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New plan for a more prosperous South Africa

Stephen Timm



South Africa needs outstanding leaders in sport, business, civil society and the public sector if it is to overcome many of its challenges, says acting head of the National Planning Commission Secretariat Khulekhani Mathe. The challenges facing the country include unemployment, a poor education system, water and energy constraints, a lack of social cohesion and rising inequality.

This is according to the National Development Plan (NDP), which has been approved by Cabinet. The new vision of the NDP means that every South African must take ownership of the plan, Mathe said. The plan aims to reduce unemployment from 25% to 6%, eliminate poverty and reduce inequality by 2030.

Mathe added that government will have to implement certain parts of the plan, while the private sector, including civil society, will have to implement other sections. Strong leadership is one of the three central pillars of the plan; the other two are an active citizenry and an effective government.

Mathe pointed out that you can't "wait till everything is in place before you push the button", but you need to start adding and adjusting details as you go.

However, he says while they still have to investigate some proposals (particularly those on institutional reforms) further, some departments have already introduced some of the targets into their annual performance plans.

Mathe said his department and the Department of Performance Monitoring and Evaluation would work with other departments to include targets in the next strategic plans for 2014 – 2019.

The plan also aims to encourage a more caring, active and responsible attitude among South Africans. Mathe said all South Africans should be active in their own development and not hold others responsible for everything. Citizens must send their children to school and see that they do their homework. They must also blow the whistle on bad services such as the delivery of faulty homes.

Mathe gave an example of someone who stops his or her car when he or she sees a child in uniform walking around in the streets during school hours and takes the child to school. South Africa must change if we want to reach the target for 2030, he said. Without change,



Minister in The Presidency Trevor Manuel presenting the NDP Parliament.

South Africa would see only slight improvement and there was no telling how much this would test the patience of South Africans.

"The National Development Plan is a plan for everyone and we all have a responsibility to make our contribution," Mathe said. When it comes to the government's role in the plan, departments, municipalities, provinces and state-owned enterprises, such as Eskom and Transnet, must play their part.

Nelisiwe Magubane, Director-General of the Department of Energy, says the NDP guides the department in improving socio-economic development in South Africa.

"The plan was compiled by a number of experts," Magubane said. She pointed out that even before the NDP was finalised, her

department had started drafting a long-term energy plan following the 2005 fuel shortage and load shedding of 2008. This culminated in the Integrated Resource Plan (IRP) 2010-2030 for the energy sector, approved last year by Cabinet.

However, she emphasised that the NDP is a living document and that her department will continue to update its projections and plans around energy – but with at least two years fixed to allow for certainty. Her department is now working on the Integrated Energy Plan (IEP), which will inform future IRPs and include the issues raised in the NDP, including shale gas in the Karoo. The department hopes to take the IEP to Cabinet at the beginning of next year.

Executive mayor of the Nelson Mandela Bay Municipality Zinoxolo Wayile said his officials have been developing a unique development plan for Port Elizabeth to complement the NDP. Wayile says the metro has already interacted with the Eastern Cape government around the city's plan.

He will submit the plan to the city council shortly to ensure it is in line with the NDP. The Department of Water Affairs and Environment's chief policy advisor on strategic environmental intelligence, Peter Lukey, says his department helped the commission to draft the plan. Lukey believes more South Africans will now assess the department's plans on climate change to make sure they are in line with the NDP.

Infrastructure Development

New school makes mud a thing of the past

* Yolisa Manxiwa

Until September 2012, the learners at Mphathiswa Senior Primary School in Mqangqweni Village, Libode, in the Eastern Cape attended classes in run-down mud rondavels with no electricity.

However, last month, President Jacob Zuma handed over a brand-new school with modern amenities. The school has a multimedia centre, a computer lab, a grade-R centre, administrative block and toilets.

The new school has boosted the morale of learners and teachers alike. Principal Phathiwe Velembo was overjoyed: "Government has helped us greatly and taken education to a higher level. We now even have computers, which will help learners excel in their studies. Now teachers feel cared for and protected, and have hope for a better future and improved results."

Mphathiswa is part of the first batch of 49 mud schools in the Eastern Cape that were identified to be replaced in 2012 thanks to a service delivery agreement with the Development Bank Southern Africa, as part of the Accelerated Schools Infrastructure Development Initiative (ASIDI). ASIDI aims to eradicate all mud schools and inappropriate structures, and refurbish dilapidated and ill-equipped schools.

The ASIDI National Outputs Plan 2011-2014 will replace 496 mud schools country-wide, provide water and sanitation to 1 257 schools and electricity to 878 schools. A total of 12 450 learners in the districts of Libode, Lusikisiki and Mthatha in the Eastern Cape will benefit. In the Eastern Cape alone, R700 million has been allocated in the 2011/12 financial year for eradicating all mud schools and a further R280 million to fund basic services necessary in schools.

Twelve of the 16 contractors appointed to construct the 49 schools are from the Eastern Cape. The project has created 2 829 temporary jobs by subcontracting 109 SMMEs for the project.

Minister for Basic Education Angie Motshekga, Minister for Economic Development Ebrahim Patel and Premier Noxolo Kiviet accompanied the President to the Eastern Cape.

Minister Motshekga said government was speeding up the process of bringing schools to communities and thanked the school



From Left: Mrs Whitby-Conjwa (educator), Ms Velembo (visitor), Mrs Nomzanga (educator), Mrs Cingo-Maqokolo (educator) and Ms Velembo the School Principal.



governing body for the support they gave to the project.

President Zuma emphasised the importance of basic education. "Education is absolutely essential for the success of the nation. With proper infrastructure we must ensure that we produce quality results and work together to build the nation as a community, parents and learners."

Asemahle Somgwagwa, an ecstatic learner, said: "I am very happy and promise that we

will work harder. It was very difficult for us. Our school was in a bad condition. When it rained, our books would get wet because the roof was leaking. We are very excited about the library and the computer lab."

Mr Sabelo Dumani the school community liaison officer shared the same sentiments saying: "It is a true blessing. The mud school was a community initiative built in 1988 and this progress is indeed appreciated. We thank the teachers for their patience with

the situation and their hard work all these years."

***Yolisa Manxiwa is a Deputy Director for GCIS in the Eastern Cape**

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New face for North West roads

SAnews.gov.za

Twenty-five roads in North West have been declared national roads. According to Premier Thandi Modise the South African National Road Agency Limited (SANRAL) will now start reconstructing the provincial road network covering some 1 350 km.

"Road construction projects are part of the Strategic Infrastructure Project (SIP4) to accelerate infrastructure investment and improve

economic potential, the development of mining, agricultural activities and tourism, and to benefit the province," she said.

SANRAL recently reported that it was implementing eight road maintenance projects across the province, involving road repair and resealing.

The R970 million road-repair projects include the Bloemhof to Rietpan, Delareyville to Sannieshof and the Ventersdorp to Krugersdorp roads, which are almost complete.

Over R1 billion was set aside for the SANRAL-Bakwena Toll projects on the N4 to construct an additional carriageway covering 32 km between Brits and Marikana. This also covers the construction of 22 km between Zeerust and Rustenburg, the rehabilitation of the N4

between Brits, Marikana and Swartruggens including periodic and routine maintenance.

Meanwhile the North West Department of Public Works, Roads and Transport held two district road summits. At these summits, MEC Raymond Elisha announced that his department has collaborated with SANRAL to expand the number of roads in the province from 10 to 27.

"We decided to meet with stakeholders and inform them about the five-year plan, stating which roads will receive attention within their district," MEC Elisha.

"The message of these summits is that as government, we can no longer plan alone. We need to plan for the current financial year and reprioritise roads," the MEC told the delegates

at the summits.

"We will make declarations at these summits, which will bind the department to implement resolutions. This will ensure that communities hold the department accountable when roads projects are not implemented and will remain the department's mandate," concluded Elisha.

North West Department of Public Works, Roads and Transport

North West Department of Public Works, Roads and Transport at tel. 018 388 1454

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Health

Learning from Cuba to prevent diseases

Gabi Khumalo



In grade 12, when Kgotlaethata Aaron Molefi heard that his parents didn't have enough money to send him to university, he thought his dream of uplifting his family out of poverty would never come true.

Molefi grew up in the village of Mareetshane, some 50 km from Mahikeng. He was one of the top learners in grade 12 in 2002 and graduated with an A in Mathematics and Cs in Physical Science and English. But Molefi had no idea that government provided bursaries to learners from disadvantaged communities, nor how to apply for them.

"I was very sad and thought I had no other option but to look for a job. Some of my school-mates, who had failed were even laughing at me, asking what the point was of having good marks when you can't go to university," he recalls.

One day, his mother visited Molefi's primary school teacher, who told them to go to the Provincial Department of Health and explain the situation.

The department encouraged him to apply for a scholarship to study in Cuba by means of South Africa and Cuba's health collaboration agreement, which offers learners from disadvantaged backgrounds bursaries for medical training in Cuba.

"I didn't even know the bursary existed until that day because this information isn't readily available in rural communities."

Molefi, who was 19 at the time, was among a group of 15 successful applicants. On 5 September 2004 Molefi, along with the other candidates, boarded a plane for the very first time, on their way to Cuba. "I was very excited. We were competing with each other to see who would be the first to get inside the plane and I beat them to it."

They spent the first year at Saguala Grande University learning Spanish before starting medical studies the following year.

"Learning Spanish was challenging and it



North West MEC for Health Magome Masike with a group of learners shortly before they left for Cuba, where they'll study medicine.

Photograph: Goitsemodimo Thebeeagae

took me a while to learn it. The first six months was intensive, but we were dedicated and the lecturers were very patient," he says. "Cubans are in general caring, especially to people from foreign countries," he says.

Molefi returned to South Africa in 2010 where he did his final year at the University of Pretoria. "It was difficult to switch from Spanish to English again but I worked very hard and I completed my studies last year in August and registered as a doctor. I started working at the Tshepong Hospital, in Klerksdorp, in September last year. Our graduation was in Stellenbosch earlier this year," he says proudly.

Molefi was very impressed by the health system in Cuba, which mainly focuses on primary health care.

"Cuba is poor in terms of resources but their health system is very good. You serve around 500 families, taking blood pressure and blood sugar. Those people are your responsibility and you have to take care of them and know them to control diseases." However, Cubans generally control lifestyle diseases.

"Their focus is on prevention rather than cure. This is one of the reasons why their health-care system is so successful. Their infant mortality is eight out of 1 000. They don't just teach you about medicine; they train you not only to see the disease but to see the person."

Molefi feels we will prevent many more diseases by placing doctors in rural areas, as these doctors will not only treat patients but also educate them.

"You need permanent doctors close to the community. In that way, you can intervene early. If you only go there in the morning, you don't have enough time to interact with your patients." He is confident that the Cuban model can be replicated in rural areas in South Africa.

"In rural areas they don't have doctors; patients are illiterate and suffer from preventable diseases. By implementing the Cuban model, we can prevent a lot of diseases." Preventative medicine could save patients and doctors the need for more serious interventions, Molefi says.

