

# Vuk'uzenzele



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## Madiba shapes another life

**A STUDENT LUCKY** enough to have been selected for the first Mandela-Rhodes Foundation (MRF) scholarship and to meet Madiba says that the future belongs to those who empower themselves with knowledge.

Allison Cooper

**S**truggle icon former President Nelson Mandela said, "Education is the great engine of personal development. It is through education that the daughter of a peasant can become a doctor, the son of a mine worker can become head of the mine and the child of a farm worker can become the president of a great nation".

Dr Buntu Godongwana (35), one of eight students to receive an inaugural MRF scholarship in 2005, is proof of this.

"Our progression from humble beginnings in Guguletu, Cape Town, to sharing ideas on international platforms, with world leaders in our discipline, is living testimony of Madiba's words," he said.

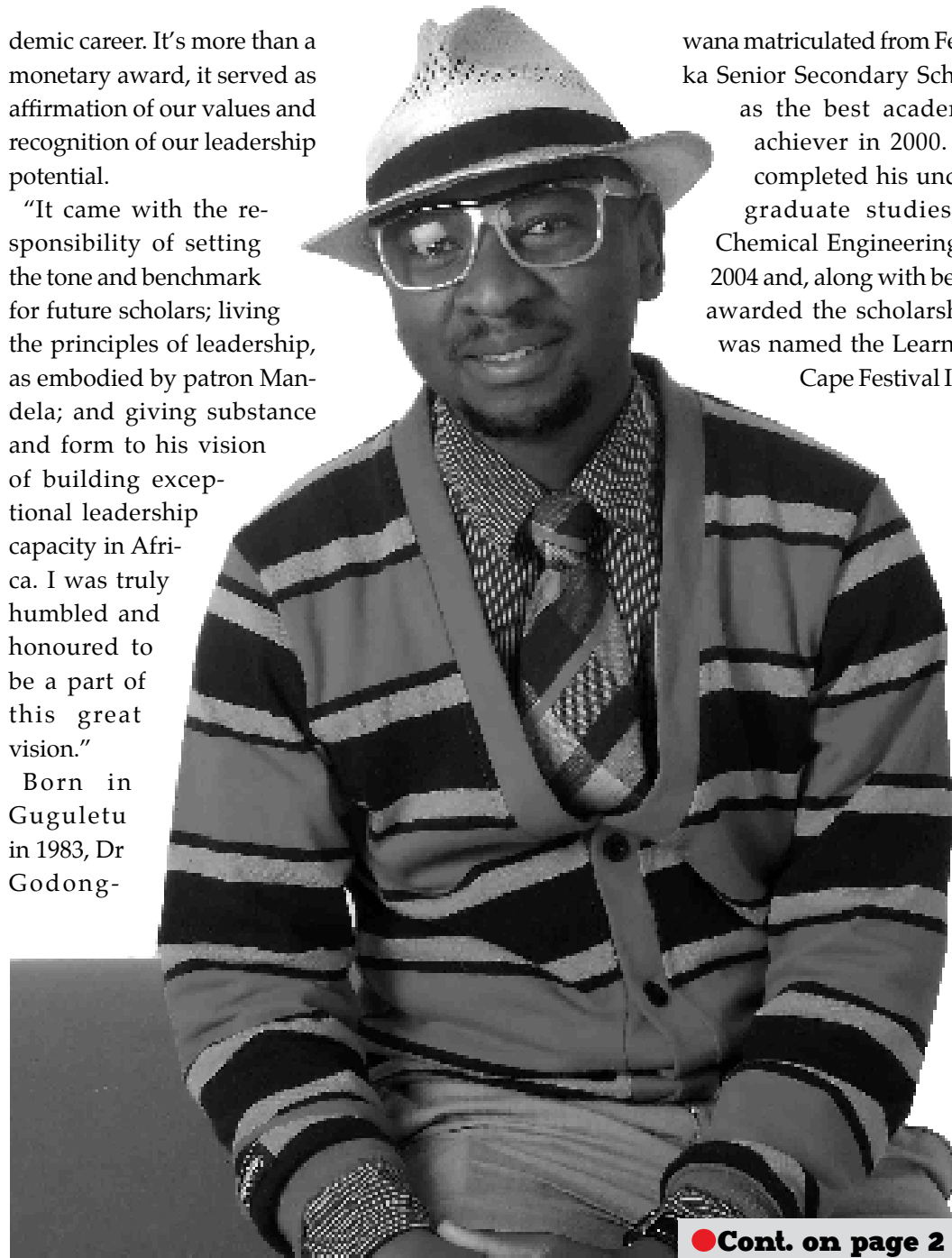
Dr Godongwana, now a lecturer at the Department of Chemical Engineering at the Cape Peninsula University of Technology (CPUT), said the scholarship is a special award.

"Being selected in the inaugural cohort will always be a highlight of my aca-

demical career. It's more than a monetary award, it served as affirmation of our values and recognition of our leadership potential.

"It came with the responsibility of setting the tone and benchmark for future scholars; living the principles of leadership, as embodied by patron Mandela; and giving substance and form to his vision of building exceptional leadership capacity in Africa. I was truly humbled and honoured to be a part of this great vision."

Born in Guguletu in 1983, Dr Godong-



wana matriculated from Fezeka Senior Secondary School as the best academic achiever in 2000. He completed his undergraduate studies in Chemical Engineering in 2004 and, along with being awarded the scholarship, was named the Learning Cape Festival Icon

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**Community celebrates R21-million land deal**

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**Moseneke to lead Lesotho mediation team**

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**"A good head and good heart are always a formidable combination. But when you add to that a literate tongue or pen, then you have something very special."**

Nelson Mandela



# Smart factory revitalises manufacturing in E Cape

**THE EASTERN CAPE** is now home to a R1 billion electronics factory, thanks to the Department of Trade and Industry's (dti) support of black industrialists.

**T**he Minister of Trade and Industry, Dr Rob Davies, recently launched Yekani Manufacturing, a 100 percent black-owned smart factory, in the East London Industrial Development Zone (ELIDZ).

The world-class technologically advanced facility aims to push technology innovation limits and is estimated to create approximately 1 000 jobs.

Yekani is a beneficiary of the dti's Black Industrialists Programme (BIP) and the Special Economic Zone Fund.

Minister Davies said South Africa has not been able to manufacture enough electronic products and has relied on imported tablets, cell phones and other electronic equipment.

"This company getting into this space is very important as we prepare ourselves for the Fourth Industrial Revolution. This is an example of what we can do if we put our

minds to it. This is an investment to celebrate, on a number of levels, in an industry that is strategically important and key to job creation," the Minister said.

The dti provided R350 million for construction through the Special Economic Zone Fund and a R50 million grant from the BIP for machinery.

Yekani Group Chief Executive Office Dr Siphwe Cele said the smart factory will enable Yekani to lead the way in technology innovation and help Africa secure its rightful place among global technology leaders.

"We believe that this new home will allow us to showcase our capability, flexibility, expertise, quality and contribution to the development of the manufacturing industry, not only in the country but also on the African continent," said Cele.

Yekani manufactures Explora



Workers producing electronics at Yekani manufacturing factory in East London in the Eastern Cape.

HD decoders, TEAC television sets, set-top-boxes and tablets.

The Black Industrialists Scheme was launched in 2016 and aims to unlock potential

for emerging entrepreneurs. Government originally aimed to support 100 black industrialists by the end of the 2018/19 financial year. By the end of

March 2018 the target had already been exceeded, with 102 approved for financial support and 48 companies receiving market access support. **V**



● **Cont. from page 1**

by the Western Cape Government in 2005. He completed his Masters degree cum laude

at CPUT in 2007 and registered for a PhD degree in Chemical Engineering in 2008.

But his success didn't stop

there. During his doctoral studies, Dr Godongwana was awarded a Fulbright scholarship, as a visiting researcher

for 12 months, to Montana State University in the United States.

