

Vuk'uzenzele



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Local government holds transformative power

SOCIO-ECONOMIC transformation is at the top of government's agenda yet the power to bring about change does not rest solely in its hands. The drivers of change should be located at national, provincial and local government level, making a visible difference in the lives of the citizens government serves.

Albert Pule

Municipalities should become centres of radical socio-economic transformation to have a positive effect on the lives of citizens.

"We need to see radical socio-economic transformation in local government," said President Jacob Zuma, addressing the Third Presidential Local Government Summit held in Midrand on 6 April 2017.

"We mean the fundamental change in the structure, systems, institutions and patterns of ownership, management and control of the economy in favour of all South Africans, especially the poor, the majority of whom are African and female," explained the President.

President Zuma said municipalities must play a role in developing small businesses and entrepreneurs.

"They must revitalise and mainstream township economies by supporting the development of township enterprises, cooperatives



■ President Jacob Zuma addressing the 3rd Presidential Local Government Summit in Midrand

and SMMEs that will produce goods and services that meet the needs of township residents.

"Township entrepreneurs must be used to produce food, such as bread for school nutrition and hospitals, school uniforms and police uniforms, and furniture for government offices."

The President also urged municipalities to work hard to raise the living standards and quality of life of all the

people in their areas and highlighted the importance of the delivery of crucial services, such as roads, human settlements and sanitation.

"They must include effective public transport infrastructure development, as well as new integrated and sustainable human settlements and post-apartheid cities that are more connected, liveable, smart and green.

"The renewal of old towns, inner-city regeneration as

well as township renewal must be key focus areas of our municipalities."

President Zuma also highlighted that it is important that the three spheres of government work together to deliver services.

"All spheres must work together to ensure that all township roads and streets are tarred, that the bucket system is eradicated and that all hostels are turned into family units.

"If we do this, we will bring millions of township residents into the mainstream economy, hence the need to revamp economic infrastructure and improve these areas."

Minister of Cooperative Governance and Traditional Affairs Des van Rooyen said local government plays an important role in delivering services to the people.

"Critical to local government's mandate is the requirement that they work to improve the lives of all the citizens in their municipality.

"The improvement of the peoples' lives can be achieved through the provision of basic services, development and growth of the economy, recognising and harnessing the skills potential of people living in the municipality, job creation, and mobilising the people to make their own contribution to improve their living conditions," said Min-



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In all our localities, wherever they may be, we must rise now and destroy apartheid organs of government that are used to hold us in bondage. We make this call to all Black people - African, Indian and so-called Coloureds.

- Oliver Tambo.



Image: <http://www.youthvillage.co.za>

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Free Copy

Top businesses scoop Ithala awards

Hlengiwe Ngobese

More than eight businesses received recognition at the Ithala Business Achiever Awards held in Durban recently, for their contribution towards developing KwaZulu-Natal (KZN) as an entrepreneurial province.

The annual awards hosted by Ithala Development Finance Corporation, recognise the efforts of businesses in several industries, including hospitality, manufacturing, agriculture, and transport and logistics.

Speaking at the award ceremony, Ithala Group Chairman Dr Mandla Gantsho said Ithala has assisted more than 800 enterprises over the past few years.

"In 2016 alone 367 SMMEs and cooperatives were provided with business loans, thereby facilitating 2 396 jobs in the province of KZN. Ithala disbursed business loans totalling R120 million to SMMEs and cooperatives. To empower female cooperatives, Ithala partnered with the Department of Education to provide financing and support to cooperatives and small businesses which have



■ **Winners of the Ithala Business Achiever Awards. From left, Thamsanqa Ngcobo from Mlalazi Cooperative, Bonginkosi Ngcobo from Snembe Farm, Zolani Ngangwana from Yellow Star, Sandile Ntuli from Black Carrot Trading, Bongani Mdlalose from Mlalazi Cooperative and Phumlani Radebe from the Sobantu Agricultural Cooperative.**

been awarded contracts by the department to supply food to schools in terms of the National School Nutrition Programme," said Dr Gantsho.

Ithala, KZN's provincial development agency, is a state-owned Entity that falls under KZN's Department of Economic Development, Tourism and Environmental Affairs under the leadership of MEC Sihle Zikalala.

"As a development finance institution, we take seriously our role to help government accelerate radical transformation to alleviate the triple challenges of poverty, unemployment and inequality through programmes that promote economic inclusion," said Yvonne Zwane Ithala Group Chief Executive.

"Fostering greater entrepreneurial activity in the country

will be key to tackling unemployment issues and stimulating job creation. Hence, early exposure to entrepreneurship as a viable career option at schools will create greater interest in self-employment and enable a progressive nation," she said.

Ithala is mandated to deliver development and empowerment solutions and encourage participation in all sectors of the economy including, and especially, the historically disadvantaged members of society through employment creation, skills transfer and training.

"In your enterprise development journey, you will not be left alone to fend for yourself after a successful loan application. While strict business requirements for lending will always apply, we are a lender with a heart. We will stand by

you and help develop your business to ensure it remains relevant, profitable and sustainable," added Zwane.

Over the past five years, 12 425 jobs have been created through lending activities, 873 enterprises have been assisted and loans totalling R1.45 billion have been advanced.

Winning entrepreneurs

Sandile Ntuli, the managing director of Black Carrot Trading, which specialises in providing logistical services to the coal mining sector in Ulundi and Newcastle and long haulage services nationally and between South Africa and Mozambique, bagged the coveted "Entrepreneur of the Year" award, a R50 000 cash prize and an additional R10 000 to donate to a charity of his choice.

Four category award winners each received R30 000:

*Themba Ndlovu: owner of Cubana restaurant in Pietermaritzburg - Franchise Business of the Year

*Thokozane Masikane: owner of Tiba T Trading in Pietermaritzburg - Micro Business of the Year

*Pepeta Loyisa: owner of Copperfield Dairy farm in the Cedarville area - Agriculture Business of the Year

*Sandile Ntuli: managing director of Black Carrot Trading, with its head office in Pinetown - Logistical Service Business of the Year

Three Special Awards recipients each received R10 000:

*Bonginkosi Ngcobo, who established his sugar cane farm, Snembe Farm, in Tongaat in 1975. This year he celebrates 20 years as a client of Ithala - Lifetime Achievement Award

*Nokuthula Dladla, Megaphase Road Marking and Traffic Signs - Operational Excellence in the Manufacturing Sector

*Thamsanqa Ngcobo, Mlalazi Cooperative - Operational Excellence by a Cooperative Business. ■

From page 1

ister van Rooyen.

Making transformation a living reality

Mayor of Dr Ruth Segomotsi Mompoti District Municipality Boitumelo Mahlangu says her municipality has its work cut out in making radical socio-economic transformation a reality.

President Jacob Zuma instructed municipalities to prioritise local businesses and local suppliers when it comes to government procurement.

Mayor Mahlangu says her municipality will focus on

doing business with local suppliers. "The president is spot on. That is what we have been looking at and he has also given us an approach to that. There is no way we can implement radical socio-economic transformation except at municipalities, that's why the President is talking directly to us as champions of service delivery.

"We already have a plan to focus on cooperatives because that's where a number of people will benefit and we have to instill that culture in our municipalities."

Late last year, the country's unemployment rate rose to

27.1 percent, from 26.6 percent in the second quarter of 2016, which is the highest it's been in 13 years. Most of the unemployed are young people.

Mayor Mahlangu says her municipality will focus on doing business with young people residing in the Dr Ruth Segomotsi Mompoti District Municipality.

"The benefit of doing business with young people will not be realised today, but in the near future, that is why it's important that we focus on the youth and take them on board."