"When I was at surgical block, there were patients with diabetes and we had to amputate their feet. If you amputate, it means you've failed to prevent, it means you've failed to intervene. We need more doctors in our rural areas to avoid complications arising from communicable diseases such as hypertension and diabetes," Molefi says.

He also feels that the National Health Insurance might be a good platform for doctors to use to improve the health-care system. "We are willing to help. Government has invested in us and we should give back and try to decrease the disease burden in our country. Our hospitals won't be packed like this because, for example, if we encourage women to do Pap smears we can detect cervical cancer at an early stage and treat it successfully."

Molefi wants to become a specialist in obstetrics and gynaecology. "When a woman is sick, it touches me. It's just sad and I want to understand the story and help."

North West sent 63 students to study medicine in Cuba last year and will be recruiting 100 more this year. To date, some 304 medical doctors have completed their studies in Cuba since the programme started 15 years ago.

For more information contact the North West Department of Health at tel. 018 388 2040

World Diabetes day targets youth

World Diabetes Day takes place on 14 November each year. This year marks the fourth year of the five-year focus on diabetes education and prevention. The campaign aims to educate, engage and empower youth and the public. Under the slogan "Diabetes: protect our future" the Department of Health aims to inspire and engage local communities to recognise the importance of early awareness of the risks and dangers of diabetes. This is to build awareness about the warning signs and risk factors for diabetes.

WHAT IS DIABETES?

Diabetes is a disease characterised by above normal high blood glucose levels. Our bodies turn most of the food we eat into glucose or sugar to use as energy. The pancreas makes a hormone called insulin to help glucose enter our body cells. When you have diabetes, your body either does not make enough insulin or cannot use its own insulin. This causes sugar to build up in the blood. Diabetes can cause serious health complications including heart disease, blindness, kidney failure and lower-extremity amputations. This is when a part of or, in extreme cases, the whole limb, is cut off. There are two kinds of diabetes – type 1 and type 2.

IS DIABETES PREVENTABLE?

Scientists believe that lifestyle and type 2 diabetes are closely linked. This means that lifestyle is an area which you can focus on to help prevent or delay the onset of the disease. You



Get tested this month as we celebrate World Diabetes Day on November 14.

can prevent diabetes by eating healthy food, controlling your weight, exercising, reducing stress and quitting smoking.

WHO IS AT RISK?

You are at risk if you:

- are over 35
- are overweight, especially if most of the weight is around your waist
- have a family history of diabetes
- have given birth to a baby who weighed more than 4 kg at birth,
- had gestational diabetes during pregnancy

- have high cholesterol
- have high blood pressure
- have heart disease.

SIGNS AND SYMPTOMS

The following are symptoms of diabetes:

- a weak bladder
- thirst all the time
- unexplained weight loss
- extreme hunger
- sudden vision changes
- tingling or numbness in your hands or feet
- extreme tiredness all the time

- very dry skin
- your sores are slow to heal
- you have more infections than usual.

PREVENTION

There is no known way of preventing type 1 diabetes. However, you can prevent type 2 diabetes by exercising regularly, eating healthy, whole-grain food with plenty of fibre.

TREATMENT

Healthy eating, physical activity and insulin injections are the best treatment for type 1 diabetes. Healthy eating, physical activity and blood-glucose testing are the basic treatment for type 2 diabetes. In addition, many people with type 2 diabetes require oral medication, insulin, or both to control their blood-glucose levels.

Diabetes is a serious condition and if left untreated, the high blood glucose levels can slowly damage the fine nerves and the small and large blood vessels in the body, resulting in several complications. The good news is that with careful management you can delay these and prevent them, but early diagnosis is very important. You need to know what the symptoms of diabetes are and whether you are at risk.

For more information about diabetes, contact the Department of Health at tel. 012 395 8000.



Education

How to raise cash for studies



Students queue to apply for tertiary funding.

Albert Pule



If your family cannot afford to pay for your studies, don't despair. There are several options available to deserving students who have trouble paying for their studies.

Tertiary education is very expensive. For example, the average tuition fee for first-year medical studies at Wits University will set you back up to R43 520 while a law degree costs R24 800 per year. This excludes accommodation, books, meals and travel costs.

The following are funding models you can use:

NATIONAL STUDENT FINANCIAL AID SCHEME (NSFAS)

This scheme offers a study loan if you are academically deserving and financially needy. To qualify, you must pass the means test, which will assess whether you are really needy. You can use your NSFAS loan to pay for tuition, books and accommodation.

At some universities the NSFAS will not pay for your accommodation, especially if you reside outside the campus. The NSFAS pays for registration at some institutions but not at others. You will be required to repay your loan

after completing your studies.

NSFAS funding is only available to South African students registered at a public university or Further Education and Training college.

You only have to start paying back your loan one year after you have completed your studies, and only if you have a job and earn more than R30 000 per year. If you pass all your subjects, a maximum of 40% of the loan will be written off and you will only have to pay back 60%.

HOW TO APPLY FOR NSFAS FUNDING:

- Apply to study at an institution of higher learning.
- Complete a means test. The test will assess your family's financial situation and calculate what amount, if any, your family will be expected to contribute towards your studies.

You may borrow the rest of the money from NSFAS or you might qualify for a bursary, which is also administered by NSFAS.

You need to submit the following:

- Grade 12 Certificate
- A certified copy of your ID

- Your parents' salary slips and certified copies of their IDs
- Proof of registration of siblings (brothers, sisters who have registered for studies at school) if they live in the same household.
- If you are disabled, you'll need a letter from your medical doctor as proof of permanent disability.

If your parents are unemployed, you will need an affidavit signed by a commissioner of oaths, such as a police officer. If you have siblings studying at tertiary level, provide certified copies of documentation showing this. The financial office at the institution will inform you whether your application has been successful.

Contact the NSFAS Call Centre on 021 763 3232 or visit www.nsfas.org.za for more information.

BANK LOANS

Banks offer study loans, but the strict lending criteria can be a challenge and paying the money back after you have qualified and started working is not always the ideal way to start your career.

Some banks require surety or a guarantor, someone who will guarantee to repay the loan

if you fail to do so. For further information, contact your local bank or visit its website.

PRIVATE FINANCIAL SERVICES PROVIDER

A company such as Eduloan could be a viable choice as it focuses specifically on educational finance. You have to pay back your loan in fixed monthly instalments over a period ranging from six to 22 months.

You will need a guarantor who must submit a copy of his or her latest bank statement, latest pay slip, certified ID copy and a fee quotation from the institution.

For more information, visit www.eduloan.co.za or contact the Eduloan centre on campus.

SELF-FUNDING

Some students choose to work first or work part-time to earn money and save for their studies. People who choose this option often work really hard when they start.

BURSARIES

There are corporate bursaries from companies such as Sasol, Eskom and Telkom available to students. These bursaries differ in selection criteria and in what they cover. Some of them are comprehensive, while others offer relatively small financing.

Most bursaries are renewable annually, depending on successful completion of the academic year. You should check the current bursary register book, which is usually available at high schools or the financial aid offices of universities, or you can visit the website of the company offering bursaries.

GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENTS

Various government departments offer study bursaries to students who perform well and need funds to study. Most of these departments are at provincial government level and offer bursaries in line with their scope of work. For more information, contact the relevant provincial department. An example is the North West Department of Health, which offers bursaries for student to study medicine in Cuba.

MUNICIPALITIES

Some municipalities offer bursaries in a way similar to that of government departments to students who live in the specific municipality. For more information, contact your local municipality about bursaries or other available funding options.

New system helps students apply at tertiary institutions

Albert Pule



If you have not yet applied for tertiary education in 2013, you can still do so. The Department of Higher Education and Training (DHET) has launched a system aimed at giving late applicants information about space at institutions of higher learning.

"To address the recurrent problem of prospective students who flock to institutions of higher learning only in January the DHET is setting up a Central Applications System (CAS) to manage all Post School Education and Training applications," Minister of Higher Education and Training Blade Nzimande said.

One of the reasons for developing the system was to avoid the rush of late applications and avoid a repeat of the stampede at the University of Johannesburg early this year.

For matriculants looking for admission into institutions of higher education and training in 2013, the department will only be able to provide phase 1 of the CAS, which will be referred to as the Clearing House. It will ensure that applications are managed better than in the past. The system will direct applicants to institutions that can still accommodate them for their chosen fields of study.

"The main purpose of the Clearing House will be to support and guide 2012 matriculants who wish to be admitted into institutions of higher education and training in 2013, but who have not yet been accepted anywhere," Minister Nzimande explained.

The Career Advice call centre managed by SAQA will support the implementation of the Clearing House.



Minister Blade Nzimande launched the first phase of the Central Applications System (CAS) aimed at assisting late applicants at tertiary institutions.



For more info call the Department of Higher Education and Training contact call centre : 0800 87 22 22 SMS or send a please call me to 072 204 5056

Facebook: www.facebook.com/careerhelp or www.dhetfacebook.gov.za
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Mobile site: mobi.careerhelp.org.za
Walk-in service: 1067 Arcadia Street, Hatfield, Pretoria

Rural Development

Farming programme makes tripe a cash cow

Albert Pule



Going from selling tripe for survival to landing a R1 million contract was not an easy road for farm manager Maleshoane Mabel Mochakane. The Mochakane family started farming without experience, financial backing, proper implements, skills or technical ability. However, with determination, perseverance and the will to learn, and support from the Recapitalisation and Development Programme (RADP), they achieved success.

Maleshoane first displayed business acumen by selling tripe in Virginia in the Free State, before taking over the derelict, overgrown farm with a broken windmill bought by government for restitution.

Today, the farm has landed a R1 million contract to supply tripe to Harmony Gold mines in Virginia, Odendaalsrus, Welkom and Theunissen.

The 1 400 hectare farmland comprises four farms; Avignon, Brakpoort, Rothenberg and Hughenden, in the Wesselsbron area in the Free State. The Department of Rural Development and Land Reform (DRDLR) bought the farm in 2010 to compensate 39 households, who then formed Mochakane CPA Trading.

SKILLS AND RESOURCES

Through the RADP, the department helped the Mochakanes gain skills and resources to run the farm. "They bought us three tractors, cultivators, rippers, off-sets, sprayers and pivots," Maleshoane says.

Graeme Leach, who is a strategic partner from Bloemfontein Abattoir responsible for



BEFORE



AFTER

mentoring the Mochakane clan, says initially there were only four people who depended on food from the farm, but since the RADP, the farm supports 24 families.

The RADP provides for established farmers and co-operatives to mentor emerging farmers. Commodity organisations, such as Grain SA and SAPPI, also provide expertise depending on the specific needs of the emerging farmer, as the sustainability of their businesses depends on agricultural produce.

Leach says the farm owned by the Mochakanes has undergone phenomenal growth. "The number of cows on the farm has increased

from 25 when it started to 102. The sheep count stands at 108 and we've got 70 cows and 68 lambs that can be sold to the market." The farm's biggest clients are supermarkets such as Pick n Pay, Shoprite and Spar, and Harmony Gold mines.

BRIGHT FUTURE

The future looks bright for the farm and Maleshoane hopes it will continue to grow. "We are supplying 7 500 tonnes of tripe to the mines and we've got a year's contract with an option to renew it at the end of the year," she says.