## A bright future

The MRF scholarship certainly set the tone for Dr Godongwana's bright future.

"The leadership training offered by the foundation instilled in us a sense of service and duty and a commitment to ethical leadership.

"Our association with Madiba's name has been valuable in expanding our personal and professional networks, being invited to participate on various platforms and given us the opportunity to inspire young

people to become agents of change in their communities," he said.

Dr Godongwana had a beaming smile on his face when he met Mandela at the MRF launch at the University of Cape Town.

"It was a brief encounter. I cannot remember his exact words, but I nodded approvingly at each word from the great man. Madiba's presence overwhelmed the entire hall," he said.

This Mandela Month Dr Godongwana urges South Africans to embrace the spirit of Madiba and live up to his standards." **V**



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ON THE DOT





# Let's make Mandela proud

**T**his is a momentous year for South Africa. Not only are we in the midst of a New Dawn, but the centenary of Nelson Mandela's birth gives us a golden opportunity to reflect on our past and our future.

It also allows us to ask ourselves as individuals what we can do to make our country a better place.

We are blessed to have Madiba as a role-model as we negotiate this time of transition. Collectively, we must ask, "What would Nelson Mandela have done?" because when it comes to integrity and downright goodness, there is no better yardstick than Mandela with which to measure our actions.

Central to Thuma Mina is the idea that people should take responsibility for their own destiny by helping to shape the world they want to live in. While this might seem like a mammoth task best left to the country's leaders, there is nothing further from the truth.

The power of one is mighty. Imagine how local business would

prosper if people committed themselves to buying local products. By purchasing items that were sourced, produced or manufactured in South Africa you will be doing your bit to stabilise the economy and to create more jobs. This could be a big purchase,

like a locally produced lawnmower, less expensive items like clothing bearing the Proudly South African label, or even your breakfast from a neighbourhood food vendor.

If you are employed, see what you can do to create opportunities within your workplace for youngsters to get on-the-job experience. If you are not employed or are ready to go it alone, remember that there are many government programmes to help entrepreneurs, who are essential to economic growth, increased innovation and job creation.

It is not by chance that Madiba's birthday is celebrated a month after Youth Month. We all can recall how fond he was of youngsters because it is young people that can end social injustices in our commu-



nities, just like Mandela did as a young man. I thus call on you to lend them a hand and help secure our future.


Volunteerism is a great way to answer the Thuma Mina call. Share your skill with an NGO, get involved with your local soup kitchen or see if your local school needs any help.

There are also many ways in which you can help build a better South Africa through little gestures that simply become a way of life, like putting your trash in the bin, picking up litter you pass, recycling to help ease environmental challenges, reading your child a bedtime story to strengthen their school readiness, or simply spreading goodwill by being friendly and chatting to the people around you, or by complimenting someone on good service.

With government strengthening its efforts to provide

better service delivery, more jobs, and greater investment; and citizens being agents of change and goodwill, imagine how great South Africa can become, and how much we can extend Mandela's legacy.

During his presidency, Mandela put in place initiatives that still serve us well: a strong central government based on majority rule, our ground-breaking Constitution, the Reconstruction and Development Programme, the Human Rights Commission, free primary healthcare, a schools' feeding scheme, equitable social grants, a partnership with Cuba to train young medical doctors... the list is ongoing and give us great platform on which to consolidate our successes.

In closing, I use an apt quote by Mandela: "It is easy to break down and destroy. The heroes are those who make peace and build." 



# Bicycles make patrolling for CPFs easier

**QHUBEKA IS** an Nguni word that means to move forward and with a bicycle a person can travel faster and further.



■ The bicycles donated by Qhubeka will help CPF and patrollers with more visible and effective security patrols boosting the safety for the community.

Patrolling the streets to assist the police in fighting crime will be a little easier for the Community Police Forum (CPF) of Alexandra informal settlement and Orlando thanks to a bicycle donation from Qhubeka.

The NGO recently donated 260 bicycles to school children from Realogile High School,

and members of the Alexandra and Orlando CPF in Gauteng.

The programme seeks to improve access to schools, clinics and jobs by providing bicycles for communities.

Qhubeka is Nguni word that means "to progress" or "to move forward". With a bicycle, a person can travel faster and further.

Themba Phanya from the Or-

lando CPF said thanks to the bicycle donation, they are able to patrol their community and assist the police in the fight against crime.

"We are able to move from one street to the next quicker. Our plan is to work together with the SAPS in fighting crime in our community."

He added that it is initiatives such as this one where civil

society, government and the private sector work together to fight crime.

This programme is also a public private partnership between the City of Johannesburg (CoJ), Qhubeka, Volkswagen South Africa and local schools and CPFs.

"Our ongoing partnership with CoJ is part of a far-reaching bicycle programme in the

region, which has included constructing bicycle lanes and funding bicycles to help school children and adults with personal transport," said Qhubeka Executive Director Tsatsi Phaweni.

"These bicycles will help schoolchildren to get to school faster and regularly, while those for the CPF and patrollers will assist with more visible and effective security patrols, boosting the safety for everyone in the community."

Last year, more than 90 bicycles were distributed to schoolchildren, health workers and CPF community members.

"We're so pleased that the partnership between the organisations has enabled us to give back to this deserving community," says Meredith Kelly, Marketing Manager of Volkswagen Group South Africa.

"Through partnerships like this one, we continue to see invaluable examples of how bicycles can help to transform communities. We hope to not only mobilise South African communities, but help ensure a better future for all who live in the country." ■

## Protection order violators can be arrested

### More Matshediso

The Commission for Gender Equality has urged South Africans to report cases of gender-based violence.

Commission Spokesperson Javu Baloyi said if women feel threatened in any way they should report to the police and apply for a protection order.

According to the South African Police Service a protection order will prevent the

respondent from committing any specified act of domestic violence or sexual harassment; entering the joint residence or a specific part of the residence; entering the victim's residence if they are not living together; entering the victim's place of employment or office and having contact with a child or children if it is in the best interest of the child.

If a respondent contravenes any protection order, he or she can be arrested. ■

### How to apply for a protection order

The complainant must make an affidavit and complete an application form at a police station.

- Supporting affidavits by persons who have knowledge of the matter in question may accompany the application.
- The documents must be handed to the clerk of the nearest court.
- The application for a protection order is not limited to the complainant. Any person who has an interest in the well-being of the complainant may also apply.



Cases of abuse can be reported at the nearest police station and gender discrimination can be reported to the Commission for Gender Equality at 0800 007 709.



# Community celebrates R21-million land deal

**A LAND SETTLEMENT** deal near Alice in the Eastern Cape heralds more black participation in the tourism sector.



■ Double Drift community is excited about owning a wildlife management programme.

**Siya Miti**

**A**n Eastern Cape community is set to walk on the wild side after receiving government funding to facilitate a community-led wildlife management programme.

The community of Double Drift near Grahamstown comprises 1 500 people from 264 families. They were removed from their land by the Ciskei government in 1991 to make way for a white-owned game reserve.

The community recently received the title deeds for the land which was returned in terms of the land redistribution programme.

According to Eastern Cape Premier Phumulo Masualle, R21 million has been committed to the land settlement deal and is being handed over in phases.

"This is a significant step in terms of conservation and transformation. The facility is

being developed to compete fairly with other game reserves and government is supporting the community through funding, the donation of game and training," said Masualle.

The community, which co-manages the game reserve with the Eastern Cape Parks and Tourism Agency (ECP-TA) under the banner of the Likhayaletu Communal Property Association (LCPA), received R6 million from the Department of Environmental Affairs to develop a wildlife economy venture on the 1 400 hectare game farm that was bought for them through the Department of Rural Development and Land Reform.

LCPA chairperson of the Mxolisi Ngesi, said the community lodged its claim in 1998. In 2012, community members were given 23 500 ha which has since been supplemented by the additional 1 400 ha game reserve.