Sharing the sentiments expressed by Mayor Mahlangu is Emfuleni Local Municipality

3rd PRESIDENTIAL LOCAL GOVERNMENT SUMMIT 2017



■ **Minister Des van Rooyen.**

Mayor Simon Mofokeng, who says his municipality will develop spaces for people to start businesses closer to where they live.

In an effort to address youth unemployment, the municipality has modified the Extended Public Works Programme (EPWP).

"We have changed the approach and we've said those

who qualify as electricians, we bring them in to do their internship and once they've qualified, they can stay or open their own businesses."

He added that most of the staff working in the finance section of the municipality are young people who have gone through the amended EPWP programme. ■



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FROM THE UNION BUILDINGS

a message from
the President



A Time of Reflection and Celebration

Just a few weeks ago, I was deeply humbled and heartened by the well wishes of many South Africans who very kindly made a point of congratulating me on the milestone of my 75th birthday.

12 April 2017 was indeed a special personal milestone which also made me reflect on the many decades of my life during which I committed myself to serving the people of South Africa during our liberation Struggle and in our democratic dispensation.

Taking stock of success

Coming as it does early in April, my birthday always coincides with the annual stocktaking exercise undertaken by the Public Service where political office-bearers and administrators provide reports on the performance of government during the financial year ending on 31 March each year.

Since we are a government of the people, elected by the people, it means that when government has performed well, all of South Africa has in fact performed well.

The financial year which ended on 31 March 2017 was yet another 12-month period during which South Africa moved forward in so many ways across so many sectors.

In the area of economic transformation and reigniting growth and jobs, we made progress in programmes that included energy, manufacturing, transport, telecommunications, water, tourism, the ocean economy, mining, agriculture, telecom-

munications and reducing workplace conflict.

Government created a One Stop Shop, or InvestSA initiative, to remove obstacles to doing business in South Africa. This project helps potential investors to fast-track company registrations, water or energy licensing, environmental impact assessments, visa requirements and other services.

For thousands of South Africans, this means that the faster businesses get the green light to operate, the faster South Africans get to work in those businesses and have money to care for their families, and to spend in our economy which, again, generates new jobs.

Government support for growth

During the 2015/16 financial year the Department of Trade and Industry (the dti), through its range of incentives, supported 1 770 companies resulting in a total of R57 billion in new investment made by the private sector and more than 80 000 jobs were supported. In the first six months of the current financial year, the dti, through its incentives, leveraged more than R27 billion in private sector investment and supported just over 7 000 new jobs to be created.

The Industrial Development Corporation last year approved roughly R1 billion for youth-owned enterprises, showing that we are serious about implementing the Youth Employment Accord.

The Black Industrialists Programme was established to enable black industrialists to enter strategic and targeted industrial sectors and value



■ The Black Industrialists Programme provides entry into strategic and targeted industrial sectors and value chains.

chains. This project seeks to enable black empowerment beyond share ownership schemes, to create a footprint of industries owned by black people.

New solutions for old industries

With regard to mining and the revitalisation of mining towns, the partnerships formed in 2012 with mining companies following the Marikana Tragedy continues to yield results.

Various government departments implement various projects in the mining towns currently. There are 351 informal settlements in the mining towns that are receiving support from the Government's National Upgrade Support Programme.

The Department of Health has established one stop-service centres to bring health and compensation services to former and current mine

workers in the mining towns and in labour sending areas. One-stop service centres have been established in Mthatha in the Eastern Cape and Carletonville in Gauteng.

The Mthatha centre is fully funded by government and more than 3 000 former mine workers have already made use of the centre's services. Also, to date over 3 000 current and former miners have already made use of the Carletonville centre's services.

Power for the People

Across South Africa, the extension of electricity supply to communities continues apace. In the 2016/17 financial year a total grant of R5,6 billion was made available to the Department of Energy for the electrification of 235 000 households with grid power and 20 000 with non-grid power.

Through the Expanded Public Works Programme,

environmental programmes have created work opportunities for over 97 000 previously unemployed people. The Working for Water programme employed 33 000 participants to clear invasive plants. The 5 000 fire-fighters of the Working on Fire programme continue to save billions of Rands for the country.

In the area of education, government completed the building or refurbishment of 170 schools through the Accelerated Schools Infrastructure Delivery Initiative, (ASIDI). Government has also provided water to 615 schools, decent sanitation to 425 schools and electricity to 307 schools.

These and many other achievements tell me that the year ending 31 March 2017 was indeed a year of progress for our country, and being able to celebrate our country's progress was the thing that made my 75th. ■

Ekurhuleni to build six mega housing projects

THE CITY OF EKURHULENI is developing infrastructure, making land available for housing and also undertaking the construction of six mega housing projects to improve the lives of residents of the municipality.

Albert Pule

The City of Ekurhuleni will embark on building six major housing projects in the next five years in response to the housing and human settlement needs of the people of Ekurhuleni. Mayor of Ekurhuleni Mzwandile Masina says the project will be done in partnerships with other stakeholders. "The city, working together with the provincial and national governments as well as private developers, is embarking on six mega housing projects over the next five-year period to respond to the housing and human settlement needs of our people."

Masina added that the municipality is working hard to secure additional land to provide bulk services to four housing settlements.

"In pursuit of this objective, we have secured and are in the process of securing more land to enable us to provide bulk services for housing settlements like Leeuwpoort, Clayville Ext 15, John Dube, and Daggafontein."

He added that the city would deliver approximately 5 000 housing units and an additional 8 000 units in the 2017/18 financial year.

In response to the so called 'missing middle' segment of citizens, the municipality will make land available to people who can afford to build housing themselves.

The "missing middle" refers to those people whose earnings are too high for them to be eligible for a RDP house but too low for them to secure a housing loan (bond) from a bank.

"We have made land available for people with economic means to build their own houses. We will provide the core services like sanitation and water infrastructure in these stands for individuals to only finance the building of top structures"

Upgrading road infrastructure

Road infrastructure is at the centre of economic development and facilitates the movement of people and economic goods. In this regard, the City of Ekurhuleni has completed the rehabilitation of 163 km of road.

Masina added that more roads in the City of Ekurhuleni would be upgraded. "We have set aside R270 million for upgrading 52 kilometres of road and (an) R83 million budget for the reconstruction of 15 kilometres of road.

"In continuing to integrate our townships and stimulate



■ RDP Houses in Ward 67 of Etwatwa Combiza built by the Ekurhuleni Municipality.

business, the City has invested in rehabilitating the road between Vosloorus and Katlehong which serves as an upgrade link between the two townships."

Vosloorus and Katlehong have seen intense development and economic stimulation due to infrastructure development.

"We have set aside R663 million for the construction of new roads. About 49 percent of that expenditure will go to the far east region that covers Duduza, Tsakane, Nigel, Springs, Daveyton and Wattville among others," explained Masina.

Honouring OR Tambo

Following President Jacob

Zuma's declaration that 2017 will be the year of Oliver Reginald Tambo, the City of Ekurhuleni will play its part in honouring the struggle icon.

Mayor of Ekurhuleni Mzwandile Masina says the municipality will have various programmes and events to honour and celebrate Tambo who would have been a 100 years old this year.

"All the events will be based on the attributes of OR Tambo and it remains our mission as a city to preserve his legacy so that more of our people can have a clear record of our history."

Among the events organised by the municipality will be the erection of a statue of Tambo. "We will construct and install a 9 m bronze statue as a fitting tribute and recognition of this great struggle icon at the OR Tambo International Airport in October 2017.

