to hand it to me in person."***





*Prof Elaine is welcomed outside the centre by the new chairperson, **Irvin Eksteen**. He explained his involvement with the centre and was happy to exchange information.*



*Prof Elaine spent quality time with **Mama Mary**. "I gave Mama Mary one of my very special fruit cakes which she put away quickly to enjoy later with Oom Jan. There was much talk about what a special time we had."*

Prof Elaine's next stop was at Websterground in Upington to visit Mama Mary Visagie of the Oasis Centre.

*"It has been too long since I last saw Mama Mary and what a lovely visit it was. I cannot believe Mama Mary is 80 years old and, together with Oom Jan (83), they are still working hard every day! What an example they set to many of us."*

Mama Mary's projects include sewing, bread baking, cement garden tables and flowerpots. She will soon be equipped with two large poly plastic tunnels for hydroponic facilities which will mass rear cactus biological control agents.



*Prof Elaine with Oasis Centre's bakers. **Ellen Zwartz** has been managing the bakery for over a decade and is ably assisted by **Katriena Losper** and **Joanne Katz**.*



***Mama Mary** arranged for the children to sing songs.*





*Prof Elain enjoys a cup of tea and freshly baked vanilla muffins.*

Prof Elain's next stop was at Mama Yvonne du Preez's sewing centre situated in Progress.

*"Wow, I was in for a surprise! Within a pristine looking premise and a buzz of sewing projects, Mama Yvonne welcomed me with freshly baked vanilla muffins and served tea from a gold teapot which she bought more than 20 years ago in Namibia. After this visit I am again very much humbled by the good work we are doing."*



*Mama Yvonne was proud to show off her work, which includes an order of denim aprons and prepared little pieces of material for bags cut from a quilting pattern by teacher **Rachel du Toit**. She is also making dresses from t-shirt fabric and will start making a wedding dress on order.*







## 2021 SEWERS RETURN FOR AN ADVANCED COURSE

Our 2021 sewers returned to attend Bernina's Advanced Sewing Course. They learned how to sew ladies' pants and shirts. To date, Linda Venter has trained 134 individual Clover Mama Afrikas and she was confident that the team would be able to learn the new skills within a 4-day week.

***"Knowing how to sew pants is a need in their respective communities. The trainees will now be able to sew ladies' pants, as well as follow patterns for school uniforms and men's pants. This course will definitely add value to their sewing project," Prof Elain.***

Our 2021 sewers were excited to get started with learning how to make ladies pants and trendy shirts. Featured above from left to right: **Gina Petersen** of Mbekweni; **Tina Kungoane** of Winterveld; **Prof Elain** and **Linda Venter**; **Ntombintombi Buthelezi** of Olievenhoutbosch and **Mama Gail Koeberg** of Magaliesburg.







*Mama Gail found the sewing challenging but was eager to get it right. "Sewing pants is a far cry from sewing dresses and shirts, but I am willing to learn as it adds another quality item to our project."*



*Prof Elaine hands over the Clover Mama Afrika token of appreciation trophy to Linda for her continued dedication in providing one of the project's most viable skills.*



*The 2021 sewers proudly model their shirts. FLTR: Prof Elaine; Gina; Mama Gail; Ntombintombi; Tina and Linda Venter.*



*By the end of the fourth day, holding their Certificates of Completion. Tina, Ntombintombi, Mama Gail and Gina are wearing their pants with pride.*





## ANOTHER VALUED BAKING COURSE

**Clover Mama Afrika's bakers will soon receive their next step-by-step photo training in Progressive Cake Baking & Décor.**

We are continuing with our video and step-by-step photo training sessions until it is safe to travel on a regular basis. The Progressive Cake Baking & Décor course teaches alternative decorative icing techniques and new cake recipes, adding value to catering and baking projects. The course will be facilitated by Prof Elain and Juandi Kamp.



**No less than 12 bakers will be receiving all the necessary ingredients and accessories to complete their step-by-step Progressive Cake Baking & Décor training.**





*Prof Elaine spent a day baking all the cakes in readiness for instruction in decorating skills from Juandi Kamp.*



*Juandi Kamp and Prof Elaine with the decorated cakes which the bakers will learn to do in the comfort of their own kitchen.*



*Prof Elaine hands over Clover Mama Afrika's token of thanks to Juandi Kamp for her dedicated training over the years.*





## BERNETTE b70 DECO MACHINE WINNERS CLAIM THEIR PRIZE

**Earlier this year, Clover Mama Africa launched a competition for best motivation of “Why I deserve to win a Bernette b70 Deco machine.”**

It was a happy moment for Mama Yvonne du Preez of Progress and Justin Matenje representing Mama Mary Lwate of Winterveld to attend their Bernette b70 Deco machine training. There was a competition earlier this year for the best motivation of “Why I deserve to win a Bernette b70 Deco machine” competition. The winners were announced at the recent Smarties Week. Both Mamas Yvonne and Mary were deserving winners. The 3-day training with Linda Venter of Bernina will enable Mama Yvonne and Justin to operate this amazing machine to its full capacity.