"We are very excited because we finally got everything we wanted. The government gave us funding for infrastructure. We have game which includes 10 mountain zebra, 15 harte-

beest and 10 eland," said Ngesi adding that buffalo and impala would soon be acquired.

He added that the community was getting training from the ECPTA to run the game re-serve.

"The plan is to build two lodges and currently we are building field ranger bases and a boma to offload the animals," said Ngesi.

"Through the installation of a 10 km fence and the entrance gate, 61 job opportunities for the community have been created," said the Minister of Environmental Affairs Edna Molewa during the official handover. ■

# New bee saving buzz

**WESTERN CAPE** environmentalists swarm to the rescue of the humble honeybee.

**L**ike water, land and air, the honeybee is vital to agriculture.

According to the South African National Biodiversity Institute more than 50 different crops in South Africa are reliant on the insect for pollination.

This is why the Western Cape Department of Agriculture and the Western Cape Bee Industry Association have developed a new strategy aimed at ensuring the sustainability of the bee population in the province.

The strategy comes after the bee industry identified several problems affecting bees. These include insufficient food, theft and vandalism, disease,

environmental hazards such as pollution, and exposure to external factors such as fires and drought.

According to the Department of Agriculture, the single largest concern is that there will not be enough food for bees in the Western Cape. South Africa's honeybee species rely on both indigenous and exotic species like eucalyptus, flowering crops and suburban plants to provide year-round food sources.

However, as an alien invasive plant, six species of eucalyptus have been targeted for removal explains the provincial Department of Agriculture.

The strategy proposes that a Bee Forage Commission be

established, which will be composed of players from various provincial and national government departments as well as universities and representatives from the bee industry.

Among the projects this commission will undertake are the development of a book exploring bee-friendly plants a campaign with nurseries to mark plants as 'bee friendly' in much the same way some species are being marketed as 'water friendly' and exploring the possibilities of a mass bee food planting project.



The Western Cape MEC for Economic Opportunities Alan Winde said the report shows that South Africa has imported 2 000 tonnes of honey annually since 2010. "This is an agri-processing opportunity to produce local honey and honey-related products, right here in the Western Cape," he said.

The chairman of the Western Cape Bee Industry Association, Dr Tlou Masehela, said the industry at large must pull together and make the initiative work. ■

**On twitter**

**Reaction to the story of a domestic worker who is now Dr Pamela Phumzile Sithole:**

**Laura (@AbesVan)**  
I admire your brave struggles and your amazing achievements.

**Dithandis (@thandiwetwala03)**  
Indeed Sky is not the limit 🙌🙌🙌

**Marhumekani @God\_be\_with\_yal** she was like a big sister to students at school big ups Pamela leadership!!!

**msimelelo @msimza\_boss**  
Woow wonderful sister, that is what Hector Peterson and others fought for, may it shall be even to others. Freedom came yesterday

**Youth Month**

**Facebook**

**Sindi Tshabalala**  
Young Lions Day of South Africa

**Chippas Tshepo Makou**  
Government and private sectors must provide capital for YOUTH MONTH

**Amanda Gawe**  
That day made me cry when I watched the movie ...its so painful that most of our youth are doing bad think like getting drunk and all that instead of making an event and do speeches poems , drama and all the amazing things.

**On twitter**

**Lusanda Sima @LusandaSima**  
Many student died in Soweto Is popular known as the Soweto uprising or June 16 the uprisings tragically ended with hundreds of young people killed by the apartheid government when they protested against the imposition of Afrikaans as medium instruction

# Minimum Wage seeks to bridge the gap



**T**he National Minimum Wage Bill was passed by the National Assembly at the end of May, in a bid to tackle wage inequality in South Africa.

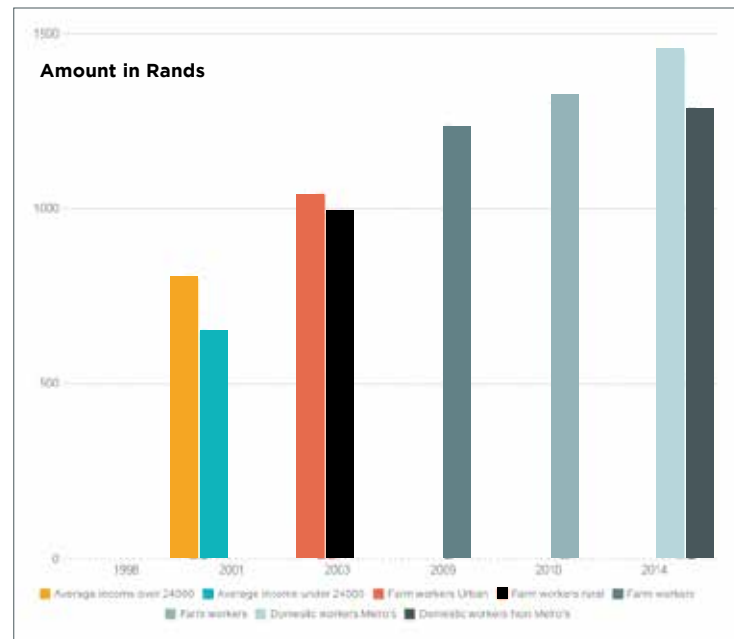
Once approved by the National Council of Provinces (NCOPs), the Bill will be signed into law by President Cyril Ramaphosa.

He has called the Bill a foundation on which the fight for a living wage would be built. The minimum wage is set at R20 per hour in the main industries while the minimum rate for farm workers is R18 per hour and domestic workers R15 or more an hour.

Minister of Labour Mildred Oliphant, who described the Bill as 'ground-breaking', also presented two other amended labour bills to the National Assembly – the Basic Conditions of Employment Amendment Bill and the Labour Relations Amendment Bill – both of which were also passed.

## Minimum wage gets a thumb up

\*Dorris Khambule a domestic worker in



Carletonville in Johannesburg expressed that she is thankful for the minimum wage and trusts that it will change the plight of her family.

"Once passed into law, I'll definitely be in a better position to look after my family and put on food on the table."

Khambule said she hopes that the minimum wage will also improve the dynamics for domestic workers throughout South Africa who are over-worked.

"I must say that I am pleased that Government decided to

look into ways to pay us better. This shows that our trade is being taken seriously," said Khambule.

## The evolving minimum wage

South Africa has seen the minimum wage evolved over the years in a quest to bridge the gap between the rich and poor while also giving workers' rights to basic wages.

■ 2001- The South African minimum wages were set at R800 for those workers in areas of the country where

average household income is more than R24 000 per year and at R650 for those where average household income is less than R24 000 per year.

- 2003 - The a new minimum wages for farm workers were revised and stood at R1 041 per month. In urban areas the minimum wage was R1 041 but rural areas the minimum wage was R989.
- 2009 -The minimum wage for farm workers stood at R6,31 or R1 231 monthly.
- 2010 - The minimum wage for farm workers increased R674 or R1 316 monthly.
- 2014 - Minimum wages for domestic workers in major metropolitan areas stood at R12,40 hourly, weekly R334,74 and monthly R1 450,33. Those not working in major metros would receive an hourly rate of R10,98, weekly R296,35, and monthly R1 284.09. ■

\* Dorris Khambule is not her real name she chooses to remain anonymous due to fear of being victimised by her employer.

# Community involvement in health care produces brilliance

**BATHO PELE** principles and a high regard for patient's rights is key.

## More Matshediso

**T**he staff at Maphophoma clinic in Nongoma in KwaZulu-Natal are an example of how the community and public servant can work together to create excellence.

Maphophoma Clinic received first place in the Ideal Clinic Realisation and Maintenance category during the KwaZulu-Natal Health MEC Sibongiseni Dhlo-mo's Annual Service Excellence Awards held recently.