"We will develop an OR Tambo Narrative Centre precinct which will include the establishment of the OR Tambo library / Knowledge Centre. This will create opportunities and spaces for our youth to talk, debate, listen, explore and to learn from the wise heroes throughout the history of South Africa." ■

Municipality to use EPWP to create jobs

THE CITY OF TSHWANE is wasting no time in improving the lives of citizens. It is using the Extended Public Works Programme to create job opportunities and is investing in infrastructure for the supply of water and electricity.

Mayor of the City of Tshwane Solly Msimanga says the City of Tshwane Metropolitan Municipal Council will use the Extended Public Works Programme (EPWP) to create over 20 000 jobs in an effort to reduce poverty.

"Within the next financial year the City is looking to create

23 000 EPWP job opportunities for our people to alleviate the burden of poverty.

"This will be supported by the numerous projects we intend to commence within the coming financial year. These job opportunities will be supported by the building of a new fire station in Mamelodi and, in doing so, ensuring that the people of

Mamelodi have better access to this emergency service."

He added that the jobs will also be made possible by an investment of over R600 million in infrastructure.

"The creation of these job opportunities will also be made possible by a R660 million investment in our industrial nodes such as Waltloo, Rosslyn,

Kangala and other identified areas with respect to bulk infrastructure that brings work opportunities closer to the people of those areas."

Mayor Msimanga said the municipality will introduce an open bid adjudication process to eliminate corruption.

"Through the introduction of an open-bid adjudication

process, we will ensure that business done with the city is fair and free from corruption, as part of our commitment to being an open and transparent government.

"We will also ensure that access to the work opportunities that flow from these projects is

The CWP in Erasmus – restoring community cohesion

A government initiative has brought dramatic change to a semi-rural area between Soshanguve and Ga-Rankuwa, to the north-west of Pretoria.

Thanks to the Cooperative Governance and Traditional Affairs' (CoGTA) Community Work Programme (CWP), Erasmus residents have had their dignity restored and hope renewed.

The CWP provides a job safety net for unemployed people of working age. It provides a bridging opportunity for unemployed youth and others who are actively looking for employment opportunities.

In 2009, Erasmus residents sent a delegation to Bokfontein, which was the site of one of the first CWP initiatives, to find out how to become part of the programme. At the time, Erasmus was part of the North West Province.

The programme kicked off in Erasmus with 500 participants. Within a year, 1 000 people were involved, with 20 coordinators, two administrators and a storekeeper.

Dramatic changes were soon visible in the community. Most young people had left home to look for work in Johannesburg and Pretoria, becoming part of these cities' vast pool of unemployed youth. With the launch of the CWP, they came home to take up the work opportunities offered.

At first there was inter-generational conflict, with the youth accused of disrespecting

their elders, but after a careful conflict resolution process, harmony between the generations was achieved and has been sustained.

With the new municipal demarcations in 2011, Erasmus became part of ward 39 of Tshwane Municipality and the CWP was expanded to cover other areas of the ward. By April 2016, there were 1 526 participants and in 2017, there were 2 000.

The CWP helps offset the high rate of unemployment and poverty in ward 39. Although the stipend received by participants is modest, Erasmus stands as a shining example of how the CWP can reform communities.

In June 2016, deputy ministers Andries Nel of CoGTA and Elizabeth Thabethe of Small Business Development, along with representatives from the Tshwane Municipality, handed over certificates to 25 registered cooperatives that had been kick started by the CWP.

The cooperatives are involved in art, sewing, catering, agriculture and construction.

An ultimate aim of the CWP is to see participants exit the programme as entrepreneurs or members of self-sufficient cooperatives.

Word of Erasmus' success has spread even further afield. Also in 2016, senior officials from Botswana visited the community to see for themselves the potential offered by CWP projects.



■ Deputy Minister of Cooperative Governance Andries Nel with vegetables produced at the Erasmus vegetable garden.



■ The Erasmus Community showcasing its crafts and materials to Deputy Minister of Cooperative Governance Andries Nel as part of the Community Work Programme.

The officials were part of a CoGTA-hosted workshop that enabled the two countries to share knowledge as part of a long-standing Memorandum of Understanding on local government cooperation.

The visitors were extremely impressed by the CWP and how the community of Erasmus has embraced it.

Look what we have done!

One of the first achievements was the construction of a bridge that brought together parts of the community. A longer term project of rebuilding and restoring a school, where most of the older generations received their primary education, has endeared the programme to the whole community.

Today, residents can look back with pride on their many achievements. A 34 000m² community park was established on what was once an illegal dumping site. It took participants three months

to clear and clean the area before they could begin building water channels, braai stands, cement benches, a water fountain and swings for children.

All these were built using limited material that was sourced locally, such as old Telkom poles, sand and rocks. The Recycling Cooperative contributed funds from the sale of recycled goods to buy additional material that was needed.

The Erasmus Tribal Authority has embraced this initiative warmly as it provides a safe and beautiful environment for different activities.

Another CWP environmental project has taken on a life of its own. Pensioners and participants with disabilities were initially helped to start a recycling project. The 50 participants soon started transforming the bottles, plastic and other waste they collect into creative art. Today, the group produces plastic mats, shakers, bead work, curtains,

pillow cases, wool shoes and bags. The money received from the recycling activities is used to meet some of the needs of the CWP crèches, home-based care and the CWP Centre.

A booming agricultural sector is another legacy of the CWP. Most notable is a piggery cooperative started by 18 CWP participants who saved a bit of their stipend every month until they were able to launch their project.

In many other corners of the community, vegetables are being successfully grown, thanks to the training given by CWP agricultural specialists who have taught participants how to cultivate the soil and plant and irrigate crops.

As Deputy Minister Nel said, "Erasmus CWP is one of the best sites in the country." He has subsequently cited it in Parliament as an example of a community that is actively using the CWP to improve its residents' lives. ■

Educators are teaching the business of business

BEING AN ENTREPRENEUR takes courage and skills but can be a viable employment option for school leavers, which is why educators are working on strengthening entrepreneurship and business-skills training.



■ Mr. Cecil Ramonotshi CEO (acting) Eskom Development Foundation, Ms. Mamahase Mosheshe (EWET), Mr. Siphon Mpotle (Teacher), Ms. Nombulelo Ntakazi (Learner), Ms. Waheeda Carvello (DBE – National), Mr. Tebejane Hlalele (Learner), Ms. Tshidi Sekopa and Mr. Arie Bouwer (EWET).

Stephen Timm

The Department of Basic Education is engaging with various stakeholders to develop an innovative teacher training model to enable educators to teach entrepreneurship.

The training programme, which is part of a drive to boost entrepreneurship training at schools, is expected to be piloted in the second half of this year, the department's spokes-

man Elijah Mhlanga said.

He added that the department is also developing an information communication technology (ICT) application for learners, which it plans to pilot in the middle of next year.

The government wants to strengthen entrepreneurship training at schools. In March Deputy President Cyril Ramaphosa told the Global Entrepreneurship Congress in Johannesburg that learners must be able to leave school appreciating

that entrepreneurship can be a viable career option.

Entrepreneurship is already included in the National Curriculum Statement and Mhlanga said the department is involved with various stakeholders in industry to promote entrepreneurship in schools.

He said exemplar lesson plans on entrepreneurship had been developed by provincial, district subject advisors and teachers in collaboration with the Financial Services Board.

Copies of these were sent to all teachers who offer economic and management sciences for Grades 7 to 9.

The lesson plans focus on all aspects of entrepreneurship and prepare the learners to host their own entrepreneurial activities. Learners are encouraged to contribute a percentage of their profits towards a school legacy project.

Schools and learners are also encouraged to participate in entrepreneurship competitions

and programmes through extra-curricular activities offered by nongovernmental organisations and industry role players.