Leach commends Maleshoane for displaying interest in running the farm and expresses confidence that her dedication will make the farm a success. "Bloemfontein Abattoir has enjoyed working with her as she is committed to the farm. She has been actively involved in developing and managing the business plan to restore the farm to productivity and understands how RADP has improved their livelihoods. Maleshoane and her family have been enthusiastic and committed to developing the skills required for farming through classroom training as well as practical on-the-job training."

RECAPITALISATION PROGRAMME

The RADP is managed by the DRDLR to increase agricultural production, guarantee food security, promote job creation and graduate small-scale farmers to commercial farmers.

Government introduced the programme after a study revealed that over 3 000 farms, which received subsidies from the land redistribu-

tion projects between 2005 and 2008, were in distress. Part of the programme was to establish a working relationship between established farmers and emerging farmers.

"We realised that projects initiated through land reform programmes are failing and some are about to fail. Because of this the department decided to involve the experience of the commercial farmers to ensure that these projects are recapitalised," the department's Mtobeli Mxotwa says.

MANAGEMENT TEAMS

But the journey of transforming farms and the farming sector has not been without challenges. Part of the reason for meeting with farmers and strategic partners, explains Mxotwa, is to evaluate the programme since its launch.

"Key components of the methodology for each farm include preliminary activities to obtain available information and meeting key role-players and establishing management teams where they don't exist."

He adds that plans were underway to investigate and write a credible development plan including redesigning the whole project if this is necessary.

FACTS ABOUT THE RECAP PROGRAMME:

- The Department of Rural Development and Land Reform (DRDLR) put a selected number of collapsed farms under the Recapitalisation and Development Programme in a bid to revive them.
- The department has set a target of 403 projects within its various programmes and sub-programmes to be recapitalised in 2012.
- The strategic partners come with their own resources and guarantee uptake or buying of products from the farmers.
- The aim of the RADP is to increase the number of farms that are producing food for households and to enhance food security and other needs.
- To increase the output of farms that is geared towards commercial production in order to provide increased food security for the nation.
- To improve income for farmers and employees.
- To increase the capacity of emerging farmers, job creation, productivity and contribute towards rural transformation.
- To contribute towards the gross domestic product and by increasing exports, to contribute to the balance of payments positively.

For more information, call the
Department of Rural Development and
Land Reform at tel. 012 312 9300

New farming system set to save environment and yield more

Vincent Malapane



A new farming system that encourages conservation agriculture is showing signs of viability.

The Conservation Agricultural Technologies (CAT) study has yielded positive results in the Msinga and Mhlontlo local municipalities in KwaZulu-Natal and the Eastern Cape respectively. CAT is a farming system the Department of Rural Development and Land Reform (DRDLR) wants to adopt in rural communities across the country.

Continuous minimum mechanical soil disturbances, permanent organic soil cover and diversification of crop species grown in sequence are what make the system viable.

Permanent organic soil cover protects the soil against erosion, reduces water losses caused by evaporation and enhances soil fertility. Conversely, crop rotation and intercropping suppresses weed, disease and pest infestations, improves soil fertility and addresses food and fodder diversity.

These CAT principles, when adopted and implemented, will promote the cultivation of land in a way that protects and improves the



Members of the Mqotha Co-operative during the harvesting season. They harvested more than they usually do after the intervention by Conservation Agricultural Technologies

soil, increases crop production and generates income to farmers, particularly those within rural communities.

"CAT is the approach to manage agro-ecosystems for improved and sustained productivity, increased profits and food security, while preserving and enhancing resources and the environment," Kgoroshi Mashabane, a natural science research specialist at DRDLR, said.

When the project started in December 2011, most members of co-operatives did not believe in the system and said it would not reach harvesting stage in time given the extremely hot weather conditions.

"The maize harvesting for CAT projects in ward 15 of Msinga was very successful, thanks to the department bringing this project to us (Macaneni Co-operative). We have harvested plus 120 of 80 kg maize bags on each hectare," Phillip Ngubane, Director for Macaneni Co-operative, said.

"The produce was used primarily for household consumption and was sold to the local market. We sell the produce ourselves as members of the

cooperatives," Ngubane added, who is also chairperson for co-operatives in ward 15 of Msinga.

Beneficiaries of the CAT study in Msinga have harvested over 10 ha of land for maize and dry beans. According to Lloyd Maribe, the choice of maize and dry beans in the area was because of its ability to withstand any form of weather.

The uMqotha co-operative, which has planted dry beans on three hectares of land, is also happy and grateful to the DRDLR and its service provider, the Agricultural Research Council (ARC). "We have harvested 16 bags of soya beans, each weighing 50 kg, thanks to the good work and expertise of the department and the ARC. We hope the co-operative can produce more if they implement the irrigation system, as we mostly relied on rain water," Lungisani Dlamini, a representative of the cooperative, said.

The objective of uMqotha is to break into commercial farming. uMqotha believes the DRDLR is on the right path to help them realise their goal. A total of 800 kg of soya beans was cultivated and members of the cooperative will soon be meeting to sell the produce.

Vincent Malapane from the Department of Rural Development and Land Reform

For more information, call the
Department of Rural Development and
Land Reform at tel. 0800 0070 95



Safety and Security

Report sexual assault

November marks the start of the 16 Days of No Violence Against Women and Children. On the 20th, we also celebrate Universal Children's Day. So, let's protect our children. Take a stand against the abuse of women and children. Report all cases of sexual assault to the police.

What is sexual assault?

Sexual assault is any sexual behaviour that makes the victim feel uncomfortable, frightened or threatened.

Assault could involve:

- touching, fondling or kissing without consent
- touching, rubbing or poking at your private parts in public
- being made to look at, or pose for, pornographic photos
- showing your private body parts to a child or mentally disabled person
- sexual exploitation and sexual grooming of children.

Our country's laws protect children and mentally disabled people from such behaviour and all sexual offences against a child and people who are mentally disabled are placed on the register.

- Go to the nearest police station. Ask a

Reporting an offence to the police

- friend or family member to go with you.
 - Fill out a statement. The police will take down everything in the form of a statement. You may not make changes to the statement.
 - Get a case number from the police officer. This will be used to keep you informed of the case.
 - When reporting sexual abuse, you may ask for medical examination. The findings will be included in your case file.
 - Give the police officer all your contact details, address and telephone numbers.
- Even when you move, inform the police so that they can keep you informed.

What is the reporting process?

The police have a duty to protect all the people in our country. Therefore, children and the mentally disabled should feel safe to report any form of sexual offence and alert an adult they trust if someone is touching them in an inappropriate way.

Anyone who knows about such behaviour against a child or mentally disabled person must report the incident to the police. If you don't report it, you could get a fine or go to jail.

What do police do after you lodge a complaint?

An investigating officer assigned to the case will let you know:

- when the suspect is arrested
- if bail has been awarded
- whether you need to go to a parade to see your attacker in a line up
- the date of the trial
- when you will have to give evidence
- the outcome of the case.

Don't be afraid to ask the police officer for his or her phone number to check on the progress of the case. After investigating (all of which is done free), the investigating officer will hand the file to the state lawyer. This service is free. The state lawyer will decide if the matter should go to court.

Child-friendly sexual offences court

Special child-friendly courts have been set up around the country with safety and comfort at the heart of justice. Sexual Offences Courts are built to strengthen and support children and victims of sexual offences. They are designed



to make victims feel safer. There are toys, a television set and a one-way mirror to get the testimony in a manner that makes the child comfortable.

There is a waiting area, so that the victims do not have to see the person accused of the crime. Sexual Offences Courts also make it easier for victims to lay a charge though the one-stop Thuthuzela Care Centre found in hospitals.



For more information contact:

The Department of Justice and Constitutional Development

Postal Address: Private Bag X81 | ntchiloane@justice.gov.za | www.justice.gov.za | Tel: 012 315 1111

Making justice accessible, the Legal Aid SA way



Legal Aid attracts hundreds of visitors to its outreach programmes.

Albert Pule

For over 40 years, Legal Aid South Africa has helped millions of South Africans with free legal assistance.

Legal Aid South Africa is a government-funded organisation, which provides lawyers, legal advice and defends people who cannot afford to pay for their own lawyers.

In the 2011/12 financial year, the organisation gave legal assistance to 682 962 clients.

This is an increase of more than 20 000 clients compared to the 661 398 people helped in 2010/11. In 2009/2010 the number stood at 599 250. A further 254 286 clients were helped by the Legal Aid advice line and justice centres in 2011/12.

The organisation also took on 23 impact litigation matters involving a group of people. Phasha added that Legal Aid South Africa takes pride in the principles of openness, integrity, accountability and recognising the importance of all stakeholders.

Legal Aid South Africa was established in terms of the Legal Aid Act of 1969 as an independent statutory body to give South Africans tax-funded legal services. Its mandate is to ensure that all South Africans have access to justice, regardless of their social or financial status. "Our commitment to deliver quality legal services and efficiency is the driving force behind Legal Aid South Africa," says Communications Executive Mpho Phasha.

The organisation conducts a means test to determine if an applicant qualifies for legal assistance. "As part of the test, legal aid applicants are required to disclose their monthly income, household and personal possessions, such as car, furniture, clothes etc. This is to ensure that they fall within the stipulated income bracket," Phasha explains.

HOW DOES ONE QUALIFY FOR LEGAL AID?

To qualify for Legal Aid, an individual applicant must be earning R5 500 or less per month. If the applicant lives with other people for more than four nights a week and they all share in the costs of food, utility bills etc., they are classified as a household. To qualify for legal aid, a household must not earn more than R6 000 per month.

Furthermore, if the individual/household does not own a house, their household possessions (such as furniture, clothes etc.) should not exceed R75 000 in value. If the individual/household does own a house, the house and household possessions may not exceed R300 000 in value. In addition, the applicant may only own one house and must live in it.

CASE STUDIES

Legal Aid South Africa deals with two types of case: criminal and civil. Criminal cases form a large percentage of the organisation's work. "We are, however, seeing a marked increase in our civil work." By means of its impact litigation unit, the organisation provides funding for class action lawsuits. "There is no limit to funding any matter. We ensure that all our lawyers are paid in accordance to the Legal Aid guide," Phasha said.

"An example of some of the high-profile cases funded by the impact litigation unit is the silicosis matter, in which former miners who contracted an incurable, devastating lung disease caused by excessive exposure to gold mine dust, have filed a lawsuit against their former employer, Anglo Gold South Africa, claiming damages," Phasha added.

Since its inception, Legal Aid South Africa has grown significantly. "We have a national footprint of 128 offices of which 64 are justice centres and 64 are satellite offices. We also have complete coverage of all the criminal courts in the country," Phasha said.

In 2010, Legal Aid South Africa opened a call centre mainly to handle queries related to civil matters. "This has compelled us to sharpen our focus on civil matters, hence the establishment of the call centre, which we believe will go a long way to bridging the barriers to legal access," he explained.

The call centre has always seen steady growth and the latest figures stand at 4 000 calls per month. This has necessitated us to increase our staff capacity.