*Linda Venter shows Mama Yvonne and Justin all the functionalities that the b70 Deco has to offer.*

*“The sky is the limit with the kind of embroidery one can do with the b70 - from uniform logos to so much more,”  
- Linda Venter.*







*Mama Engelina at her newly branded bakery entrance.*

## MAMA ENGELINA'S BAKERY IS UP AND RUNNING

**Since her appointment just before the national lockdown in 2020, Mama Engelina of Dobsonville has implemented a very successful food garden project.**

Now she is ready to take on her bread baking project, as all the building and electrical work has been completed. Mama Engelina, together with four of her dedicated bakers, undertook an intensive two-week training in bread baking under the guidance of Siyabonga Africa. "I am no stranger to the saying of 'patience is a virtue, and all good things comes to those who wait.' I have waited three years to become a proud Clover Mama Afrika and now I am ready to take on the next step to sustainable success with the bakery project. I am very grateful for this wonderful opportunity," Mama Engelina.



*Prof Elaine kick-starts the opening with an inspirational message for Mama Engelina and her bakers.*



*Fellow Mama Felicity came to support Mama Engelina on their first day of training. Russel Mentz of Tombake came to ensure that all the equipment was in good order. Francois Strydom of Siyabonga Africa presented the training.*





*Francois wasted no time in getting the bakers to focus and within the first hour ...*



*...the first batch of loaves went into the oven and not too long later ...*



*...beautifully baked fresh bread – the first batch of many to come for **Lejwe la Thuso Bakery** - saw the light.*



# UNIVERSAL PAINTS: TRANSFORMING ONE CENTRE AT A TIME

All Clover Mama Afrikas have received their donated Universal Paints set and many have already started to paint parts of their centres.

Mama Dorah Semenya of Seshego and her team were impressed with the quality of the paint, as they only needed one coat to transform the dark grey to a crisp white.



Mama Nondumiso Mpitimpiti started with her egg-laying battery house. It needed a good spring clean and a good coat of paint.



*"My container for the chickens is clean and beautiful now. Thank you for this wonderful donation."  
-Mama Nondumiso Mpitimpiti*





Mama Phomolo Raisa of Botshabelo added a touch of colour, transforming the children's classroom to a bright room with new flooring.

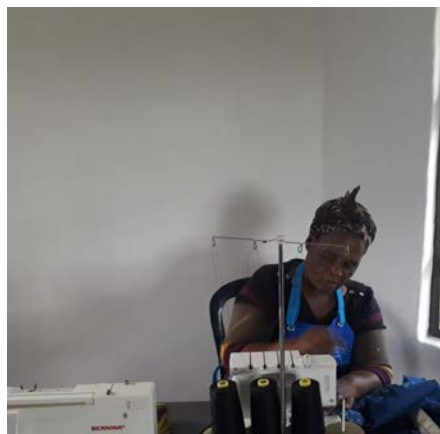


Mama Sipiwé Solomons of Hazyview, hard hit by the recent Eloise cyclone, has lots of paint work to do.



*"I am so grateful for the paint as it allows us to do quite a bit of paint work on the damage caused by the cyclone."*  
-Mama Sipiwé Solomons of Hazyview

Mama Doris Ndingane of Keiskammahoek managed to repaint her sewing room, bakery and kitchen.



*"What a wonderful transformation. It feels as if we are working in brand new project rooms. Thank you ever so much."*  
-Mama Doris Ndingane of Keiskammahoek

***We will share more delightful transformations in our next issue.***





**“A positive attitude causes a chain reaction of positive thoughts, events and outcomes. It is a catalyst, and it sparks extraordinary results.”**

**-Wade Boggs-**

Until next time ...  
Best wishes,  
Prof Elain Vlok



+27 11 471 1431 | [info@clovermamaafrika.com](mailto:info@clovermamaafrika.com) | [clovermamaafrika.com](http://clovermamaafrika.com)