The National Subject Committee, comprising economic and management sciences, economics, accounting and business studies subject specialists, supports the implementation of entrepreneurship activities at provincial, district and school levels.

The department is also working with a range of partners to strengthen awareness. These include a cinema initiative and competition run by Primestars Marketing, a business competition run by Education With Enterprise Trust and an environmental schools programme run by the Foundation of Environmental Education. ■

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Eco-schools teach kids sustainable living

Stephen Timm

The food garden at Leruthware Primary, in Mosenthal village, North West, has helped 1 075 learners to supplement meals they get through the school feeding programme.

Deputy principal Jeffrey Setshogoe says his is one of about 1 000 schools across the country involved in the Eco-schools Programme.

The Wildlife Environmental Society of South Africa (Wessa) runs the programme with the support of the Department of Basic Education. The Eco-schools Programme encourages schools to develop

environmental projects that can help schools to become financially self-sustaining.

The Eco-schools Programme is an international programme of the Foundation for Environmental Education developed to support environmental learning in the classroom. It is active in 64 countries and has been implemented in South Africa since 2003.

"We are teaching them sustainable living; they can do it for themselves at home," says Setshogoe.

His school started on the programme two years ago and today the 50m by 50m food garden supplements meals the school gets from the school feeding programme. Wessa

supplies the school with seeds and also helped advise learners and teachers how to set up a vermicompost (worm farm) system and a tree nursery.

Since 2003 more than 10 229 schools across all provinces have participated in the programme, reaching 400 000 learners and 16 000 teachers. Schools register annually by completing a registration form and sending it to Wessa

Eco-schools skills programme manager Donovan Fullard says the programme gets learners and teachers to identify environmental challenges at their school or in their community and to then set up projects to address these.

Schools have started recycling projects, vegetable gardens or run arts or craft initiatives as part of promoting community heritage.

The idea is for schools in the programme to improve their score on environmental sustainability. If they are able to do so after three years, they achieve green-flag status. So far 2 435 schools have achieved green-flag status.

Natascha Meisler, a teacher from special needs school PT Sanders in Trompsburg in the Free State, says she uses the programme to teach learners how to build their own houses – sometimes out of tyres – and start food gardens. Her class of 18 learners recently

completed a skate park out of tyres and are now building an outdoor permaculture classroom.

Permaculture is the practice of producing food and energy using ways that do not deplete the earth's natural resources.

"I'm finding that with this programme kids want to go out there and work," says Meisler. ■

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Teaching entrepreneurship empowers youngsters

A NATION-WIDE NON-PROFIT organisation's programme is working to create an entrepreneurial culture in schools, with competition finalists gaining entry to a national competition that pays out handsome prize money.

Stephen Timm

Grade 12 student Thulanyo Motlokwa of Tong Comprehensive Secondary in Ganyesa had his mind set on working for a big company until he took part in a schools entrepreneurship competition.

Last year Motlokwa's school, in the Mahikeng, Ngaka Modiri Molema District, was the provincial winner in North West in the annual Simama Ranta Entrepreneurship Competition.

The Education With Enterprise Trust (Ewet) non-profit organisation runs the Entrepreneurship Education's Youth Enterprise Society Programme and its competition aimed at learners from Grade 8 to 12. It enjoys the Department of Basic Education's support.

Motlokwa and 35 other learners entered in four groups after opting to start manufacturing braai stands,

chairs and jewellery. Now Motlokwa says he has his mind set on becoming a motivational speaker and life coach.

He says the competition was one of the biggest events his community has had and that parents were very supportive of him and fellow learners, taking them to school early or fetching them in the night after they had worked on their projects.

The learners are using their R50 000 prize money to buy materials for their businesses and have discussed setting up a cooperative and starting other types of businesses.

Accompanying the competition, which was started in 2010, teachers are trained as programme facilitators so that they can provide theoretical instruction in entrepreneurship.

Ewet chief executive Arie Bouwer says the programme aims to create a culture of entrepreneurship in schools. Learners have started food



■ Thulanyo Motlokwa of Tong Comprehensive Secondary.

gardens, tuck shops and even a business making cooking fuel from cow dung.

The programme received R5.3 million in donations last year, mainly from the Eskom Development Foundation, the Absa Foundation, MTN and Nelson Mandela Children's Fund.

In all, 3 200 schools were targeted during the competition in 2016, of which 195 submitted entries in line with the requirements, which include having to produce evidence of their entrepreneurial projects.

The national winners along

with 27 provincial finalists are also given the opportunity to participate in the Youth Entrepreneurship Simama Ranta Expo which is linked to the Small, Micro and Medium Business Expo held by Eskom in Johannesburg every year.

Finalists receive cash prizes of between R10 000 and R100 000 which must be used by the learners' clubs to further their entrepreneurial endeavours.

Following the competition those who want to further their businesses are referred to business service providers for more assistance." ■

What is Simama Ranta?

"Simama Ranta" Entrepreneurship Education means empowering (Simama) the South African economy (Ranta) through entrepreneurship education. South African secondary schools that represent exemplars in entrepreneurship education are addressing a crucial and top-priority South African challenge in preparing their learners to consider entrepreneurship as a career choice – to become creators of jobs rather than job seekers. The goal of this national programme is to provide various models of comprehensive, quality entrepreneurship education, representing South Africa's diverse education system. The winning schools serve as leaders in mentoring other schools.

Web: www.ewet.org.za
Facebook: [EwetEducationWithEnterpriseTrust](https://www.facebook.com/EwetEducationWithEnterpriseTrust)
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Cinemas serving as theatres of learning

BY USING CINEMAS as theatres of learning Primestars Marketing is helping high-school learners from disadvantaged communities develop the skills they need to participate in the economy.



■ Thembani Mabunda (left), Terrence Khuliso (centre) and Yolanda Ngcwabe (right).

Stephen Timm

When he entered an entrepreneurship schools competition, Grade 11 learner Thembani Mabunda's mother thought he was wasting his time when

he could have been studying.

Things changed after he returned from last year's "Step Up 2 a Start Up" programme boot camp, where his three-person team came first.

The three each won R24 000 in cash from The Innovation

Hub in Pretoria, as well as a number of other prizes.

These included a hot-desk space at the Tshimologong Information and Communications Technology precinct as well as business mentorship.

Primedia's Primestars Marketing runs the programme with the support of the Department of Basic Education.

The programme uses cinemas as a venue, and a competition to get disadvantaged youth interested in how to address problems in their communities.

Last year 16 000 learners from grades nine to 12 in over 300 schools participated.

To date, Primestars Marketing has reached over 150 000 secondary schools nationwide.

"(My mother) was really

impressed," says Mabunda. "Now she says she has hope and believes in me."

He adds that he now feels more confident when doing public speaking.

He and classmates Terrence Khuliso and Yolanda Ngcwabe from Afrika Tikkun Phutadijaba Centre came first in the competition for their invention of noise-cancelling headphones.

Mabunda, who is from Alexandria Township, said he and his teammates came up with the idea as a way for those who live in noisy townships to get some peace and quiet.

He plans to study engineering but says he will continue dabbling in entrepreneurship during his studies.

In all, 500 learners went on to enter the business idea

competition last year where R1.6 million in prize money was up for grabs.

The top 10 teams were invited to a six-day boot camp. The programme was initiated four years ago.

Primestars Marketing's managing director Martin Sweet says the programme, using R4 million raised last year from various sponsors, has helped make learners curious and

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NSP to tackle HIV, TB and STIs

THE NEW NATIONAL Strategic Plan is a declaration of war on the HIV, TB and STI epidemics. It expresses government's efforts to drastically reduce the incidence of these conditions, eliminate mother-to-child HIV transmission and cut new infections among adolescent girls and young women.