"An increased budget allocation would enable us to do more civil matters and enable us to increase our practitioner per court ratio," Phasha concluded.

**For more information, contact
Legal Aid South Africa at the Legal Aid
Advice Line: 0800 110 110**

Employment News

November 2012

Creative hands give learners an edge

Vuyo Sabani and
Mikateko Mkhathswa



Hendrik Janse van Rensburg (20) does not see the tool-making artisan apprenticeship as an end in itself. Rather, he sees it as a means to an end to fulfil his lifelong dream of becoming a professional mechanical engineer.

Van Rensburg said taking the apprentice route, instead of enrolling at university, gives students an edge over their peers. He attributed this to the first-hand experience students gain in their three months of, on-the-job training at an established company.

A fellow student, Tshepo Setshedi (27) of Benoni, Ekurhuleni, with whom Janse van Rensburg has been placed at the country's arms manufacturer, Denel, agrees.

Setshedi and Janse van Rensburg are two of the 250 tool-making artisan apprenticeship students placed in various Further Education and Training Colleges, in a bid to address the debilitating shortage of artisans and toolmakers in the country. The programme is a partnership between the Department of Trade and Industry (dti), Tool Making Association of South Africa (TASA) and the Gauteng City-Region Academy (GCRA).

During her budget speech recently the, former

MEC for Economic Development Qedani Mahlangu said: "International experience on skills development has been applied successfully in the toolmakers training programme in South Africa.

The tooling industry is recognised as the centre of manufacturing activities in South Africa and Gauteng accounts for 60% of the tool-making business, which has an annual procurement of R12 billion."

Mahlangu said the country was "too reliant on other countries for tool supplies." We import tools from China and Germany, among other countries, to satisfy the country's needs. "This can be attributed to a lack of tool-making artisan skills supply in South Africa. To reverse this, we have partnered with the National Tooling Association of South Africa (TASA), the Department of Trade and Industry (dti) and the Gauteng City-Region Academy to train 250 tool-making artisans who are scheduled to graduate at the end of 2014," Mahlangu said.

To Odirile Ramasodi of the Gauteng Enterprise Propeller (GEP) says: "This is a competency-based apprenticeship programme, which the average student should be able to complete in three to four years. At the end of the training the students will write a trade test after which they will be certified by Quality the Council for Trade and Occupation as artisans (toolmaker or metal machines)."



EMPOWERED ... Hendrik Janse van Rensburg and Tshepo Setshedi doing their practicals at the Denel Apprenticeship Learnership Centre as part of an initiative to alleviate the shortage of artisans in the country.

Photograph: Thomas Chauke

Ramasodi said the NTIP/TASA are internationally accredited by the USA National Institute for Metalworking Skills (NIMS), which credits the students in the completed NIMS module at international level. He added that the programme had been a success so far, as apprenticeship Level 2 students were placed at 75 companies for on-the-job training. In addition, the companies have indicated that they would like to employ

the students full-time after they have completed their training.

Vuyo Sabani and Mikateko Mkhathswa:
Gauteng Office of the Premier

For more information,
contact Department of Trade and
Industry at tel. 0861 843 384

Hubs set to boost township entrepreneurs

Samona Murugan



The National Youth Development Agency (NYDA) is setting up structures to promote entrepreneurship in townships across the country.

Township enterprise hubs aim to identify and assist emerging entrepreneurs in identified sectors.

The R58 million project led by the Department of Economic Development was launched with the NU-ME Organisation and Motion Hair Academy in Sebokeng recently. The hub initiative is one of the interventions that specifically focus on establishing automotive, industrial, and services hubs within townships in Gauteng.

Many young people flocked to the Sebokeng launch, which could make a difference to their lives. The pilot programme, launched by Gauteng MEC for Economic Development Nkosiphendule Kolisile saw 20 young people interested in the hair industry undergo training to start and grow their businesses.

The initiative aims to promote entrepreneurship by enabling young people to become self-employed and to employ others. It also aims to facilitate youth participation in the mainstream economy in townships and regenerate townships by promoting formal economic activity. The launch also created a platform for possible partnerships with stakeholders in the business, public and education sectors towards youth business development.

According to Gauteng Premier Nomvula Mokonyane, "The Gauteng government decided to develop and implement the youth employment strategy to respond to the plight of young people in township and semi-rural areas by developing youth-owned economic hubs."

Mokonyane said township enterprise hubs are based on the enterprise development fi-



Beneficiaries of the Township Hubs hair salons project.

nance, equity funding and off take agreements. "We are convinced that such a programme will go a long way to alleviate youth unemployment," she said.

She urged residents not to hold back the project. "This is a time-bound project with a fixed budget. It cannot be for people who will be here forever."

The calabash-shaped hubs will be developed in Katlehong, Tembisa, Sharpeville, Sebokeng, Kagiso and Winterveld and will come in three forms: automotive, enterprise and industrial.

Topsy Ntseane of South African Women in Cooperatives (SAWICO) said government was on the right track to create a sustainable environment. "We have created this organisation

so that we can address mistakes made by businesses, entrepreneurs and co-operatives before. "Before you become a member, we train you so you can understand the co-operatives concept and what is expected of you," Ntseane said.

"We are pleased to bring this opportunity to our young people in the townships. This partnership shows that we are serious about getting young people to participate in the economy of the province and the country. We will pass on technical and business skills to enable them to maintain and grow their businesses," the chair of the NYDA Gauteng Provincial Advisory Board, Simon Molefe, said.

The beneficiaries will benefit from services to the value of over R500 000 ranging from basic

salon management, product selection, styling techniques, marketing, mentorship and a loan amount to start or grow their business.

"We are starting this project with 20 young people but we would like to grow it to more than 100 by the end of the year. We are currently canvassing for more partners to help us reach more young people," Molefe added.

Young people interested in the township
enterprise hubs programme can contact
the NYDA on 0800 52 52 52.

Employment News

PRASA trains artisans for new stock

Albert Pule

The Passenger Rail Agency of South Africa (PRASA) and the Department of Higher Education and Training (DHET) have embarked on a training programme aimed at equipping students in the built environment with the necessary skills to prepare them for the market.

PRASA and the DHET have identified 40 students between the ages of 21 and 35 from previously disadvantaged communities who have completed their academic training and are now ready to be employed on PRASA's Built Environment and Training Programme.

PRASA will employ these students for three months, during which time experienced professionals in the built environment will supervise them. The identified graduates for now will include those with B-Tech Architecture, B-Tech Construction Management, and B-Tech Quantity Surveyor Qualifications.

Speaking at the launch of the On-the-Job Built Environment Training Programme, Deputy Minister of Higher Education and Training Mduzuzi Manana said the programme should produce a skilled and capable workforce.

"I am extremely pleased with this initiative to make sector skills training and development a national priority, especially in the built environment, as this is one of South Africa's critical and scarce skills," he said.

The programme offers students on-the-job training in the built environment and will form part of PRASA's preparations to acquire the new rolling stock (trains) over the next 20 years. PRASA's Real Estate Management Unit and PRASA Corporate Real Estate Solutions will carry this out.

"Government intends to increase learner-



ships at all levels of government and expects state-owned enterprises and government agencies, including PRASA, to do the same," Minister Manana added.

The programme will form partnerships with identified local institutions nationally and employ built environment students from previously disadvantaged communities who have completed their academic training programmes.

PRASA will employ students from vari-

ous universities of technology over 90 days, under the supervision of experienced PRASA employees in their respective areas.

PRASA CEO Lucky Montana said the programme aims to address the shortage of skills in and assist government to address the socio-economic and transport objectives. "There is a shortage of key skills as well as a lack of in-depth skills in critical areas within the organisation.

"For PRASA to meet the expanded mandate

of supporting government's socio-economic and transport objectives in urban and rural contexts, it needs to focus on human capital development and progressive training of a strong base of key skills to ensure a sustainable rail passenger transport sector," he added.

For more information, contact
PRASA on: 012 748 7000

EC villagers do it for themselves

Chris Bathembu



Minister Van Schalkwyk at the World Tourism Celebration in Mbashe, Eastern Cape.

Tucked away below the rolling hills and rugged grasslands of the former Transkei, lies a promising village with people who have stories of upliftment to tell.

The Mbashe royal village is home to one of the most inspiring communities in the former homeland. Here the community members are determined to do it for themselves, despite the challenges of poverty and underdevelopment.

This is an area that has given birth to Nelson Mandela, a world icon and probably the greatest South African ever to have lived. President Jacob Zuma recently visited Mbashe, where he unveiled the construction site of the Nelson Mandela legacy bridge. The project forms part of a government-wide rural development programme to uplift communities and combat poverty and food insecurity.

If you are on a whistle-stop tour of the Eastern Cape countryside and are interested in African culture, crafts markets and traditional Xhosa dance, this is the place to visit. That is why government identified Mbashe as this year's



Learners getting career guidance at the National Tourism Careers Expo in Mbashe Village.

host of the World Tourism Day celebration. Officials say the area's unique attractions and its location at the centre of the wild coast qualifies it as a future tourism hotspot.

Reporter Chris Bathembu caught up with Thembixolo Gcuwa, a man who has been at the forefront of development in the village. He leads traditional clothing and craft-making projects that have made a significant difference for many families.

"Despite its rich history and its location, the community felt they were being neglected. We have so much to offer and we have never depended on anyone but ourselves. We are grateful that government is helping us where it can," Gcuwa says.

"People here live simple lives. We use natural resources at our disposal to make traditional clothing, beads and other crafts. These skills

require training. We started very small but the project kept growing. We hoped that with all the developments in Mbashe, we would be able to attract more people who will appreciate our trade."

During his visit, Tourism Minister Marthinus van Schalkwyk said government plans to introduce tourism skills training to villages such as Mbashe to ensure sustainable growth and development.

"We have beautiful landscapes, warm people and the rich culture is something really unique. We want people to take advantage of that and make it work for them through tourism initiatives supported by the department," Van Schalkwyk said.

But Gcuwa is worried that most of their work is sold to European tourists and he would love to see more South Africans visiting the village.

"Locals always complain that the things we sell are expensive. They forget that we are investing in the local economy and creating jobs. It is very sad that our work is only appreciated by outsiders.

"We appreciate the support of the visitors but it would be lovely if South Africans could also appreciate our heritage."

The group of six is currently planning to open a store in Mthatha and wants expand to other parts of the province. With the demand for traditional clothing growing during September, Gcuwa hopes to take advantage of the heritage month's euphoria to market the business.

"Along with the local traditional leaders, we are working on plans to ensure community projects like these don't die. It's never easy to sustain the income because business is not always steady. We depend on peak seasons such as December. We feel that with a bit of marketing we can do better to help our people appreciate what we do.

"We don't believe in hand outs, we would like grow our own business but we cannot say no when government or anyone wants to assist.

"For now we provide part-time jobs to very few people and are hoping to expand. Some day we want to own a sustainable business; one that can make a difference in our community."

Gcuwa says he would like to grow the business to provide sustainable jobs for locals and to reach other parts of the country.

"We would like to show it is possible to use one's hands to make a living."

Van Schalkwyk believes that with the right attitude and will, tourism could be an answer to South Africa's unemployment challenge.