Primary Healthcare Manager for the Nongoma sub-district Zinto Dube said this would not have been possible if the local

clinic did not include community members in its programmes through Operation Sukuma Sakhe.

Operation Sukuma Sakhe is a KwaZulu-Natal Provincial Government's initiative that is characterised by continuous interaction between government and the community in order to come together and make service delivery more effective.

The clinic receives between 200 and 250 patients on a daily basis. It operates Monday to Sunday from 7am to 4pm. After hours the clinic only receives emergency cases as its staff members are always on call.

Dube said Maphophoma

Clinic prioritises clinic committee structures that involve Induna, community leaders and the youth for all programmes. She said the clinic also uses the adolescent and youth friendly strategy to meet the health care needs of young people.

The clinic has a traditional health practitioners structure through which it encourages traditional healers to refer their patients to the clinic so that they can fight diseases together.

"Since we are in the rural areas a lot of people still strongly believe in getting help from traditional healers. We do not stop them from doing that but we ask them to visit clinics to

get professional help and the local traditional healers do refer their patients to us," she said.

"Team effort is also key in making everything work. The clinic does not have enough staff members but because there is a spirit of team work it is winning," she added.

She said the staff at the clinic uphold Batho Pele principles and are well orientated when it comes to patients' rights.

In addition the clinic conducts a survey which allows patients to give feedback on service delivery. "We listen to patients and make changes whenever necessary," said Dube.

She also said it was important

for management of any health-care facility to always listen to grievances of employees and try to offer support before things get out of hand. ■

## What is an Ideal Clinic?

It is a clinic in South Africa that will open on time and will not close until the last patient has been helped – even if it is beyond operating hours. It will ensure patients are treated with dignity.



# Young artisan leads in manufacturing

**LOW COST** South African Bureau of Standards (SABS) approved sanitary towels have the potential to become a thriving manufacturing business for young people in the area.



■ Technicians working on the machine that produces sanitary towels at Coastal College Skills Training Centre.

## More Matshedis

One of the successful graduates of a Technical Vocational Education and Training institutions is making a big difference when it comes to women's health in KwaZulu-Natal while showing that its "cool" to be a woman artisan.

Twenty eight year-old Sinenhlanhla Majozi is a technician

at a factory that manufactures low cost sanitary towels at the Coastal College Skills Training Centre for the community of Hammersdale near Durban.

Her job as an artisan is to maintain the machine which produces the sanitary towels, and she was well prepared for her position after obtaining an electrical engineering qualification from the TVET.

The college also houses the Coastal College Skills Training

Centre so that many of the students who graduate are able to secure a job.

"The machine that we use is able to manufacture about 366 towels per minute. They are of good quality and they are very affordable. Women can get one pad for about R1,20," she explained.

Students from the Coastal College Skills Training Centre and women from the Hammersdale community in KwaZulu-Natal

took it upon themselves to manufacture the low cost sanitary towels to respond to the demand for affordable sanitary towels in the area.

"So far we supply Ukusa Secondary School with about 300 packets of sanitary towels per month. We are still working on marketing our product and distributing it to other parts of the province where it is needed by most women," Majozi added.

She said she believes in the project because she is a woman and wanted know how the product that she uses is manufactured.

Majozi said about six other females from the community are currently being trained to operate the manufacturing machine as well.

"We heard about this opportunity and wanted to be part of the project to see how sanitary towels are manufactured from scratch," she said.

At the moment there are three technicians and four operators who form part of the manufacturing team with other students

## DID YOU KNOW?

Artisans can earn far more than professionals like bankers and accountants. For example, a plumber or electrician can earn R1000 an hour when they've gained some experience.

who work as promoters of the pads.

The Department of Higher Education and Training had also been on a massive drive to encourage young people to be artisans.

It is being delivered through the Decade of the Artisan Programme which advocates that it is "cool" to be a woman artisan. The department reported that the numbers of females registered for artisanal trades were below 25 percent for the 2015/16 financial year and that this sort of project can help change perceptions. ■

# Free State ECD spurs love of books

**THE MAGIC** of reading is helping to set a community's pre-schoolers on the road to success.

Encouraging a culture of reading is one of the reasons that Paballo Day Care Centre and Pre-school is the best early childhood development centre (ECD) in the country.

The centre is located in Nyakallong near Odendaalsrus in the Free State.

It was crowned the best ECD centre at the South African ECD Awards hosted by the National Development Agency last year.

The centre has been operational for 22 years and has 82 children ranging from infants to five years of age.

Their 'Bana Bukeng' reading programme promotes and facilitates the love of reading and storytelling to develop the

children's vocabulary.

"We usually start with pictures and ask our little ones to tell us what they see. We then introduce words that are aligned with the pictures, followed by constructing a sentence," said Joyce Mthombeni, who runs Paballo.

She adds this type of learning makes children want to know more about the words in the book.

"On Wednesdays and Fridays, the children get an opportunity to select books that they want to read. This is followed by telling the class what the story they read is about."

Mthombeni said she has found that children who read



■ Learners at Paballo ECD learning to write.

at home learn faster, adding that when parents involve themselves in the learning life

of a child, they inevitably do better in school.

The centre also runs a success-

ful recycling programme that involves the community. The collected recycled materials are used to make toys for the children with some being sold to the community. The money from sales is used to buy books. Mthombeni encourages parents to send their children to an ECD centre because this helps the child develop quickly and cope better in primary school.

Paballo is registered with the Department of Social Development and receives funding for its work.

During the Minister of Social Development Susan Shabangu's Budget Vote she said R78,7 million has been allocated to renovate 369 ECD centres. ■

# Free State's black chemical industrialists create jobs

**THE BLACK INDUSTRIALISTS** Scheme helped Kevali Chemicals buy machinery and equipment to get the business off the ground.

## More Matshediso

**A** local chemical manufacturing company is helping to fight unemployment by creating about 70 sustainable jobs in Harrismith in the Free State.

Kevali Chemicals is the first Free State black owned chemicals manufacturer of a range of water treatment chemicals, hygiene and sanitation solutions as well as adhesives.

The company was founded in 2014 by five friends who have expertise in chemicals, fast-moving consumer goods, product development, and adhesives industries.

Kevali Chemicals Executive Director Funeka Khumalo says the Black Industrialist Scheme supported her company to acquire machinery and equipment to start the manu-



facturing and production line for water treatment, cleaning and disinfecting as well as adhesives.

"In the beginning we had to inject money to get the business off the ground but ultimately we received funding from the Department of Trade and Industry (the dti)

through the Black Industrialists Scheme (BIS) as well as the Industrial Development Corporation (IDC)," she added.

The Black Industrialists Scheme helped Kevali Chemicals acquire machinery and equipment to commence the new manufacturing and production line for water

treatment, cleaning and disinfecting as well as adhesives.

The Scheme is a grant programme of the Black Industrialists Policy that aims to unlock the potential within black industrialists within the South African economy through deliberate, targeted and well-defined financial and non-financial interventions.

Khumalo said it took about R18 million to get the business off the ground and about 11 months to start making a profit.

The company distributes its products across South Africa as well as in Uganda, Namibia, and Tanzania.

Khumalo said the impact that the company has on the lives of local residents is bigger than job creation.

"Over and above creating jobs for local residents, we have a social investment programme through which we assist small

business set up by women in township and rural areas that specialise in the manufacturing of domestic hygiene and sanitation products," she said.

She said young entrepreneurs should know that starting a business is never easy but they should not lose heart as they will later enjoy the rewards.

The Deputy Minister of Trade and Industry Bulelani Magwanishe said Kevali has the honour of being the first company specialising in the chemicals, pharmaceuticals and plastics sector to have ever been approved since the establishment of the Black Industrialists Programme in 2016.