Noluthando Motswai

The new National Strategic Plan (NSP) on HIV, tuberculosis (TB) and sexually transmitted infections (STIs) is expected to reduce TB incidents by 30 percent and decrease new HIV infections by 60 percent.

Deputy President Cyril Ramaphosa announced this at the launch of the NSP 2017-2022 in Bloemfontein recently.

The NSP usually runs for five years. The plan ended in March 2017.

Deputy President Ramaphosa said the NSP is closely aligned with the National Development Plan, locating the struggle against HIV, TB and STIs within the broader struggle for economic and social development.

"Working together, we seek to reduce TB incidence by at

least 30 percent, from 450 000 to 315 000. We must drastically reduce new infections of HIV by 60 percent from 270 000 in 2016 to less than 100 000 by 2022," the deputy president said.

He added that the government wants to eliminate mother-to-child HIV transmission and cut new infections among adolescent girls and young women from 2 000 each week to less than 800.

Last year the deputy president launched a campaign to prevent HIV among young women and adolescent girls.

Almost 2 000 new HIV infections occur among young women and adolescent girls aged between 15 and 24 in South Africa each week.

The campaign, She Conquers, is being implemented as part of the effort to reduce HIV transmission and its impact.

"She Conquers is focused on decreasing HIV infections,

reducing teen pregnancy, keeping young people in school, ending sexual and gender-based violence and creating economic opportunities for young people."

NSP has clear goals

Deputy President Ramaphosa said the NSP will focus on eight strategic goals to combat HIV, TB and STIs.

- Goal one is to accelerate prevention to reduce new HIV, TB and STI infections.
- Goal two is to reduce morbidity and mortality by providing HIV, TB and STI treatment, care and adherence support for all.
- Goal three is to reach all key and vulnerable populations with customised and targeted interventions.
- Goal four is to address the social and structural drivers of HIV, TB and STI infections.

UNITE TO END TB & HIV

SOUTH AFRICAN LEADERS TAKING ACTION

• Goal five is to ground the response to HIV, TB and STIs in human rights principles and approaches.

• Goal six is to promote leadership and shared accountability for a sustainable response to HIV, TB and STIs.

• Goal seven is to mobilise resources to support the achievement of NSP goals and ensure a sustainable response.

• Goal eight is to strengthen strategic information to drive progress towards the achievement of NSP goals.

Behavioural change is necessary

"We are here to affirm that the dream of an Aids-free generation is within our reach," Deputy President Ramaphosa said. "We are here to demonstrate our resolve to build a world free from the devastation of preventable

and curable diseases like TB.

"We know that to be infected with HIV and TB is not a death sentence," Deputy President Ramaphosa said. "We know that our best chance to defeat the co-infections of HIV and TB lies in behavioural change to stop the spread of infection."

The launch of the NSP 2017-2022 is a pivotal moment in South Africa's response to the HIV, TB and STI epidemics.

The slogan of the new NSP is "Let Our Actions Count" – a call to action for all South Africans to play a part in achieving the goals of the plan.

This year, government is targeting mainly leaders of society, such as parliamentarians, members of provincial legislatures, councillors, traditional leaders, business leaders, religious leaders and civil society to commit themselves to the fight against these epidemics and to engage their

Vaccinations save lives

DON'T WAIT ... VACCINATE

BABY & CHILDHOOD VACCINATIONS

BIRTH	Oral Polio and BCG
6 TO 8 WEEKS	Oral Polio and BCG
10 TO 12 WEEKS	Diphtheria, Tetanus, Acellular Pertussis Haemophilus influenzae type B and Inactivated Polio Hepatitis B Rotavirus Pneumococcal Conjugated
14 TO 16 WEEKS	Diphtheria, Tetanus, Acellular Pertussis Haemophilus influenzae type B and Inactivated Polio Hepatitis B Rotavirus Pneumococcal Conjugated
9 MONTHS	Measles
12 MONTHS	Hepatitis A, Pneumococcal Conjugated
15 TO 18 MONTHS	Measles, Mumps, Rubella
18 MONTHS	Diphtheria, Tetanus, Acellular Pertussis Haemophilus influenzae type B and Inactivated Polio Hepatitis A (booster)
6 YEARS	Measles, Mumps, Rubella Diphtheria, Tetanus, Acellular Pertussis and Inactivated Polio
12 YEARS	Measles, Mumps, Rubella (if missed at 6 years) Diphtheria, Tetanus, Acellular Pertussis and Inactivated Polio (if missed at 6 years)

Vaccinating children is the best way to prevent serious illnesses, such as polio, diphtheria, mumps, measles and tetanus. This is according to Dr Vuyo Gqola, Government Employees Medical Scheme Executive: Healthcare Management.

"When people get vaccinated against a particular disease, they are not only protecting themselves, but are also helping to protect their communities," Dr Gqola says.

"This is because the more people who are immune to a disease, the slower it spreads."

Vaccinations make sense

Dr Gqola says the medical progress that has been made in the prevention of diseases through vaccinations is truly remarkable.

Measles and polio are now relatively uncommon thanks to vaccination programmes.

Smallpox is a highly infectious viral disease. It was deadly for a large proportion of the people who contracted it.

"Through global vaccination efforts, naturally-occurring smallpox was eliminated in 1977 with the last case having been diagnosed in Somalia," says Dr Gqola.

In 2014, the South African Department of Health rolled out a school-based human papillomavirus (HPV) vaccination campaign for the prevention of cervical cancer, aimed at all girls aged nine years and older in grade four.

"There is an established link between certain strains of HPV and cervical cancer, which is a leading cause of

death for women in South Africa," Dr Gqola says.

"The girls who have received the HPV vaccine will have a considerably reduced risk of developing cervical cancer and several other types of cancer.

"We are likely to start seeing the positive impact of this campaign in the next 15 to 20 years, when the first generation of girls to have received the HPV vaccination will reach the age where these types of cancer are more likely to develop.

"The risks associated with vaccinations are extremely rare, and are hugely outweighed by the risks of developing the disease itself if one is not vaccinated," Dr Gqola says. **■**

Source: Government Employees Medical Scheme

Biggest housing project now open

THE COUNTRY'S LARGEST social housing project, located in Westgate, KwaZulu-Natal, comprises 952 housing units that offer rental accommodation.



■ President Jacob Zuma and Minister of Human Settlements Lindiwe Sisulu launched the country's biggest social housing project in Pietermaritzburg.

Hlengiwe Ngobese

When President Jacob Zuma handed over a new house to Caroline Carstens, 20, the Westgate resident could not contain her joy and said government has fulfilled her dream of raising her children in a decent house.

"It has been my dream to own a decent house one day, but I never thought this dream would come true so soon. Thank you to government for providing us with these decent houses," she said.

Carstens is one of the 3 000 beneficiaries who were handed over new houses when President Zuma opened the country's biggest social housing project in Westgate, Pietermaritzburg, in KwaZulu-Natal on 1 April 2017. The project is expected to cost close to R353 million, which includes funding from the private sector.

Another beneficiary is Nomkhosi Msimang, 30, who works as a student nurse at Grace Hospital. She said when she got a text message congratulating her and informing her that her application had been successful she could not believe it.

"My God! Today, I'm now holding keys for my house. This government is really improving the lives of South Africans. I heard about this project at the community meeting and I said to myself 'let me just take a chance and apply'. I never thought you could get a house from government if you are not connected, but I got it. I didn't pay a cent to get this beautiful apartment. They just needed a payslip and proof of residence to apply. I thank the government for changing my life," she said.

Westgate launched

Speaking at the Westgate social housing launch President Zuma said on completion the project will deliver close to 1 000 housing units, accommodating close to 4 000 beneficiaries.