It is easier to create jobs in the tourism sector compared to other sectors. It's cheaper, easier and more cost effective. However, people need to feel that they can do it themselves. Some of our projects in collaboration with the private sector aim to identify where we need more beds and breakfasts, where we need to train people to be tour guides, drivers and waiters. And that's exactly what we are doing.

Employment News

Co-op success made easier

Stephen Timm



Co-operatives have welcomed the new law that will increase training and funding to co-operatives and reduce the regulatory burden for these entities.

The Co-operatives Second Amendment Bill, which is currently before Parliament, provides for setting up a training academy, a support agency and a tribunal to resolve complaints.

A co-operative is a business association of persons who co-operate for mutual benefit. Co-operatives include non-profit organisations and businesses owned and managed by the people who use their services.

The number of co-operatives increased dramatically after the 2005 Co-operatives Act was introduced – there are currently over 50 000 registered with the Companies and Intellectual Property Commission. However, they still fail at a high rate because of a lack of support, access to finance, business skills and inside fighting.

A survey in 2008 by the Department of Trade and Industry found that just 10% of co-operatives on the register for co-operatives in 2005 had survived.

In September, Deputy Minister of Trade and Industry Elizabeth Thabethe told conference delegates at the International Small Business Congress (ISBC) in Johannesburg that the Co-operatives Development Agency proposed under the amendment bill would go some way to address the lack of business skills found among many members of co-operatives.

COOPERATIVES WELCOME THE BILL

Vuyokazi Bodlani, chair of the Sithembene Women Development Enterprise, welcomed government's moves to increase its support for co-operatives.

"For rural development, the co-operative approach makes people eager to work. They (rural people) don't want to be dominated or instructed – they want to own," she said.

The Sithembene Women Development Enterprise, a women's sewing and crafts co-operative, has 13 members. Thirty-nine more people are set to become members as soon as all eight rural centres in the Eastern Cape are registered.

A further 190 women work as crafters in a network of co-operatives, which supplies these centres.



The stunning arts, crafts and traditional wear made by Sithembene Women Development Enterprise.

CREATING JOBS

The members, who provide designer cultural wear to Members of Parliament and diplomats, last year opened a R5,2 million factory in Libode, funded by the Eastern Cape Development Corporation (ECDC) and the European Union. The Eastern Cape provincial government has provided a further R2 million grant to help cover operational costs.

Bodlani said the factory helped inspire people to start their own businesses and provided employment to 52 people, many of whom were unemployed until then.

Agnes Qwabe who runs a bakery co-operative in rural Ga-Mathabatha, Limpopo, along

with seven other women, also welcomed the idea of an agency and academy. The women set up the Bokamoso Bakery Co-operative in 2006. They employ 16 people and supply confectionaries, buns and bread to the community, crèches and a local mine.

Thanks to support from several organisations and funding from the Nelson Mandela Children's Fund, Anglo Platinum and the Department of Trade and Industry's Co-operatives Incentive Scheme (CIS), the co-operatives could buy equipment, a building and a bakkie, which has helped them to raise the monthly income from their project.

In 2011/12 the department helped 130 co-operatives with CIS grants. Co-operatives

can also get funding of up to R10 000 from the Small Enterprise Finance Agency (SEFA), while several provinces, mainly through their respective development agencies, have set aside large amounts of funding for co-operatives to buy machinery and attend exhibitions.

When they need support co-operatives can approach the Small Enterprise Development Agency (SEDA). They assisted 125 co-operatives in the 2011/12 financial year, mainly helping members to access markets, finance and infrastructure, and to offer them mentorship.

In 2010, following assistance from SEDA in areas such as management and quality control, Rosdavi Manufacturing Primary Co-operative increased its sales and reduced its turnaround time.

The co-operative, chaired by Mthethua, specialises in manufacturing leather products, such as belts and handbags, mainly for boutiques in Cape Town and Gauteng.

He and his wife originally started a close corporation (CC) in 2003, but converted it to a co-operative in 2009 after hearing about the increasing support government was giving to co-operatives.

The co-operative's three other members have a 50% share in the business, with an option to increase this in such a way that each member has an equitable share.

"Co-operatives have a future because they create a spirit of community ownership and production," Mthethua said.

SEDA's senior manager responsible for the Co-operatives and Community Public and Private Partnership Programme Zandile Dlamini said co-operatives needed to be supported as they provide employment to those in and outside co-operatives.

She said people most suited to forming a co-operative were those willing to work in a collective and democratically controlled business environment and who want to make a profit.

In addition to SEDA's support, the Department of Trade and Industry in partnership with provincial governments, also helps co-operatives to buy machinery and exhibit their products at local and international exhibitions.

For more information, contact Department of Trade and Industry at tel. 0861 843 384

New wave of career options

More than 5 000 high school learners from Gauteng had a glimpse of what it is like to work in the maritime sector, thanks to a career expo by the South African Maritime Safety Authority (SAMSA).

SAMSA's recent Career Focus programme, exposed learners to a variety of careers in the fields of shipping, marine resources, marine tourism and leisure, marine manufacturing and construction and commercial support fishing.

"I'm glad I was part of this programme. I learnt many things and am now considering a career in the maritime sector. I would like to become a maritime engineer. I learnt that I would have to work hard to realise my dream. From now on I will focus on my studies to ensure I get good matric results. I also learnt that I must stay out of trouble so that I don't get a criminal record," Lloyd Maapesa (17), a grade 10 pupil from Eginisweni Secondary School, said.

Sindiswa Nhlumayo, executive head of the Centre for Excellence at SAMSA, said the week was a success. "The programme came at a time when these young learners needed this type of information most. The learners were fascinated and overwhelmed by the captains and young men and women in marine uniform.



More than 5 000 high school learners from Gauteng got a glimpse of what it is like to work in the maritime sector.

Most of the learners, in particular those in Grades 11 and 12, took the information to heart. They asked many questions – an indi-



cation that some were considering a career in the maritime industry. SAMSA saw a need to focus on awareness of the maritime industry

as a possible economic driver and a career of choice, and to address the misconception that the maritime industry is restricted to a certain segment of population."

The programme, endorsed by the Gauteng Department of Education and the Sci-Bono Discovery Centre, is SAMSA's response to the maritime skills development study commissioned in 2010 to address the unemployment and skills shortages in South Africa. The study called on training institutions, government and the private sector to work together to ensure that South Africans were armed with skills to participate in the maritime sector, and bridge the existing skills gap.

Nhlumayo said the programme, which was launched at a time when the organisation celebrates 14 years of existence, would be introduced to all nine provinces. She added that plans are also underway to host a career expo that will target learners, graduates and all the marine sector stakeholders.

"There is so much to be happy about, not only are we doing our bit to unlock career doors for our youth, today, we are celebrating the milestones this young organisation has achieved," she said.

For more information, contact SAMSA on 012 366 2600



Employment News

Eskom Awards give small business a platform to shine



ArchWorXs Architect and Project Managers founder, Xabiso Sidloyi receives his award from Haylene Liberty, CEO of Eskom Development.



Elegant Line Chemicals founder, Nelly Shezi receives her award from Haylene Liberty, CEO of Eskom Development.



Tlamelo Fresh Produce founder, Pearl Tlamelo receives her award from Haylene Liberty, CEO of Eskom Development.

Samona Murugan



Eskom made every effort to impress at their annual Business Investment Competition (BIC) Awards Gala Dinner held in Gauteng recently. The competition recognises and rewards the bravery and perseverance of small businesses with the potential to stimulate the entrepreneurial market space in South Africa.

The competition, a flagship event run by the Eskom Development Foundation, is open to registered South African, black-owned enterprises that have been operating for more than a year. The businesses may operate in any province in the agricultural, manufacturing and trade/services sectors.

The top-three winners in their respective categories were in the trading and services sector – ArchWorXS; in the manufacturing sector – Elegant Line Chemicals; and in the agricultural sector – Tlamelo Fresh Produce.

TRADING AND SERVICES SECTOR: ARCHWORXS

ArchWorXS is a small architectural firm with branches in Port Elizabeth and East London in the Eastern Cape. Founded in June 2008, they provide architecture and project management services while employing 10 qualified people. The business has grown from humble beginnings in founder Xabiso Sidloyi's bedroom to a successful company. Sidloyi admits that the recession has slowed down the market considerably, but he is proud that they could still grow the company under these conditions.

The sound financial management and impressive growth of this business in the face of difficult circumstances won over the adjudicators. "This kind of business often suffers from cash-flow issues, although skills are never a problem," the adjudication panel noted. "But they seem to have grown nonetheless. Sidloyi understands the market. He knows where his market opportunities are, and in an industry that is prone to corruption, he is running an honest operation that is just growing and growing."

Sidloyi was very proud to have claimed top

place in his category. "It means a lot, as it is in recognition of all our hard work in building the company," he said. "The prize money will allow us to buy furniture and computers, which will help us employ more staff and deliver more to clients."

ArchWorXS was awarded a cash prize of R100 000 to improve the business. They may now also exhibit at the annual Eskom Business Opportunities and Franchise Expo (BOFE). The expo gives small businesses a versatile marketing platform from which to build brand awareness, interact with potential customers and investors, and generate media coverage.

MANUFACTURING SECTOR: ELEGANT LINE CHEMICALS

The adjudicators at Eskom's annual Business Investment Competition (BIC) were clear on two points: starting a small business in South Africa requires an extraordinary amount of courage and it is crucial to follow your line of expertise. The winner of the manufacturing sector, Elegant Line Chemicals, lives up to these two principles and has been an inspiration to finalists, adjudicators and organisers alike.

Elegant Line is a successful, female-run company in Durban that has been in operation since January 2007. The business employs 15 people and produces detergents, water treatment chemicals, lubricants and industrial commodities. The services they provide are wastewater management, lab-testing services, and research and development of new products for the market.

When co-owner Nelly Shezi started the company, she was working full time as a senior chemist. She saw an opportunity to give back to her community and fulfil her dream of creating jobs by starting her own business. "I started with one tiny office and just one employee – a receptionist. We only distributed chemicals then and didn't manufacture them," Shezi said.

After a year, Elegant Line started making detergents, but once they started making water treatment chemicals, lubricants and industrial commodities the business really took off. Shezi's perseverance and skills have taken

the company from one success to the next.

"It hasn't been easy, but I have learnt that you have to persevere," Shezi said. "It's important to know what you want out of life and make it happen. It's also crucial to do something in line with your expertise. We have built the foundation and we are headed in the right direction. We now need to focus on aggressive marketing."

Elegant Line impressed adjudicators by its innovation and sustainability. "It often happens in this business that people limit themselves to household detergents and don't go any further, as they cannot compete with commercial companies," the panel noted. "But Elegant Line employees are qualified, which gives them the ability to invent new products. There is also potential in the services they offer on a commercial level. As a black-owned company in this industry, there is a big market for them to tap into. Sometimes you find that the potential is there but the business doesn't have what it takes to exploit that potential. But that is not the case here."

As the winner in their category, Elegant Line won R100 000 to improve the business. They can now also exhibit at the annual Eskom Business Opportunities and Franchise Expo (BOFE).