"The company will provide much needed job opportunities to the surrounding communities of Harrismith which are gripped by high levels of unemployment," Deputy Minister Magwanishe said. **V**

## Corks pop for KZN community winery

**A KZN COMMUNITY** views grapes in a new way thanks to a community winery that is empowering people and creating jobs.

## Hlengiwe Ngobese

**W**ine vineyards and the Cape are intertwined but a KwaZulu-Natal (KZN) co-operative winery hopes to break this perception with the introduction of a fine coastal wine made with grapes grown in rural vineyards.

The 12 hectares of vineyards are spread across the Ilembe District Municipality in the rural areas of Mandeni, Ndwendwe and Maphumulo. The project is run by a local Ilembe co-operative and supported by the KZN Department of Cooperative Governance and Traditional Affairs, which has injected R19,5 million into the development of the vineyards and processing facility.

Named Seventeen 87 (the year in which Zulu King Shaka was born), the wine not only

pays tribute to one of the province's most legendary leaders but is a proudly KZN product, with all processes done locally.

Mandeni Nyoni Ilembe Co-operative supervisor Siphon Gumede is a member of the cooperative and said the business has changed the lives of people in Mandeni.

"We were sitting at home hopeless without jobs but now we are able to take care of our families. To hold this bottle of wine makes me emotional and proud at the same time since this is something I was part of from scratch."

"I now know how to plant, nurture and spray the crops. I am able to pass this knowledge to someone else. I did know about the varieties of grapes but being here I am able to differentiate them," said Gumede.

He said what he enjoys



**Induna Siphon Gumede with the first harvest of grapes in Mandeni.**

most about the project is that he is working with members of his community and they are building a business that belongs to them.

Seventeen 87 was introduced at Africa's Travel Indaba held in Durban recently. The vineyards in the Man-

deni and Maphumulo local municipalities saw their first harvest in February, with the testing of the winery equipment conducted by a viticulturist in the same month.

In the three months that followed, eight tons of grapes were processed and 8 000

litres of wine produced.

Winemaker Daniel Maerkl who was teaching the cooperative how to cultivate the wine explained that the community owns the project and will be empowered to eventually manage all the winery's processes on their own. **V**



# Nelson Mandela's new South Africa

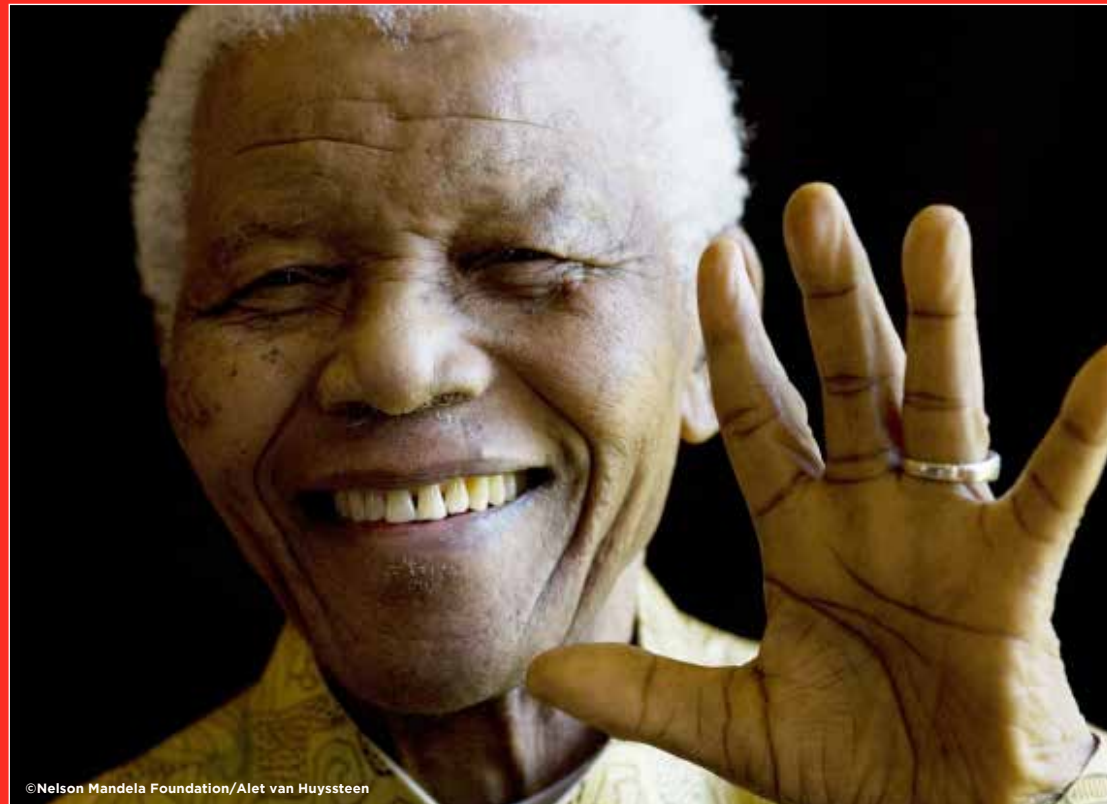
**IN COMMEMORATING MADIBA'S** legacy, his role in building a new South Africa must be celebrated alongside his history as a freedom fighter.

**W**hen Nelson Mandela took office as South Africa's first democratic president in 1994, he had the momentous task of laying the foundations for a New South Africa

One of Mandela's first actions was the development of a new parliament tasked with making the many legislative changes needed in South Africa.

Also crucial was the introduction of the Reconstruction and Development Programme (RDP), which was adopted in 1994 to rebuild and transform South Africa's economy and reverse apartheid inequalities. Priority areas of the RDP included housing, provision of water and electricity, land reform, health care and public works programmes.

Between 1994 and 2000, over 1,1 million RDP houses were built. Nearly five million people received access to piped water and over 1,7 million homes were electrified. By the end of 1998, 500 clinics had been built; 250 000 people had received land by 1999; and employment was given a major boost through the Public Works Programme,



©Nelson Mandela Foundation/Alet van Huyssteen

which employed more than 240 000 people in five years.

## A caring leader

Also in 1994, Mandela announced that free public health care would be provided to pregnant women, breastfeeding mothers and children under the age of six. This was the first time any form of free health care had been provided to South Africans. In 2006, Mandela's legacy was extended to offer primary healthcare services to all users of public facilities.

With children holding a special place in his heart, Mandela introduced the Primary School Feeding Scheme shortly after taking office. Over four million children were reached. Today, the National School Nutrition Programme feeds over eight million learners a day.

In the apartheid era, social benefits favoured the white minority. Mandela's administration levelled the playing field, and by 1994 all beneficiaries received the same grant levels. Today, the grant

system covers the elderly, persons with disability, war veterans and foster children, with 17 million people benefiting.

## People's rights protected

In addition to improving economic and living conditions, one of Mandela's priorities was the protection of citizens' rights. The South African Human Rights Commission was inaugurated in 1995, and several other important organisations – including the Public Protector, the Gender and Youth Commissions and the Truth and Reconciliation Commission – were also established.

Restrictive apartheid employment conditions – such as the prohibition of strikes – were addressed through 1995's Labour Relations Act.

So much positive progress in such a short space of time was unprecedented in South Africa. Emerging from the ashes of economic isolation, segregation and inequality, the foundations of the new democratic nation had been well and truly built. ▽



©Nelson Mandela Foundation/Benny Gool

## Nelson Mandela timeline of achievements

**11 February 1990** – Nelson Mandela is released from Victor Verster Prison after 27 years of imprisonment.

**1991** – He is elected president of the African National Congress (ANC).

**21 December 1991** – The first plenary session of the Convention for a Democratic South Africa (Codessa) is held at the World Trade Centre in Johannesburg.

**10 December 1993** – Mandela and de Klerk jointly win the Nobel Peace Prize for their efforts to end apartheid peacefully.