"In the State of the Nation Address in 2010 and 2012, I spoke about middle income workers who struggle to secure decent and affordable accommodation for themselves and their families because they neither qualify for fully subsidised housing nor bonded houses.

"The construction of the Westgate Social Housing Project is a direct response to

such challenges. It provides an opportunity to our working youth to live in decent and well-located accommodation, while promoting social integration and deconstructing the apartheid spatial master plan.

"This project is 100% rental stock, catering for people earning a household income of between R1 500 and R7 500. It consists of two-bedroom units, each with an open plan kitchen and a lounge.

"We are a government that will never rest until every South African citizen lives in a decent shelter. Our resolve is to restore the dignity of our

people through human settlements," said President Zuma.

New townships across SA

President Zuma said government will continue to prioritise housing delivery for indigent people. These include child-headed households, the physically disabled and elderly citizens.

"I was also touched by one courageous and physically challenged Mr Maphumulo from Vulindlela, when he was taken to his newly built house. Having a decent shelter presents a number of social and economic benefits. These include improved quality of life, personal and private space hardly experienced in a one-room shack, a secure environment and tenure rights.

"The KwaZulu-Natal provincial government has built close to 500 000 units since 1994. This translates to close to two million beneficiaries whose lives have changed for the better by this government. Housing delivery since 1994 has seen a number of new townships established across the country. These include areas like Cosmo City in Gauteng, Klarinet in Mpumalanga, Cornubia in KwaZulu-Natal, Zanemvula in the Eastern Cape and N2 Gateway in the Western Cape. In addition, a number of previously disadvantaged rural communities have also

benefited immensely. One key housing project that has changed rural communities socially and economically is Vulindlela in Pietermaritzburg, which is expected to

"The KwaZulu-Natal provincial government has built close to 500 000 units since 1994. This translates to close to two million beneficiaries whose lives have changed for the better by this government."

deliver over 20 000 housing units on completion, offering over 100 000 residents a decent shelter. However, there is still more that needs to be done," said President Zuma.

President Zuma encourages the beneficiaries to value their houses.

"These houses belong to you. I am pleading with you to not sell your house. We have noticed some disturbing trends where government housing beneficiaries sell their houses and then become indigent again. You must know you only have one chance to qualify for a house. If you sell it, you will not get a chance to re-apply," he said. ■



■ The Westgate housing project is expected to deliver close to 1 000 housing units, accommodating close to 4 000 beneficiaries once completed.

Revamped home affairs office named after Tutu



■ President Zuma with the former Minister of Home Affairs Malusi Gigaba greet refugees during the tour of the revamped premises.

Allison Cooper

President Jacob Zuma recently relaunched the Marabastad home affairs office and renamed it the Desmond Tutu Refugee Reception Centre.

During recent radio interview, President Zuma said he had just visited Marabastad, in the central business district of Pretoria, to relaunch and rename its home affairs office.

"We are happy that the centre is being named after a

distinguished South African who has fought tirelessly for justice, equality, human rights and freedom.

"Government appreciates the willingness and support of the Desmond and Leah Tutu Legacy Foundation to rename the Marabastad

Centre as the Desmond Tutu Refugee Reception Centre," the president said.

In 2015 President Zuma went to Marabastad as part of the Presidential Siyahloa Monitoring programme.

"When I went to home affairs there was a crowd of people outside and I gave them an opportunity to speak to me," he said.

"They raised a number of issues and I saw that the situation was not good at all. I went inside to inspect and felt that the issues raised by the people needed to be taken up."

Challenges experienced at Marabastad included limited human resource capacity, slow information technology infrastructure, inadequate filing systems, poor management practices and a working environment that was not conducive for clients and staff.

The centre was also marred by allegations of corruption, long queues, overcrowding and the presence of criminal syndicates.

Public areas have now been redesigned and refurbished, including signage, counters

and lighting, and a new security system and electric fencing have been installed.

Other key interventions include the introduction of new systems and processes,

"We are happy that the centre is being named after a distinguished South African who has fought tirelessly for justice, equality, human rights and freedom."

such as an automated booking system and electronic applications, improved registry and filing and continuous engagement with stakeholders.

Government's aim is stop crime and corruption in the system and prevent crime syndicates from using asylum seekers to make money through bribes for permits, which poses a serious security risk for the country. ■

Government takes higher education seriously

Allison Cooper

Education was one of the items on the agenda when President Jacob Zuma recently engaged listeners of different community radio stations across South Africa simultaneously.

An issue raised was that of financial assistance for higher education students.

The President said that he initially called a meeting with student and university leaders and the Department of Higher Education to discuss the issues around high tuition fees and the fact that those from disadvantaged backgrounds cannot afford to pay them.

"It was clear to me at the

time that the issues at hand couldn't be resolved in the meeting due to their complexity. Work needed to be done

"No student whose combined family income is below R600 000 per annum will face fee increases at universities and TVET colleges for 2017."

and I therefore appointed the Heher Commission of Inquiry into Higher Education and Training to look into the mat-

ter," he said.

The commission will complete its work by June this year. The Inter-Ministerial Committee on Higher Education, led by Minister Radebe, is engaging all stakeholders to discuss the issues. Civil society initiatives involving business, churches and other organisations have created space for a diversity of options to be considered.

The President has invited stakeholders to participate in processes that are underway so that all views are heard.

Government recognises the needs articulated by the students, former Finance Minister Pravin Gordhan said in his recent Budget Speech.

"As the economy grows, we will be able to do more to finance an expansion in tertiary education opportunities and improvements in student funding," he said.

Government increased its higher education budget allocations by R32 billion in last year's budget and the 2016 Medium Term Budget Policy Statement, and has now added another R5 billion.

"No student whose combined family income is below R600 000 per annum will face fee increases at universities and technical and vocational education and training (TVET) colleges for 2017.

"All poor students who applied and qualified for

National Student Financial Aid Scheme awards, and who have been accepted by a university or a TVET college, will be supported," former Minister Gordhan said.

Given the magnitude of student funding requirements, it is imperative that government develops a clear roadmap towards a better higher education and training funding system.

The President assured the radio audience that the commission's report will indicate how society will achieve access, opportunity, financing and support for students in the university and further education sectors. ■

Teach them while still young

Albert Pule

"Entrepreneurship must be part of the school curriculum. Young people must, from an early age, be encouraged to innovate and be problem-solvers.

"They must be given the skills to turn ideas into viable businesses. Most importantly, they must leave school appreciating that entrepreneurship can be a viable career option," Deputy President Cyril Ramaphosa said at the annual Global Entrepreneurship Congress (GEC) held in Sandton recently. Past host cities have included Moscow, Milan and Rio de Janeiro.

The wide range of voices that came together at the GEC agreed that teaching entrepreneurship at school will arm young people with expertise and skills to establish their own businesses and create employment.

Entrepreneurs, investors, researchers, policymakers and other start-up champions from 173 countries came together for a week at the GEC to identify new ways of helping founders start and scale new ventures around the world.

Delegates make connections, gain insights, learn about new research, and leave ready to renew their

programmes and policy ideas.

The GEC 2017 was hosted by the Global Entrepreneurship Network, the Sustainable Entrepreneur Accelerator (SEA) Africa and the City of Johannesburg.

Reaching potential requires support and cooperation

"We are all concerned that small businesses have an exceedingly high failure rate, and in our country the majority of the casualties are black and women-owned businesses. Statistics tell us that small businesses have limited chances of surviving their first few years," said Minister of Small Business Development Lindiwe Zulu.

"We agreed that it was important to govern with small businesses in mind."