AGRICULTURAL SECTOR: TLAMELO FRESH PRODUCE

Making a success of a small business, particularly in the agricultural sector in South Africa, takes courage, vision and foresight – three qualities Pearl Tlamelo, owner of Tlamelo Fresh Produce, has in abundance.

This was what impressed the adjudicators of Eskom's annual Business Investment Competition (BIC) when they awarded Tlamelo Fresh Produce first place in the agricultural category, which saw her winning R100 000 in prize money to improve her business.

Tlamelo Fresh Produce, a dynamic agricultural business near Mahikeng in North West, succeeded in edging out the competition thanks to the diversification and foresight in their business plan.

The business has been in operation since February 2007 and they are involved in organic and inorganic farming. Tlamelo Fresh

Produce employs 18 people. The business has grown from a two-hectare plot to a thriving agricultural business. They produce a range of vegetables and have recently started mixed farming by adding a piggery, poultry and cattle to their farm.

Tlamelo's spirit and dedication along with what she has accomplished in the tough agricultural market has impressed adjudicators. In addition, her passion, understanding of farming, strong business acumen and the fact that she was doing everything on her own without expecting handouts also made a great impression. "The product diversification in her business strategy is profound. She is lateral in her approach and is driving everything on her own," the panel of adjudicators commented.

A particular focus of Tlamelo's is creating employment for the youth in her community. She enjoys teaching them, helping them to build confidence and finds the process of growing together very rewarding. Interestingly, she chose one of her younger employees to accompany her to the BIC adjudication in Johannesburg to open her eyes to the potential of the business and the entrepreneurship. "I have brought a young employee to the adjudication with me to show her what we can achieve – and that in agriculture you don't have to be dirty all the time," Tlamelo added jokingly.

She outshone the competition largely because of the benefits her vision has brought to her business. "She wants to get into agro-processing," noted the adjudicators. "That vision is there. She has both foresight and insight."

Tlamelo won R100 000 in the first competition she has entered on her own, after having heard about the BIC on the radio.

"This shows that I have grown and the business has grown," she commented. "I can now stand up and say: 'This is what we can do.' People will be able to see as a youngster you can make a difference in Mahikeng."

For more information, contact
Eskom at tel. 0860 037 566

More jobs in North West thanks to Expanded Public Works Programme

The North West Provincial Government created 55 830 jobs during the 2011/12 financial year thanks to the Expanded Public Works Programme (EPWP). This is according to a report submitted to the Provincial Executive Council.

According to the 4th Quarter Report on EPWP phase 2 for the past financial year tabled by the Executive Council Cluster on Economic and Infrastructure Development, over R6,2 billion was spent across departments on 1 554 projects.

In total, the provincial government created 27 289 jobs, national government created 17 855 jobs and local government created 10 686 jobs. The Mahikeng Local Municipality recently scooped the National Kamoso Award as the leading municipality in the implementation of the EPWP.

MEC for Public Works, Roads and Transport Raymond Elisha reported that the highest wage paid for EPWP in the province was R94 for beneficiaries who participated in the infrastructure sector while the lowest was R41 for social sector projects.

The infrastructure sector of the EPWP involved the use of labour-intensive construction methods to deliver service in all government-funded infrastructure projects for constructing rural and low-volume roads, municipal pipelines, pavements and storm water drains.

To continue creating job opportunities, the executive committee decided that all heads of department must prioritise the programme to meet its targets. This means that all senior managers must sign performance agreements that integrate EPWP implementation and success.

Urging departments to intensify job creation in the current financial year, Premier Thandi Modise reminded MECs that using labour-intensive methods in government-funded service delivery projects would create more jobs and stimulate entrepreneurship.

"This means those who have acquired skills through training should make way for new beneficiaries. Mentorship should support exit strategies to ensure that those who have completed their learnership programmes stand on their own," Premier Modise said.

For more information, contact
North West Public Works, Roads and
Transport at tel. 018 388 1454

Youth Matters

Laptops for Free State bursary holders

About 6 000 students who received bursaries from the Free State provincial government now have laptops. In awarding these laptops, Premier Ace Magashule fulfilled the promise he made during his State of the Province Address in March to give all bursary holders laptops.

Announcing the “one-student-one laptop” initiative, Premier Magashule said bursary holders would receive laptops to help them with their studies. “Nowadays it is very hard to study at universities without access to the Internet or a computer to do assignments. We are responding to the needs of our bursary holders who told us they need laptops to succeed in their studies. We are determined to ensure that all our bursary holders complete their studies and return to the help develop the province.”

The provincial administration has invested R320 million in bursaries since 2009. The bursary covers tuition fees, accommodation and stationery.

“Almost every town of the province has been touched. Black and white learners have benefited from our bursary scheme,” Premier Magashule said.

The Free State government bursary scheme focuses on scarce skills in fields such as civil engineering, electrical engineering, chartered accountancy, agricultural science, medicine, veterinary sciences, environmental science,

information and communication technology and Mathematics.

Twenty five students are targeted for each of these fields. After completing their studies, these students will work at municipalities that are in dire need of skilled personnel.

“We are investing in the future. We believe the decisions we take today will have a huge effect for generations to come. Our only condition for this full bursary is that once these students have graduated, they must work in the Free State for the period equivalent to their years of studies,” Premier Magashule said.

Addressing bursary holders in Bloemfontein, he encouraged them to study hard so that they can acquire skills needed to support the province’s service delivery strategy, Operation Hlasela, which aims to eradicate poverty and underdevelopment in the Free State.

Premier Magashule said the provincial government would ensure that more funds become available to award bursaries to deserving students.

Members of the Free State Executive Council, regularly interact with bursary holders to monitor their progress. In September last year, members of the Free State Executive Council led by the Premier, visited bursary holders in their respective tertiary institutions throughout the country.

“By awarding these laptops we are effectively combating computer illiteracy, poverty, unemployment and social exclusion by pro-



Free State Premier Ace Magashule helps students unwrap

viding disadvantaged students an opportunity to access quality education,” he said.

Magashule said the provincial government’s aim is not only to support students, but also for students to support their families and plough back to their communities. Bursary holders are chosen based on their grade 12 marks and their family backgrounds.

After receiving their laptops, bursary holders promised to make sure that they excel in their studies.

Education MEC Tata Makgoe gave a congratulatory message and encouraged students to dedicate their time to their studies. “This came at the right time for students. They will now be able to write assignments in the

comfort of their rooms and no longer have to queue to use computers in the computer lab.”

The Department of Education is administering the bursaries.

For any further enquiries and help in applying for bursaries, please contact the bursary office at the Absa Building, cnr. Maitland and Aliwal Streets, Bloemfontein at 051 447 2764. Write to the Free State Department of Education, Bursary Section, Private Bag X20565, Bloemfontein, 9300, or visit www.fsdoe.fs.gov.za.

Youth get Presidential awards for volunteer work



Deputy Minister in The Presidency for Performance Monitoring, Evaluation and Administration Obed Bapela presents Angela Chapell with the President's Award for Youth Empowerment



Emily Mabasa presented with the President's Award for Youth Empowerment.



Aphelele Nyangeni received the President's Award for Youth Empowerment.

Nthambeleni Gabara

South Africa recently honoured its youth at the Sefako Makgatho presidential guesthouse for their determination and efforts to improve the lives of the less fortunate.

Deputy Minister in the Presidency responsible for Performance Monitoring and Evaluation Obed Bapela honoured the youth with the President’s Award for Youth Empowerment last month. The awards aim to motivate young people to become involved in a balanced programme of voluntary self-development activities in the transition from adolescence to adulthood.

Congratulating the 60 Gold Award recipients from Gauteng, Limpopo and KwaZulu-Natal, Bapela said, “I challenge you to keep living the award in all you do. Continue working with the less privileged in the way you have. Continue to learn new skills and challenge yourselves in various ways as you move into the future. Our country needs young people like you to build our future.”

Bapela added that the awards give young people experience and make them responsible.

“We believe if more people follow their example, we can successfully nurture our youth and invest in their future. We are saying to our young people, don’t just stay at home or on street corners, do something in your communities and we will give you recognition.”

Gold award recipient, Jonathan Seland, 18, said he learnt many things by helping other people.

“It is very important to help different communities, teach people how to read and help those who are injured. Receiving the President’s Award means I have made an effort.”

Clare Walker, 17, said, “I enjoyed doing community work, it is so humbling. I want to urge other young people to make a difference by doing the same in their respective communities.”

Emily Mabasa, a disabled learner, received a standing ovation for her touching message on her involvement in the awards.

“I’m not disabled; disabled means you cannot do anything. I can do anything as long as I’m determined. I might be physically challenged, but God gave me a strong mind and as such, I can help others.

“If it were not for this award, I would not have discovered my passion for helping oth-

ers. The awards made me realise that I have knowledge I can share with others. I always push myself to the very end, it helps me in life not to feel sorry for myself as I only have one life and I will live it just like everyone, I only have one difference from others.”

Bapela announced that the National Youth Development Agency (NYDA) is in the process of signing its first service level agreement with the organisers of the President’s Award Programme to increase support for the organisation’s work.

“We hope to create greater access to the Award Programme with this partnership and enable more young people to develop themselves through this exciting international initiative,” he said.

According to Bapela there are many ways to help young people. These include challenging them to think out of the box and exposing them to various experiences and pushing their own boundaries.

Bapela said what young people needed was to believe in and contribute to their communities and society.

“Listening to young people this evening, it was clear that we need to touch more young people in South Africa by the Award

Programme to create a future built on a solid foundation.

“It is not easy, but we need to work hard to develop the positive energy of young people in this country and harness it,” Bapela said.

In August 2010, at the start of the United Nations’ International Year of Youth, President Zuma accepted the role of patron-in-chief, from President Nelson Mandela, the founding patron-in-chief of the UN.

Last year, during the presidential budget vote speech in Parliament, President Zuma called upon the private sector to support the valuable work that the award was doing for young people in South Africa.

The award programme was first introduced in the United Kingdom in 1956 as The Duke of Edinburgh’s Award.

Today, the award programme runs in more than 120 countries, with 21 in Africa.

In South Africa, the award programme started as the Gold Shield Award in 1983 and 11 years later, in 1994, it was renamed the President’s Award for Youth Empowerment.

The programme has four sections designed to provide a balanced programme of personal development: service, skills, physical recreation and adventurous journey.



Know your Ministers

New Ministers appointed

President Jacob Zuma has made more changes to Cabinet following Minister Nkosazana Dlamini Zuma's resignation to take up her position as chair of the African Union Commission in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia.

Minister Naledi Pandor has taken over as Minister of Home Affairs, a department that has implemented a successful turnaround strategy and has seen improvements in the issuing of identity documents and passports. The former Deputy Minister of Science and Technology has become Minister.



Naledi Pandor
Minister of Home Affairs

As one of the longest serving female ministers, Pandor served as Minister of Education from 29 April 2004 to 10 May 2009 and Minister of Science and Technology from 11 May 2009 until her

appointment on 3 October 2012.

Minister Pandor played a significant role in South Africa's bid to host the Square Kilometre Array (SKA) and managed to secure 70% of the world's largest radio telescope. The SKA will be based in the Northern Cape.