**27 April 1994** – The first democratic elections are held in South Africa.

**10 May 1994** – Mandela is inaugurated as the first black democratically elected president of South Africa.

**24 May 1994** – Mandela introduces the Reconstruction and Development Programme (RDP) to address socio-economic issues such as jobs, land, housing, water, electricity, telecommunications and transport and resolve and alleviate poverty.

**8 May 1995** – Mandela launches the Nelson Mandela Children's Fund, a charitable organization which aims to help young people, particularly orphans of the AIDS crisis.

**19 July 1995** – Mandela signs a bill into law creating the Truth and Reconciliation Commission (TRC) to uncover human rights abuses during the apartheid era.

**10 December 1996** – Mandela signs into law the Constitution of the Republic of South Africa, one of the most progressive constitutions in the world. It established a strong central government based on majority rule, and guaranteeing both the rights of minorities and the freedom of expression.

**June 1996** – the Growth, Employment and Redistribution (GEAR) macroeconomic policy was introduced to replace RDP. The policy proposed a set of medium-term policies aimed at the rapid liberalisation of the South African economy.

**June 1999** – Mandela steps down after one term as President and retires from active politics.

**September 1999** – The Nelson Mandela Foundation is founded to promote Mandela's vision of freedom and equality for all. Post presidency, Mandela raised money to build schools and clinics in South Africa's rural areas; advocated for peace and equality; and remained committed in his fight against AIDS.



# Creating jobs for KZN youth

**A PRIVATE PUBLIC** partnership will see young people receiving skills in vehicle production.

Hlengiwe Ngobese

**T**wenty-five young people from Kwa-Zulu-Natal are set to benefit from a new R95 million Mahindra plant which will manufacture a new range of double cab bakkies called Pik Up on the outskirts of Durban.

The staff received training in partnership with global Mahindra and Mahindra group and AIH logistics. They will be sent to India for further training where required.

The trial production of the facility is underway with an estimated 2 000 vehicles planned to be produced annually, eventually leading to 4 000 vehicles rolling off the assembly lines a year.

"The investment is good for business confidence. It continues to show that KwaZulu-Natal is a conducive place for investors.

It also sends a message to those who remain reluctant that Durban is a place to consider when it comes to investment," said MEC for Economic Development, Tourism and Environmental Affairs Sihle Zikalala.

He said the initial employment opportunities generated in this enterprise would contribute to the expansion of the skills base in the province.

One of the employees is engineering graduate Sthembiso Mthembu who said he is very happy to have a job.

"I have been sitting a home for a year without getting any employment. This opportunity has helped me to provide for myself and family. Although I have a mechanical engineering degree I didn't know much about assembling a car. The training they gave us helped us to gain con-



■ Sthembiso Mthembu employed at Mahindra Assembling Plant in Durban greeting the MEC for Economic Development, Tourism and Environmental Affairs Sihle Zikalala during the launch.

fidence and expertise," he said.

Mahindra's Chief of International Operations Arvind Matthew said the company

aims to source 40 percent of the components for the Pik Up bakkie from local suppliers.

"The assembly of the Pik

Up is the first step in our long-term plan that will see us increase employment and local sourcing in Kwa-Zulu-Natal," he said. ■

## Pig farmer brings home the bacon

**A FEMALE FARMER** is making a go of it in the agriculture sector which she believes is a great driver of food security, poverty alleviation, job creation and economic growth.

**B**etty Nyambi cannot believe that she is a successful pig farmer with 150 sows on her Bronkhorstspuit farm in Gauteng.

"I am so proud of myself because I am able to contribute to the economy and employ people on my farm. That I am a successful woman in a man's world makes me even prouder."

Nyambi, who has named her farming business Sincobile Trading and Agriculture Piggery, owns 173 hectares of land that she acquired through the Department of Rural Development and Land Reform to start her farming business.

She employs four people and is able to send about 100 pigs to the local abattoir each month.

"I have always had an interest in farming. After completing matric I decid-



■ Betty Nyambi believes that every South African must play their part in food security.

ed to study agriculture at the Tshwane University of Technology. I proceeded to work on different farms to get practical experience. Anything that involves the soil and nature excites me."

Nyambi started her business with only six pigs in 2015. The business took off when the Gauteng Department of Agriculture and Rural Development (GDARD) provided her with 26 pigs.

Currently, she has 150 sows and two boars. She also uses artificial insemination as part of her farming method.

"There is no reason why South Africans should not farm. Even if it's a small

garden in your backyard, your family will never go hungry. I enjoy my piggery and it has given me a chance to provide for my family and my community."

Nyambi adds that she received accolades for her hard work when she was the first runner-up in the Female Entrepreneur Farmer of the Year Awards in 2016. Despite her success she believes that her business has room to grow.

She has dispelled misconceptions that farming is for old people and encourages young women to enter the agriculture sector.

"I cannot stress enough the reasons why women and young people should follow the farming route. This field is easy especially once you get to understand it. I really encourage other South Africans to join me." ■



# Visual learning for deaf children

**A PUBLIC PRIVATE** partnership is bridging the digital divide and opening a whole new world of visual learning.

## More Matshediso

**L**earners at Sizwile School for the Deaf in Dobsonville, Soweto, are enjoying a more interactive and visual learning experience after a computer laboratory was handed over to the school by the Department of Social Development in partnership with the MTN SA Foundation.

Principal Luhindi Madilonga said the donation of 22 computers to his school will help ensure that learners improve their overall performance. The computers have specialised software that caters for the needs of deaf learners. The package includes internet connection free for 12 months.

"Our learners rely on visuals to learn and not sound because they are deaf and using technology to teach them will only enhance teaching and learning in our school," he said.

"Over and above providing lessons, the computer lab will be used for South African Sign Language examinations," he said.

Different classes will take turns to make use of the computer laboratory. The school has Grade R to Grade 12 classes.

The school was established in 1978 and educates about 272 learners between the ages of three and 18 years. About 84 of these learners stay in a hostel on the school premises.

"We not only accommo-



■ Learners at Sizwile School for the Deaf receive the first computer lesson in the new computer laboratory.

date learners from Gauteng. Some of our learners come from Mpumalanga and Limpopo," he said.

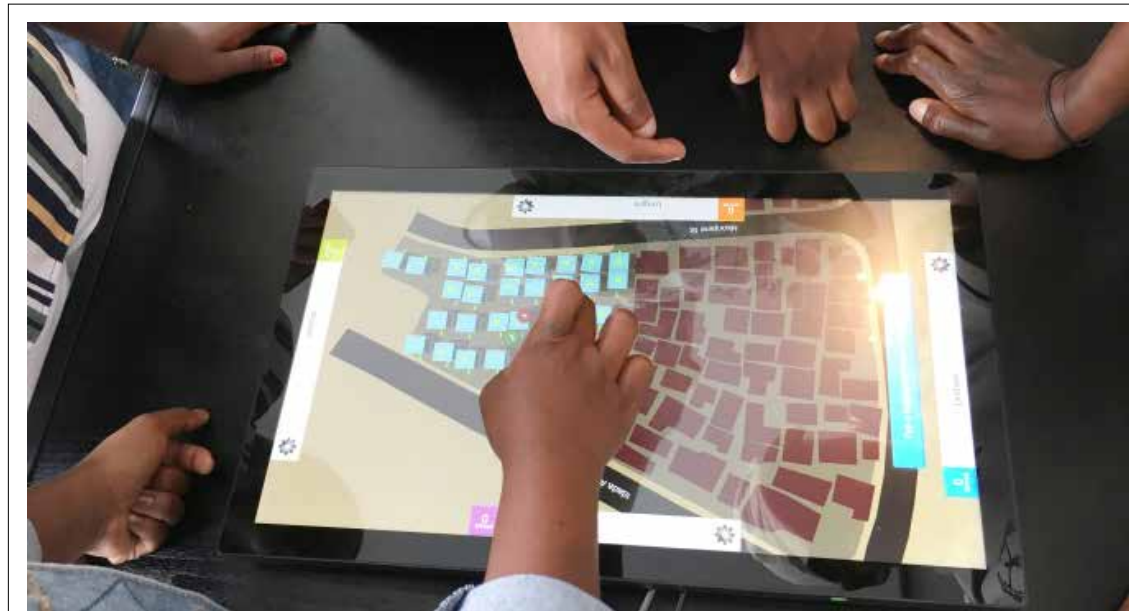
Sizwile School for the Deaf was identified as one of the 40 South African schools

that will receive computer laboratories from the public private partnership between the Department of Social Development and the MTN SA Foundation in 2018.