"While many people have the aptitude to be successful entrepreneurs, our experience in South Africa is that many struggle to fulfil their potential without effective support," said Deputy Presi-



Deputy President Cyril Ramaphosa addressing the Global Entrepreneurship Congress at the Sandton Convention Centre.

dent Ramaphosa.

"This is a deficit we are working hard to bridge. Through business incubation programmes both public and private we are moving beyond merely providing a desk and a phone and a coffee machine."

For small start-ups to succeed, Deputy President Ramaphosa said, government, small businesses, labour and the private sector needed to work together.

"As government, we are steadily opening up market opportunities for Small Medium Micro Enterprises (SMMEs), both through our own procurement spend and also through Black Economic Empowerment policies.

"Established business needs to take a similar approach if any of these efforts are to succeed. Effective monitoring and evaluation is also central to the effectiveness of small business support. There needs to be a clear link between effort, activity and results."

Intra-African trade

The GEC connects local entrepreneurs to the best resources and networks all over the globe.

Deputy President Ramaphosa said South African entrepreneurs should take advantage of this congress and establish relationships with fellow entrepreneurs from the African continent.

"This congress serves as an opportunity to enhance an entrepreneurial culture among our youth, women and people with disabilities. It must allow us to share new developments in start-up financing.

"Ultimately, we must foster an African Entrepreneurship Network where participants will collaborate well beyond this event in promoting intra-African trade."

"We invite entrepreneurs from our continent and the world to collaborate with entrepreneurs in this country to start sustainable, profitable businesses that will create jobs.

"We urge you, our creative and courageous entrepreneurs, to apply your minds to the challenges of our continent. Be with the children of Africa to realise the promise of freedom." ■

The Global Entrepreneurship Congress has a presence on various social media platforms, such as Facebook, Twitter, LinkedIn and Pinterest. Check out www.facebook.com/unleashingideas

KZN titanium beneficiation plant



Stakeholders attending the sod-turning ceremony for the R4.5 billion Nyanza Light Metals titanium production project in the Richards Bay Industrial Development Zone.

Image/ twitter.com/kzngov

Matona Fatman

About R4.5 billion will be invested in the Richards Bay Industrial Development Zone

(RBIDZ) as this was the preferred destination for foreign direct investment.

This came after the MEC of Economic Development and Tourism Sihle Zikalala

signed a major partnership between the Richards Bay Industrial Development Zone, Nyanza Light Metals and a New Zealand-based company.

The deal will culminate in the construction of a R4.5 billion titanium beneficiation plant in Richards Bay.

The plant will produce titanium dioxide pigment, a product used in paint, toothpaste and colourants for food products.

The construction of the plant will commence next year, while production is expected to begin in late 2019.

The Department of Trade and Industry (the dti) extended a grant of R17.1 million to the company for feasibility studies and has also approved an investment allowance of R900 million.

MEC Zikalala has described the project as a major boost for the KwaZulu-Natal economy, saying it affirmed the province as a preferred

investment destination.

"We are very excited about this project because it will have a huge impact on our economy and it will also create 550 permanent skilled jobs, 1 200 indirect and 800 jobs during construction."

Zikalala also said they are excited that RBIDZ will now host this strategic plant, which will help to ensure that KwaZulu-Natal remains a national leader in the production of chemicals.

MEC Zikalala said they support the call by President Jacob Zuma and Premier Mchunu that government should ensure that all sectors of society benefit from the nation's wealth in order to guarantee a stable democratic dispensation and reasonable wealth distribution. ■

Mulambwane land claimants now successful game farmers

THE COMMUNITY OF MULWAMBANE is successfully practising game farming and game breeding on land returned to it after a long wait for the land claim to be finalised.



■ An African buffalo takes refuge from the hot sun at one of the farms owned by the Mulambwane CPA.

Albert Pule

For years, the community of Mulambwane outside Makhado, Limpopo, waited patiently for the conclusion of its land claim.

The predominantly Tshivenda-speaking community was forcibly removed from its ancestral land during the apartheid regime, on two separate occasions.

The first removal happened between 1915 and 1945 and the second occurred between 1967 and 1974. After the removal, the community members were scattered and lived in different parts of Limpopo until they came together to lodge a claim in 1998.

Once the land had been returned to them the community launched a Communal Property Association (CPA) in 2008.

The Mulambwane CPA has established a successful game farm and game breeding facility, 30 km north of Makhado.

CPA Chairperson Sam Mulaudzi says at one point the community thought of giving up given the amount of time it took for the claim to be processed.

Patience and persistence pay off

"At some stage we thought this was not going to work and nothing was going to come out of it, but we didn't give up. It was a matter of patience and having meetings as the community and making follow-ups with government."

The CPA represents over a thousand beneficiaries from over 200 households who are all legitimate members of the community. Mulaudzi says that after lodging the claim, the land was returned to them "in bits and pieces."

"We started getting the land in 2008. That year we got six farms and the following year we got three farms and the last batch we got last year, in 2016."

The 17 farms comprise over 15 000 hectares.

Mulaudzi was an ordinary committee member when the first farms were handed over to the community representatives. He says there was a lot of excitement in the community.

"We were excited and we had a community meeting to tell the people that we got six farms and we had some of

the meetings on the farm and we took pictures and videos and most people wanted to go back and stay on those farms."

"We were excited and we had a community meeting to tell the people that we got six farms."

Mulaudzi adds that it was difficult for people to settle on the farms because they had been turned into game farms.

After lengthy consultations with the provincial department of Cooperative Governance and the Musina local municipality, government agreed to rezone the land and develop it by building some low cost houses.

"They both agreed that they would take one of our farms and develop it into low cost housing of 600 stands and we were very excited and we've informed the community about it." They went into a strategic plan to guide them in the business of game farming.

"We are game farming on eight of the farms. We've got buffaloes, sable, impala, kudu, giraffe, zebra and eland."

Mulaudzi says the CPA has bigger plans to increase its game and spoken to the Kruger National Park to acquire some more game. "They are keen and they've promised to give us some animals that don't have hooves." Mulaudzi says the park is popular and they've had local and international visitors.

The CPA employs seven people from the Mulambwane community. The aim is to expand and train young people from the community who would like to get into the field of agriculture and game farming.

"We have approached the AgriSeta for it to take some of the young people in the community for training in animal production, plant production, farming, horticulture and veterinary and crop science."

Mulaudzi says with the help of the strategic partner, he is confident that the CPA will make a difference in the lives of the people of Mulambwane. ■

From page 4

equally fair, equitable and free from corruption so that more of our people can benefit from the work being done in the city."

Water infrastructure

To address the challenge of ageing water infrastructure, the municipality has made an initial investment of R13 million for upgrading infrastructure.

"To address this in part, the City made an initial R13 million investment into the restoration of water infrastructure in the last two months, and it has tendered for a R2 billion contract to refurbish, upgrade and replace some of the ailing infrastructure that was neglected.

In real terms, this means that more people across the city will have reliable access to water for everyday use." "

The municipality also replaced old pipes in parts of Soshanguve. "The pipes in Blocks AA and F were old asbestos cement pipes and, being past their design life, they were leaking profusely.

"The community requested a pipe replacement project, and the City was able to fit this into the overall programme. The project took eight months and was valued at R10.8 million; 4 653 meters of pipe was replaced and 59 local labourers were employed."

Electrifying Tshwane

Mayor Msimanga added that the electrification of households plays an important role and the supply of electricity to new households will improve the lives and living conditions of communities.

"A few areas were identified by the current leadership where new connections are planned. The projects are underway and other projects are completed. These areas include the following Nellmapius X 24, where 1 000 connections were done in Ward 15; Soshanguve South X 19 has a planned number of 500 households to be electrified; Mamelodi X 5 for 74 households; Melusi X 2 for just over 200 households; and Winterveld for 256 households."