ACADEMIC QUALIFICATIONS

Minister Pandor matriculated from Gaborone Secondary School in Botswana in 1972. She holds the following degrees:

- a Masters in Education, from the University of London obtained (1979)
- a Master of Arts in General Linguistics from the University of Stellenbosch (1997)
- a Bachelor's Degree and CCE from University of Botswana and Swaziland (1977)
- a Diploma in Education from the University of London (1978)
- a Diploma in Higher Education, Administration and Leadership from Bryn Mawr Summer Programme (HERS) (1992)
- a Diploma in Leadership in Development from the Kennedy School of Government, University of Harvard in 1997.



Derek Hanekom
Minister of Science and Technology

Minister Hanekom served as Deputy Minister of Science and Technology from 29 April to 3 October 2012. He also served as Minister of Agriculture and

Land Affairs from 1994 to 1999 and he was a Member of Parliament from 1999 to 2004.

He worked abroad and in South Africa from 1972 to 1977 and was a full-time farmer from 1978 to 1983.

In 1986 he was arrested and served his sentence in Pretoria for political activities. From 1986 to 1987 he worked for an NGO providing support to trade unions and church organisations.

ACADEMIC QUALIFICATIONS

Mr Hanekom matriculated from Jan van Riebeeck High School in Cape Town in 1970. He pursued non-degree purposes studies in economics, land and agricultural policy and eventually enrolled for a B.Com degree.

Profile - Sibusiso Joel Ndebele



Mduduzi Tshabangu

In June 2012, Sibusiso Joel Ndebele became Minister of Correctional Services. This came after serving three years as the National Minister of Transport. Before then, from 2004 to 2009, he served a term as the Premier of KwaZulu-Natal.

Minister Ndebele had also served in the National Executive Committee (NEC) of the ANC since 1997, after which he became Provincial Chair. From 1994 to 2004 he was the MEC for Transport in KwaZulu-Natal.

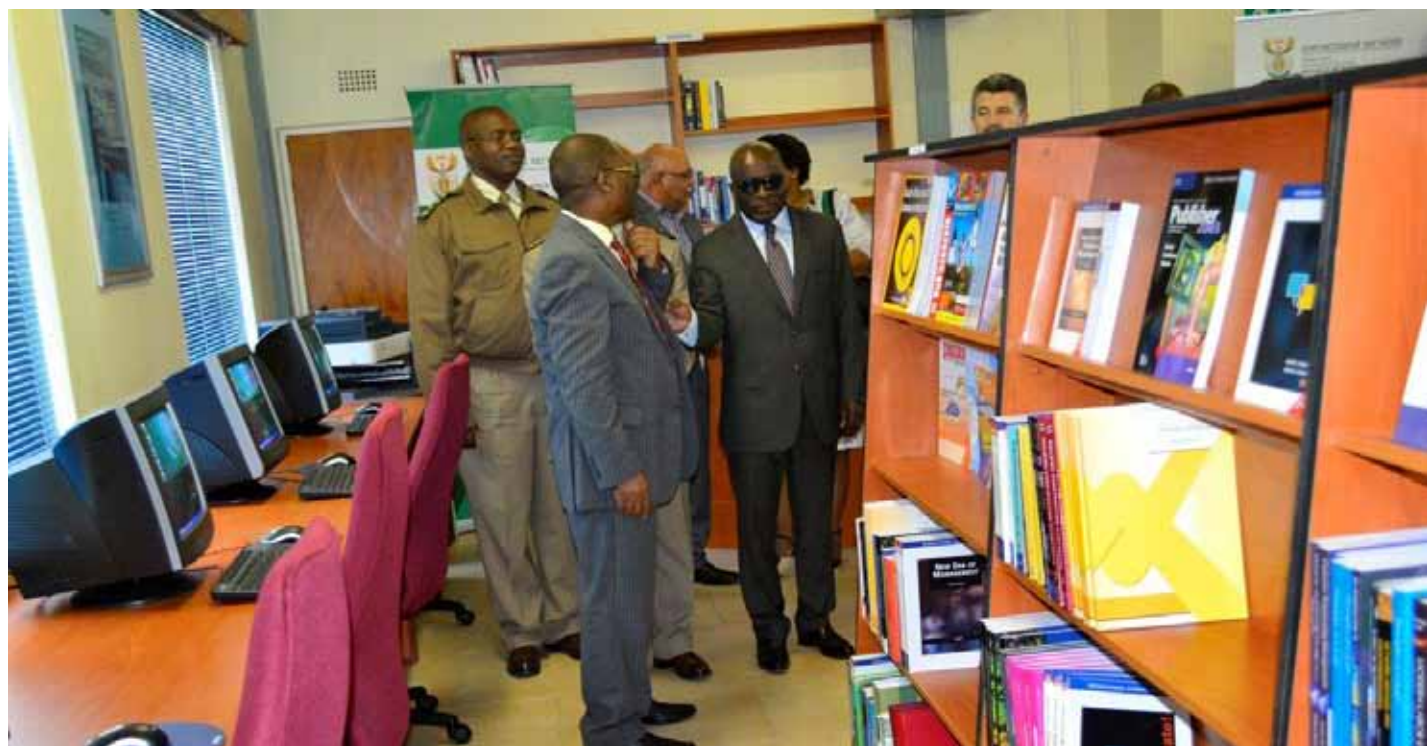
As a student at the University of Zululand in 1972, Minister Ndebele became publicity secretary of the South African Students Organisation. Shortly thereafter, in 1974, he joined the ANC underground and went into exile in

Swaziland. The South African Police arrested him in May 1976 for ANC activities and in June the following year he was sentenced to ten years on Robben Island.

Minister Ndebele obtained a degree in Library Science from the University of Zululand in 1972, a Bachelor of Arts degree in International Politics and African Politics from the University of South Africa in 1983, and a Bachelor of Arts Honours in Development Administration and Politics in 1985, which he completed with distinction.

In 2000, Minister Ndebele received the OMTO award for continuous support of the African Renaissance at the Transportation African-Renaissance Transportation in 2000 and an Honorary Doctorate from the University of Zululand in 2005

Reading redeems offenders



Minister Sibusiso Ndebele and Deputy Minister Adv. Ngoako Ramatlhodi inspect the resource centre recently launched by the Department of Correctional Services at the St Albans Correctional Centre in Port Elizabeth. The centre forms part of the Reading for Redemption campaign aimed at instilling reading and learning amongst offenders.

* Molatelo Mokumo

Thanks to the Reading for Redemption Campaign, offenders at some prisons are reading books and discovering the pleasures of reading and learning.

The aim of the campaign is to build a new culture of reading and learning among offenders at all correctional centres. The campaign was launched by Correctional Services Minister Sibusiso Ndebele at St Albans Correctional Centre in Port Elizabeth in the Eastern Cape recently. At the event, the minister also opened the department's first of many integrated resource centres (IRCs). Other resource centres will soon open at Helderstroom and Goodwood in the Western Cape, Durban Westville in KwaZulu-Natal, Upington in the Northern Cape, Baviaanspoort in Gauteng and Rooigrond in North West.

Minister Ndebele first introduced the concept of Reading for Redemption in July when he appealed to community members to donate books. He said reading would help bridge the information gap and inspire a new culture of reading and learning among officials and offenders. The collected books were intended for use in resource centres, which incorporate libraries and computer laboratories to assist studying officials and offenders. The purpose of the resource centres is to serve as knowledge and information hubs, and provide an environment that promotes

human capital investment and supports the department's development and rehabilitation strategic objectives.

COLLECTING BOOKS

So far, the campaign has collected books worth more than R1,5 million, while the contribution from Van Schaik in Port Elizabeth alone accounts for over R1,1 million. Other donors include the Department of Basic Education, the Nelson Mandela Metro, the National Librarian, Rotary and Concerned South African Citizens.

The Reading for Redemption and the Integrated Resource Centres projects are subsidiaries of the department's Operation Funda launched in 2010 at the St Albans Correctional Centre by then Minister Nosiviwe Mapisa-Nqakula. Following the launch, the department registered eight full-time schools with the respective Provincial Departments of Education in four regions. They are Durban Youth Centre in KwaZulu-Natal, Barberton Youth and Maximum Centres in Limpopo, Mpumalanga and North West, Emthonjeni, Johannesburg Medium and Leeuwkop Youth Centres in Gauteng and St Albans and Cra-dock in the Eastern Cape. Four more schools, Tswelopele Correctional Centre in Free State and Northern Cape, Ekuseni Youth in KZN, Rustenburg Youth in North West, and Brandvlei Youth in the Western Cape.

Minister Ndebele, a former librarian, described the Reading for Redemption Campaign as one of the many departmental

vehicles for rehabilitation. He said the new baton of education in the department rests on promoting and nurturing a culture of reading, teaching offenders knowledge and skills and promoting understanding of, and support for, the transformation agenda of the Correctional Services Department.

"We want to encourage inmates to read, read, read and study, study, study. The emphasis of Correctional Services is on correction, and all of us can be corrected. We must create an environment in correctional facilities that contributes to offenders becoming better than what they were, thereby ensuring a better South Africa," the minister said.

He said reading will benefit offenders during their imprisonment and when they are released. "We want to see offenders proudly contributing to their self-care," he remarked.

Offender Bathandwa Mase encouraged fellow offenders to empower themselves by studying. "Sometimes we find privileges in correctional centres that were not available to us in our communities. We must use these opportunities presented through the Redemption Campaign and empower ourselves."

* Department of Correctional Services

For more information,
contact Correctional Services
at tel. 012 307 2000/ Anti Corruption
hotline on: 0800 701 701

General

Bad building: Hotline comes to the rescue

On 6 August 2011 Ms W Heukelman of Potchefstroom in North West lodged a complaint with the National Consumer Commission (NCC) about the shoddy building of a flower box at her home, but without a success. Apparently, Smart Stone, the company which was supposed to install the flower box, did not build it according to Ms Heukelman's specification. In fact, they didn't even complete the job. After several calls to Smart Stone an official promised to pay back her deposit and destroy the incomplete flower box but this didn't happen.

Ms Heukelman then turned to the NCC but they too could not help her. Finally, she turned to the office of the President on 10 April 2012 through the Presidential Hotline, which then routed a case to the Department of Trade and Industry (dti) to

investigate the complaint, since the NCC is one of the government agencies.

The dti established that the NCC could not help Ms Heukelman because they did not have enough money or staff to deal with the matter. The Presidential Hotline phoned Ms Heukelman several times to keep her informed about progress. Since the NCC could not help, the dti took the issue further and contacted Mr Thinus Marias of Smart Stone. On 28 August 2012 the DTI helped the two parties to come to an amicable solution. Smart Stone would pay her R1 250 as a courtesy, which was higher than her initial payment of R1 000. Ms W Heukelman made a courtesy call to the Presidential Hotline to thank them and to confirm that she was paid. She also said both parties signed a Lawyer's letter to declare the matter closed.