The aim of the partnership is to address the issue of a lack of technologically advanced and user-friendly educational equipment in schools to assist learners with special needs. ■

## Digital games empowering communities

**PLAYING GAMES** are helping a disadvantaged Western Cape community.



■ Community members move informal settlements in order to create better layouts as part of the game called Vukuzenzele.

## Dale Hes

**M**any people view digital gaming as a hobby or past-time without much educational value but in the Western Cape the use of digital games is emerging as a revolutionary way to improve living conditions in disad-

vantaged communities.

Established by the Cape Innovation and Technology Initiative and funded by the Western Cape Department of Economic Development and Tourism (DEDAT), the Serious About Games initiative supports the development of games that encourage learning and social change.

"Games make great tools for

learning. But unlike books and television games they are immediately interactive," said Nicholas Hall, CEO of Interactive Entertainment South Africa, a partner in the project.

In 2016, a competition was launched, calling for local game developers to create a game that would help address socio-economic chal-

lenges in the Western Cape. Out of 16 finalists, the winner was announced as Vukuzenzele, an Android-based game which allows communities to learn about a concept called reblocking.

Reblocking refers to a community-driven process in which settlement layouts are redesigned to allow better access for emergency vehicles and the provision of infrastructure and basic services.

Nokuthula Dlamini from Khayelitsha is one of the community members who found the game educational after playing it said that Vukuzenzele gives communities the power to change their living environment for the better.

"Since I am now aware of how settlement layouts should be I can do it myself all because of the Vukuzenzele game."

The reblocking concept was developed by non-profit organisation Ikhayalami, which partnered with software development company RenderHeads to develop

Vukuzenzele. The game is now being tested in the AT Section of Khayelitsha on the outskirts of Cape Town.

Andy Bolnick, founder and manager of Ikhayalami, said that 28 community members split up into teams of four and played the game.

"Each player in the team chooses two shacks to move and then repositions them so eventually the entire settlement is reconfigured. The level of interest has been amazing. By their own choice, each team spent 30 hours playing the game," said Bolnick.

From the seven new layouts created, the Vukuzenzele team, in collaboration with DEDAT, chose three which they believed would be most suitable for implementing the reblocking process in real life.

"This really puts the layout of settlements in the hands of the community. They start to understand the limitations and challenges, and they get excited by what their settlements could look like," said Bolnick. ■



# Training future gymnasts in rural Thaba Nchu

Galoome Shopane

**K**ediemetse Moloeloe wants to put Thaba Nchu in the Free State on the map through her passion for gymnastics as she teaches young children and youth about this sport.

Moloeloe owns the Thaba Nchu Gymnastics Club at Mmabana Cultural Centre in Thaba Nchu which has 50 students.

"At the moment I train children and youth with the youngest one being six years-old and the eldest seventeen."

"Seeing these kids full of joy is my pride and pleasure keeps me doing what I do every day."

Moloeloe (35) is a retired gymnast who has represented South Africa at the Gymnast-trada in 1999 and again in 2007 during the World Gymnast-trada in Austria.

She was introduced to gymnastics more than two decades ago and has never looked back.

"Gymnastics taught me a lot about discipline and rising



■ Kediemetse Moloeloe wants to put Thaba Nchu in the Free State on the map through her gymnastics where she is teaching young children and youth about this sport.

up after failing. This is a very disciplined sport. When you fall down you have no choice but to get up."

After retiring from competing she decided to pursue a career in statistics and economics especially since she had a qualification in this field but the love for gymnasium kept drawing her back.

She opted to approach the Department of Sports, Arts, Culture and Recreation in

the Free State to pursue her dream of opening a centre where children and youth can become gymnasts.

Moloeloe added that she also wanted to see young people occupied in something positive especially with all the social ills in her community.

The road to having a gymnastic club was not easy for Moloeloe.

"The first year was extremely difficult having to pay rent

for the club that only had one student. We worked hard in marketing our business for the community to know more about it."

According to Moloeloe the club started gaining momentum two years after it was established and since then it has continued to be a success.

Highlighting some of the club's achievements Moloeloe points out that one of her student's achieved a silver

"I want to put Thaba Nchu on the map and let people see that this rural place has talent and that is what has kept me home bound. If I can put one child on an Olympic stage I will be very proud."

medal during the National Gymnast Games last year.

"I want to put Thaba Nchu on the map and let people see that this rural place has talent and that is what has kept me home bound. If I can put one child on an Olympic stage I will be very proud," said Moloeloe. ■

## Youth provided a path out of generational poverty

**THE PATH OUT OF** Poverty Programme was established in 1998 to respond to the acute generational poverty of farm workers and their children in the Swartland area.

**T**he youth of Porterville and surrounding areas in the Western Cape say their lives will change for the better now that they have a Path out of Poverty Youth Centre.

The youth centre was recently handed over to the community of Porterville by Mineral Resources Minister Gwede Mantashe.

Close to R5 million was invested in building the centre by PPC Limited through its Social and Labour Plan in partnership with the department and the Bergrivier Local

Municipality.

Among other things, the centre provides children and youth from Porterville with opportunities to break the generational cycles of rural poverty by taking part in a range of activities. These include education support, school holiday programmes, youth life and leadership training, youth work preparedness training and a bicycle empowerment project.

Casey-Lee van der Merwe (17) who stays on a farm a few kilometres from Porterville said she was excited about the centre being close

to her home because she will visit it on a weekly basis to attend computer classes.

"I do not have a personal computer or a laptop and since I am planning to go to university next year after completing my matric, I think the centre will prepare me to use a computer as my school does not offer computer lessons," said Van der Merwe.

The Path out of Poverty Programme was established in 1998 to respond to the acute generational poverty of farm workers and their children in the Swartland area.

The custodian of the pro-



■ Children playing outside the Path Out of Poverty Youth Centre during the launch.

gramme is the Goedgeacht Trust, which has committed to reaching 10 000 rural

children and youth. The Porterville centre was the ninth centre to be built. ■



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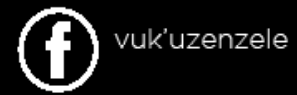
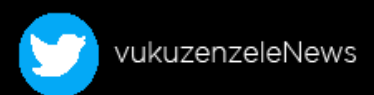
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# SA joins world leaders in tackling ocean challenge

**WITH AN ESTIMATED** eight million tonnes of plastic ending up in the world's oceans each year, the sustainability of our seas is under threat.



■ President Cyril Ramaphosa with Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau during the G7 Leaders' Outreach Summit.

**P**resident Cyril Ramaphosa is encouraged by the commitment of global leaders to turn the tide on the degradation of our oceans, following a working visit to Canada which he participated in the G7 Leaders' Outreach Summit.

South Africa's participation in the two-day session, which

was held under the theme 'Healthy, Productive and Resilient Oceans and Seas, Coasts and Communities', was at the invitation of Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau.

President Ramaphosa described the summit as a success and stressed the importance of the strong political signal delivered by the G7 leaders to address issues facing the

world's oceans, including stressors such as plastic pollution, building the resilience of coasts and communities, improving the protection of the world's oceans and ensuring sustainable use of marine resources.

President Ramaphosa said it was of paramount importance to strengthen the multilateral approach to managing ocean

resources beyond national jurisdiction.