AU commemorates Rwanda genocide

THE AFRICAN UNION and Rwanda recently commemorated the anniversary of the Rwandan genocide and reflected on the importance of never forgetting the genocide and never allowing it to recur.



■ AU Chairperson Moussa Faki Mahamat expressed his sympathy and reaffirmed the fidelity of Africa to their spirit.

Noluthando Motswai

The African Union (AU) recently commemorated the 23rd Anniversary of the Rwandan genocide together with the government of Rwanda.

The remembrance is commemorated annually on 7 April to pay tribute to the value of life and humanity, to awaken greater awareness about the ill effects of genocide, and to renew the collective commitment of Africans to protect and uphold fundamental human rights.

This year's event was organised under the theme "Remember the Rwanda Genocide – Fight Genocide Ideology – Build on our Progress".

In 1994, about 800 000 people were killed in 100 days in Rwanda by the Hutu ethnic group. They targeted members of the minority Tutsi community, as well as their political opponents.

Back then about 85 percent of Rwandans were Hutus but the Tutsi minority had long dominated the country. In 1959, the Hutus overthrew the Tutsi monarchy and tens of thousands of Tutsis fled to neighbouring countries, including Uganda.

A group of Tutsi exiles formed a rebel group, the Rwandan Patriotic Front (RPF), which invaded Rwanda in 1990 and fighting continued until a peace deal was agreed upon in 1993.

Chairperson Moussa Faki Mahamat expressed his sympathy

and reaffirmed the fidelity of Africa to their spirit.

"I will do everything possible to make sure that the horrors of the 1994 genocide do not recur on our African soil and that history must record this tragedy that must be taught to our children and grandchildren," he added.

The President of Rwanda Paul Kagame emphasised the importance of being united to have a strong country for all the people.

"I would like to tell genocide survivors that they are not alone. They lost family but there's one family they didn't lose—their country. Rwanda is the family of survivors. It's the family of every Rwandan," said President Kagame. ■

This month in history

Winnie Mandela is banished to Brandfort

16 May 1977

It was in May that Winnie Madikizela-Mandela, wife of former President Nelson Mandela, was banished to the dusty Afrikaner dominated town of Brandfort in the Free State where she was unceremoniously dumped at house 802 with her youngest daughter, Zinzi.

There was no running water or electricity and the house had no floors or ceilings. The people spoke mainly Sotho, Tswana or Afrikaans and hardly any Xhosa, which was Winnie's home language. Winnie took a provocative stance and would spend hours in the White shops empowering the shop-keepers with political ideologies.

In her banishment order, Winnie was given the option of either leaving South Africa for Swaziland or Transkei, which was regarded as independent by the South African government.

However, she chose to remain in South Africa, where she continued fighting for the liberation of her people and was at times arrested for defying her banishment order.

Her life in Brandfort was lonely. Her youngest daughter was sent away to study, whilst her oldest daughter had married a Swazi Prince and moved to America.

Helen Suzman captured the isolation when she wrote that Winnie waited outside the local telephone booth between 10 am and 4 pm waiting for calls from friends and relations.

However, when friends, like Helen Joseph, Barbara Waite, Ilona Kleinschmidt, and others came to visit her in Brandfort, they were harassed and often taken to court and imprisoned for not notifying the authorities about their visits.

Information supplied by <http://www.sahistory.org.za>

President Jacob Zuma recently hosted the Emir of the State of Qatar, His Highness Sheikh Tamim Bin Hamad Al-Thani on a two-day state visit to South Africa.

"The state visit aims to deepen and strengthen the already existing good political, economic and social relations.

"The visit by the Emir will further review progress in South Africa-Qatar bilateral,

political and economic relations and identify three short-term projects in the fields of trade and investment, agriculture and oceans economy," said the Presidency.

The Emir's visit follows the successful state visit by President Zuma to the State of Qatar in May 2016.

President Zuma's visit to

Qatar focused on cooperation in trade and investment, agriculture and agro-processing, defence, the ocean economy, as well as tourism.

It also led to the proposed elevation of structured bilateral engagement to Ministerial level and agreements to establish a Joint Technical Committee and pursue the establishment

of a joint SA-Qatar Investment Fund in cooperation with Qatar's Sovereign Wealth Fund.

The visit is also anticipated to provide the two Heads of State a platform to discuss matters of strategic interest related to regional and global security.

Meanwhile, total trade between South Africa and Qatar has increased from R4 billion

in 2012 to R7 billion in 2016.

One of South Africa's largest investments in the Middle East is Sasol's joint venture gas-to-liquid (GTL) facility located in Qatar. Other South African investments in Qatar include PetroWorld, PetroSA, and CKR Consulting Engineers.

The Emir was accompanied on his trip to South Africa by a high powered business delegation. ■

President Zuma hosts Emir of Qatar

Free State stitched its legacy in fashion

NOW IN ITS SECOND year, Free State Fashion Week is not just about growing local designers and providing a platform for them to display their work but also aims to launch a school that will teach fashion design, crafts and how to manage finances and offer an NQF level-4 qualification.



■ The Founder and CEO of Free State Fashion Week, Candy Smith with actress and businesswoman, Sophie Ndaba.

Week, a fashion hub and school will be launched to help aspiring fashion designers. "This is an accredited school and first of its kind in the province," said Smith.

The school will teach fashion design, crafts and how to manage finances and offer an NQF level-4 qualification.

Palesa Mokubung from the label Matsho will be part of Free State Fashion Week and the school. Mokubung, who was born in Kroonstad, will mentor one of the up-and-coming young designers for a year. "The designer will then bring back those lessons to the province," said Smith. ■

Galoomo Shopane

The Free State is making its mark in the world of South African fashion. Now in its second year, Free State Fashion Week is determined to change lives, create jobs and play a part in South Africa's R1.5 billion fashion industry.

Acting head of the Department of Small Business, Tourism and Environmental Affairs Gadija Brown said the Free State provincial government is very keen on promoting the fashion industry throughout the province.

"The fashion industry in itself has a huge value chain, from retail, modelling, designing, web designing in ICT, distribution, exports and so much more. This specific project has an element of training and bringing industry role players together. It also ensures that the holistic industry benefits from what the Free State Fashion Week is doing," said Brown.

According to Brown, the

Free State has about 1 051 young people that are new entrants to the Small Medium and Micro Enterprise (SMME) sector and the job market.

"Government is still the highest employer in various sectors of the economy, but our premier, honourable Ace Magashule, is very keen and excited about young people forming joint business ventures together in every industry or sector so that we can ensure that they remain sustainable," she added.

Some of the fashion projects supported by government include the Parys Flower Festival and the textile hubs in Qwa-Qwa which Brown says will be implemented in other parts of the province.

Brown said they want to see aspiring young entrepreneurs in the province take their product to the rest of South Africa and beyond and went on to call on them to submit their proposals to the Free State Fashion Week team so that they could form links and work together.

Themba Makhalemele from

Africa Fashion International applauded the Free State Fashion Weeks efforts, saying that the fashion industry is worth billions.

"The African fashion industry is worth US\$30 billion. There's no way that at least a million can't be relocated to us. It is high time that we put central South Africa, that is Bloemfontein, on the map, especially when it comes to fashion. We need to make it happen," said Makhalemele.

"I am in the fashion industry, but I can't design. However, I am in this industry because of the little facets that it has. This is an industry that supports job creation," added Makhalemele.

Founder and CEO of Free State Fashion Week Candy Smith said Fashion Week's aim is to grow local designers and to have shops in malls that stock local designers; items.

Through Free State Fashion



■ Themba Makhalemele from Africa Fashion International.