

# Lenrika Dekoker

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Lenrika Dekoker is one of the community leaders in the informal settlement of Flamingo Crescent, where she has been living since 2005. Currently, she is married to her husband Ettiene and is a dedicated mother of three children Ethan (10 years old), Ewan (6 years old), and Elrico (1 month old). She is known for running a small spaza shop inside the community.



## A Little Bit More about Lenrika

Lenrika was born in Ashton, where she grew up with her three sisters and her brother. There she attended school, until she graduated grade 12 and obtained her matriculation. Years later, she moved to Cape Town in the search of new opportunities and a better job. Since then, she completed a course on home-based care and worked in an elderly house for several years. During her years in the city, she has faced some difficulties. Back in 2005 she was relocated by Law Enforcement and had to leave

her previous home in Cromo Bridge to move to Flamingo Crescent. Regarding her family, Lenrika met her husband Ettiene back in Ashton and together had their first child, Ethan, in 2003. Later, Ewan was born in 2007, and most recently Elrico in 2013.

## Interests & Hobbies

After a few years of work in the elderly house, Lenrika dedicated herself to take care of her three children. She is very involved in the community. However, with the recent birth of Elrico she had to focus more of her time on her family. Lenrika is also involved in the NC Church. Even though she currently does not have much time to dedicate to hobbies and other activities, she always finds some time to watch TV. Meanwhile, her husband dedicates his free time to working for the beautiful garden located at the front of their home.

## Being a Community Leader

Lenrika's motivation to become a community leader originated after several leaders in Flamingo passed away and an uncertainty about the future of the community arose. Along with Antie Marie, she decided to step up and look for leadership resources and examples in other communities and the City. Later, Lenrika and Auntie Marie collaborated to share the knowledge and insights gained with the Flamingo Crescent community and establish a leadership committee. Currently, as a community leader she mostly focuses on dealing with people outside of the settlement. She usually coordinates with sponsors, churches

or any other organization visits or events on Flamingo Crescent.

Her role as a community leader can sometimes be difficult when dealing with disagreeable people. However, she realizes that someone must step up and do this job so she takes the necessary measures to do what needs to be done. Lenrika believes that being clear and seeking help outside the community are key solutions to solving these challenges. In the coming year, she hopes to see every resident's structure reblocked, and believes that this will foster Flamingo's development into a nicer and more beautiful settlement. Also, she has faith that a crèche and a multipurpose centre are both possibilities once the reblocking is completed.



## A Glimpse into the Future

Lenrika's main desire is for her children to have a better life. She wants them to finish school and improve themselves as they grow. She also hopes that the community can improve its mindset. She hopes that the completed reblocking will inspire community members to stop thinking negatively and try to understand better each other. She strongly believes that this could leave a strong impact on Flamingo and lead the community in the right direction towards the future Flamingo Crescent she

envisioned. Therefore, she believes some key ideas to achieve this goal are to help community members find job opportunities and ensure that children in the community are receiving an education

### Skills

- ✓ Communication
- ☐ Engineering
- ✓ Leadership
- ✓ Entrepreneurial
- ☐ Cultural
- ✓ Caring
- ☐ Building
- ☐ Crafting
- ☐ Musical
- ☐ Cooking
- ☐ Teaching