He shared with other leaders South Africa's strategy to research and develop alternatives and substitutes for single-use plastics.

These actions by South Africa are complemented by co-operative strategies to expand marine protected areas; address over-exploitation through illegal, unreported and unregulated fisheries detection and enforcement and supported by an integrated, shared ocean information system as a basis for the sustainable management of the oceans and its users.

The President believes the ocean economy has the potential to create around one million jobs.

While in Toronto, the President had the opportunity to engage directly with the business community. He welcomed the interest shown in South Africa as an investment destination. ■

[www.SAnews.gov.za](http://www.SAnews.gov.za)



## This month in history

### Former President Nelson Mandela is born

The late President Nelson Rolihlahla Mandela was born into the Madiba clan in the small village of Mvezo in the district of Qunu near Umtata in the Eastern Cape on 18 July 1918.

Mandela became involved in politics while a student at Fort Hare University.

On 9 October 1963 Mandela and 10 other freedom fighters went on trial for sabotage and on 12 June 1964, Mandela was sentenced to life in prison on Robben Island. From Robben Island he was transferred to Pollsmoor Prison and then Victor Verster Prison before he was released on 11 February 1990.

Mandela engaged in talks with apartheid leaders, including former President FW de Klerk, to end the oppressive apartheid regime and in 1993, Mandela and De Klerk won the Nobel Peace Prize for their efforts to end apartheid as peacefully as possible.

Mandela was elected president of South Africa in 1994.

In 1999, at the end of his first term in office, he voluntarily stepped down. In 2009, the United Nations declared 18 July as International Nelson Mandela Day. ([Sahistory.org](http://Sahistory.org))

## Moseneke to lead Lesotho mediation team

**IN 2014 PRESIDENT RAMAPHOSA** was appointed by the SADC Heads of State and Government as a facilitator in Lesotho.

**F**ormer South African Deputy Chief Justice Dikgang Moseneke is set to lead the mediation team of the Southern African Development Community (SADC) Facilitation in the Kingdom of Lesotho.

Moseneke's appointment by President Cyril Ramaphosa will assist the President as he continues to facilitate the political national dialogue and reform processes in Lesotho.

"I take this opportunity to thank Justice Moseneke for availing himself to support us in this important mandate as we continue to assist our brothers and sisters in the Kingdom

of Lesotho in their search for a lasting and sustainable solution to their political and security challenges," said President Ramaphosa.

The decision is in line with the resolution taken at the SADC Double Troika Summit -- held on 24 April 2018 in Luanda, Angola -- where it was decided that President Ramaphosa should continue with the facilitation and recommended that he appoint high level personalities to support him.

In this regard, President Ramaphosa appointed Justice Moseneke as the leader of the mediation team. The team consists of three Deputy Ministers,

namely Mohamed Enver Surty of Basic Education, Makgabo Regina Mhaule of International Relations and Cooperation and Ellen Molekane of State Security.

In September 2014, President Ramaphosa was himself appointed by the SADC Heads of State and Government as a SADC facilitator in Lesotho, following the country's security and political challenges.

The outcomes was a report with key recommendations on constitutional, security sector, judiciary, and public service and media reform issues, which the government of Lesotho committed to undertake



■ President Ramaphosa appointed Justice Moseneke as the leader of the mediation team of the Southern African Development Community (SADC) Facilitation in the Kingdom of Lesotho.

to resolve their political and security challenges.

The report was endorsed by SADC and Lesotho was then urged to develop a roadmap on the required reforms, which it has completed.

The Luanda Double Troika

Summit endorsed the Lesotho Roadmap for reforms and urged the government of Lesotho to prioritise the constitutional and security sector reforms, which should be delivered by May 2019. ■

[www.SAnews.gov.za](http://www.SAnews.gov.za)



# New sport facilities to improve learner's health

**A WEST RAND** school principal is happy that his learners have been given a sporting chance to develop their athletic abilities.

## More Matshediso

**H**aving recreation and sport facilities at schools not only contribute to the overall well-being of learners but also nurtures their talents outside the classroom.

This is what Thaga Mankgaba, the principal of Setlolamathe Primary School in Kagiso in the West Rand, had to say after the launch of sport facilities at his school recently.

Setlolamathe is one of the two primary schools in the West Rand that had new recreation and sport facilities built on their premises through a partnership between the Gauteng Department of Sport, Arts, Culture and Recreation; Rand West City; Mogale City and Sports Trust.

The facilities boast soccer fields and netball, basketball and tennis courts, among others.

"Some of our learners are not



■ Learners of Setlolamathe Primary School are excited to have new sports facilities on their school premises.

gifted academically but they are passionate about sport. These facilities will help enhance their performance," he said.

Mankgaba added that the facilities will not only benefit the school but the community of Kagiso as a whole.

"Although priority will be

given to our learners, community members can also benefit from these facilities if granted permission by the school governing body to play games on weekends," he said.

"We plead with community members to help the school safeguard these facilities and

everything in our school because this is important for the future of our learners and generations to come. This is a good investment, let us take care of it," Mankgaba added.

Another school that received similar sport facilities is Phandulwazi Primary in Mohlak-

eng, also in the West Rand.

This brings to four the number of facilities opened within the West Rand since 2016 through the partnership. The other two were opened at Toekomsrus Stadium and Phahama High School in Mohlakeng.

The Gauteng Department of Sport, Arts, Culture and Recreation said the landscape of Gauteng's recreation and sport facilities within the West Rand is improving.

Through its mass participation programme, the department said it wants to promote healthy and active lifestyles in communities and at the same time work towards the transformation of sport.

"We are on a drive to address the shortage of sport and recreation facilities and ensure that everyone, including previously disadvantaged communities, has access to well-equipped facilities that support a variety of sport codes," the department said. ■

## Fashion extravaganza at this year's Durban July

**AFRICA'S GREATEST** horseracing event is also one of the continent's greatest fashion showpiece and this year it is poised to be even more amazing.

## Hlengiwe Ngobese

**T**housands of people are expected to descend on Durban for the Vodacom Durban July (VDJ) to take place at Greyville Racecourse on 7 July and they won't be there only for the horses

The prestigious sporting and tourism event attracts over 50 000 people from across the country and provides fashion designers with a platform to showcase their skills.

This year's VDJ Fashion Experience has added a new element to its popular pre-race day fashion shows with the formalisation of a new category that harnesses some of the best designers to have emerged



■ Sibumang Msimang was a finalist in the VDJ Young Designer Award as an enthusiastic student then an invited designer and has also regularly served as a judge.

from the Fashion Experience programme since 2005.

VDJ Fashion Experience programme director Tiffany Prior

said there are so many designers who have a long-running association with the VDJ that it made sense to introduce a

category – called the Timeless Collection – that showcases their excellence.

"Some of them are former winners of the pre-race day competitions, while others have been loyal supporters of the race day fashion competition. What they all have in common is they are amazing designers with deep roots in the VDJ Fashion Experience, thanks to Gold Circle team.

This year's fashion show will be separated into three categories: Young Designers, Invited Designers and Timeless Collection. Designers from other provinces will participate in the Invited Designers category. Designers who have previously been part of this category include David Tlale, KLûK

CGDT, Zama Mathe, Gideon, Colleen Eitzen, Paledi Segapo and Karen Monk.

Timeless Category designers include Brenda Quin, Sibumang, Skye Pengelley, Madelain Clark, Martin Steenkamp, Racine Lyle Meredith Denny and Sadie Bosworth.

Another Durban designer to have touched almost every aspect of the VDJ fashion programme is Sibumang. She was a finalist in the VDJ Young Designer Award as an enthusiastic student, then an Invited Designer and has also regularly served as a judge. She said her design for this year is ready. "Lovers of fashion must come in their numbers to they see style and glamour at its best," said Msimang. ■