Hotline gives you wings

Desperation drove Jessica Marobane to call the Office of the President on 18 September asking for funding to study to be a pilot. The cost for the training of becoming a pilot amounted to R408 763.50. She applied for bursaries at different institutions without success. Since her single mother, Dorothy, could not afford to pay her tuition fees, Jessica decided to contact the toll-free Presidential Hotline.

The Presidential Hotline then approached the office of the Director-General and the office of the CEO at the Transport Education and Education Authority requesting financial assistance for Jessica to complete her studies. The office of the Director-General: Transport Education and Education Authority approved a discretionary grant to cover Jessica's tuition fees. Jessica told the Presidential Hotline that she has completed her training and is adding



flying hours so that she can become a fully qualified pilot.

For more information, contact the Presidential hotline on: 17737

Being under Administration

*Marilyn Williams

If you are thinking of applying for an administration order, think very carefully. It may be the worst option open to you.

Administration is one of the oldest and eventually the most expensive way to pay a reduced amount towards your debt.

If you are placed under administration, you must apply to the court through an attorney or an administrator. If your debt exceeds R50 000, you will not qualify for administration. This means, if you are paying off a bond or vehicle finance, you may not qualify for an admin order.

FACTS ABOUT BEING UNDER ADMINISTRATION:

1. Administrators charge for bringing the application to court and take a portion of what you pay them each month (between 12% and 15%). Many even charge more than they are entitled to in terms of the court tariff.
2. Interest continues to be charged on each account and because the instalment you pay is usually much less than you were contracted to pay, and you only pay every three months, you usually end up paying much more.
3. While this is an option in law, many consumers have complained that they were not properly advised about the effects of an administration order, and end up being worse off than before.
4. You will be listed on credit bureaus for a minimum of 10 years, which means you will not be able to buy anything on credit.

HOW TO BE REMOVED FROM ADMINISTRATION:

You can be removed from administration if there is good cause for a rescission of the admin order. The term 'good cause' means you can afford to pay the normal contractual instalments on your accounts. You can apply that the Magistrate Court in terms of the Magistrates Act, 1944 (ACT no.32 of 1944) remove you.

If you are over-indebted, it is better to go for debt counselling in terms of the National Credit Act. This is a holistic option where all your debt is covered, including bonds, vehicles, credit cards and furniture accounts. Debt counselling enables you to retain your assets. Once you have applied for debt counselling, you will pay a reduced monthly amount with the benefit of drastically reduced interest on all your accounts.

* Marilyn Williams is a registered debt counsellor.

For more information call the National Credit Regulator at tel. 0860 627 627

Elliotdale residents are proud new property owners



Eastern Cape MEC for Human Settlements, Safety and Liaison Helen Sauls-August hands over a new house in Kumanzi Village, Eastern Cape.

Irene Naidoo

After years of waiting, residents of Elliotdale in the Eastern Cape are finally proud owners of new houses that will replace the old mud structures they have called home over the years.

Eastern Cape Human Settlements MEC Helen Sauls-August handed over 200 houses in the first phase of the Elliotdale Rural Sustainable Human Settlements Project recently to beneficiaries of the government housing subsidy grant. These people fall in the income bracket of between R3 500 and R7 500 per month.

The MEC said it marked an important era in the rural development agenda for Elliotdale, Mbashe and the broader Eastern Cape.

She said the purpose of government's presence at Elliotdale was to reaffirm government's commitment to improve the lives of South Africans.

"This handover will clearly contribute to an improved livelihood and a complete human settlements project with a sports field and community centre for this village. This is one of many projects to have such amenities in our province," Sauls-August pointed out.

While phase one saw the construction of 200 units, a further 800 structures will be built in

phase two. At the end of the project, 7 000 new houses will be built. In addition, they will build toilets as well as a sports field and community centre.

The MEC urged those involved in the project to work hard to ensure that the community do not have to wait much longer for the services to which they have a right.

"Let us not delay service delivery, particularly the delivery of human settlements, as most of our people have been waiting for many years for these services and are expecting us to deliver on their expectations," she said.

The project not only resulted in houses for community members but also provided much-needed jobs. This included 22 job opportunities for skilled labourers, 25 for semi-skilled labourers, 64 for youth, 68 for women and 90 for men.

With 7 000 beneficiaries expected to have new houses by the time the project is complete, government expects many more employment opportunities for the local community.

Earlier this year, Deputy President Kgalema Motlanthe said government has implemented a number of projects in Elliotdale in the Mbashe Local Municipality, which is one of the 21 poorest district municipalities in the country.

At the Lekgotla of July 2011, Cabinet identified the 21 poorest district municipalities throughout the country. The Amathole District, under which Elliotdale falls, is among these.

"The Department of Rural Development and Land Reform conducted socio-economic surveys in Elliotdale, in wards 18 and 28 in the Mbashe Local Municipality, and has completed a community profiling report," Deputy President Motlanthe added.

Government is implementing a number of projects in the area. These include household water connections across the Mbashe Local Municipality, a housing project in Elliotdale and 25 household gardens.

In addition, 50 hectares of arable land have been cultivated. The Eastern Cape Department of Rural Development and Agrarian Reform is supporting the Elliotdale community with agricultural inputs. As such, 10 km of fencing of arable land has been completed and 15 cooperatives have been registered, Motlanthe said.

For more information call the Eastern Cape Department of Human Settlements at tel. 043 711 9777

General

SKA brightens future for Northern Cape

Edwin Tshivhidzo

Building a university and hosting the square kilometre array (SKA) in the Northern Cape will boost economic development in the province, President Jacob Zuma said during his visit to Carnarvon in the Northern Cape, where the SKA's first seven telescope dishes have been erected and put into operation.

He toured the SKA site accompanied by the newly appointed Minister of Science and Technology, Derek Hanekom, along with his predecessor who played a key role in securing the SKA bid for Africa, Minister Naledi Pandor.

President Zuma said the SKA would be good for education in the province and government would invest in research, development, education and skills.

"The SKA project presents an opportunity to recruit and train young South Africans intensively to pursue careers in the field of science and technology."

President Zuma said the SKA would place Africa at the cutting edge of scientific research. "It will propel our continent to the forefront of radio astronomy and will significantly advance our continent's scientific endeavours for many years to come. There is no doubt that through this massive project, South Africa and the continent will have much to offer the world of science and technology."

He said the SKA project would open many doors for emerging African scientists to collaborate with some of the world's best in the field of science and technology. "This presents an opportune moment for South Africa to add to its long and distinguished history of excellence in astronomy," he said.

The President also disclosed plans to set up 26 science centres across the country.

"The centres are vital to the development of human capital and inculcating the culture of excellence within the field of science and technology."

South Africa, as co-host of the SKA, is expected to become a global centre for information technology, fundamental physics, astronomy and high-tech engineering. This will lead top scientists and engineers throughout the world to visit Africa.

Following the construction of 64 dishes that will make up the MeerKAT telescope, another 190 dishes will be added during phase 1 of the SKA from 2016 to 2019.

By 2024 about 3 000 dishes will be spread across South Africa and its eight African partner countries, with about 2 000 of these at the core SKA site in the Karoo.

The core site will also host a large number of flat mid-frequency antennas, each about 60 m in diameter, the so-called fish eye lenses, used for full-sky surveys.

The first MeerKAT dish, about 13,5 m in diameter with a novel offset design will be installed by the end of 2013. The new dish design will allow the telescope to be even more sensitive.

"It was an enormous achievement for Africa to win the right to build the SKA here, but now the really challenging work starts," SKA project director Dr Bernie Fanaroff said.

The implementation phase ahead will present us with a series of formidable challenges. This includes the extensive infrastructure, engineering and computing solutions the SKA will require.

South Africa lead the African bid to host the SKA, which includes eight fully committed partner countries: Botswana, Ghana, Kenya, Madagascar, Mauritius, Mozambique, Namibia and Zambia.

"I'm very happy to see young people speaking so confidently and passionately about the project, and already building their careers in science and technology," President Zuma said.

**For more information,
contact the Department of Science and
Technology at tel. 012 843 6666**



Director of SKA Project South Africa Dr Bernie Fanaroff, Minister of Science and Technology Derek Hanekom and President Jacob Zuma visit the Square Kilometre Array (SKA) site in Carnarvon, Northern Cape.



Northern Cape Acting Premier Grizelda Cjekella, President Jacob Zuma, Home Affairs Minister Naledi Pandor and Science and Technology Minister Derek Hanekom at the Square Kilometre Array (SKA) site in Carnarvon, Northern Cape.

Re-register for your social grant today

If you receive a social grant from a cash pay point or the Post Office, you have until the end of December to re-register on the new biometric-based payment system to receive a new South African Social Service Agency (SASSA) payment card.

You can use your SASSA card to get your social grant from an ATM, a cash pay point or a retail store.

According to Minister of Social Development, Minister Bathabile Dlamini, SASSA started the process of verifying and reregistering beneficiaries in March and will complete the process by the end of March 2013.

To reregister you must bring along your identity document. A child who receives

a child support grant must bring along a copy of his/her birth certificate. You must also bring copies of the court order/s for all foster care grants.

All children who receive a foster child grant or a child support grant must go along with their caregiver, as the child and caregiver must enrol.

SASSA will conduct home visits for beneficiaries over 75 years, who are frail and/or bedridden, at their homes or institutions such as hospitals, old age homes etc.

JANUARY 2013 – MARCH 2013

SASSA has set aside January to March 2013 to register people who receive their social grants in their bank accounts.

BENEFITS OF THE NEW SYSTEM

As a beneficiary, you can use your SASSA payment card at any ATM (normal banking costs apply) or designated merchants such as Pick n Pay, Shoprite, Checkers and Boxer free of charge.

The improved biometric-based payment system will minimise fraud and corruption. You will be enrolled close to the community where you live and will be able to choose between a personal identification number (PIN), a cash pay point or a merchant with a point of sale device that can scan your fingerprint. Once you receive your new card, you must keep the card and the pin number safe.

REVIEW PROCESS

While the reregistration process is underway, the routine review will cease. However, from January 2013, planned reviews will continue. A review requires you to confirm that you still meet the criteria set to continue receiving the grant.

You may be subject to review if you:

- declared your income on your application
- receive a permanent disability grant but the medical assessment has indicated that your medical condition and/or disability may change
- receive a foster child grant on expiry of the court order
- receive a grant under a refugee ID and the period of the refugee ID has expired
- need to give SASSA extra information
- are suspected of committing fraud.

Before you are subject to review, you will receive a registered letter informing you of your responsibility at your last known address. It is therefore very important that you keep SASSA informed of any change to your address, and provide a postable address. If you fail to respond to official notification, your grant may be suspended and lapse.

Get the new SASSA payment card. It is convenient and gives you access to your social grant anywhere in the country.

Re-register for your social grant

- and get your new SASSA Payment Card!



The new SASSA Payment Card is convenient and easy to use. It also enables you to access your social grant anywhere in the country - at a cash pay point, ATM or merchant.



INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS

BRICS 'a voice for emerging economies'

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South Africa's prospects for growth and development will depend increasingly on diversifying and strengthening of economic links with countries in the south, said Trade and Industry Minister Rob Davies.

Speaking at the expert group meeting at Jakarta, Indonesia, Davies said that BRICS [Brazil, Russia, India, China and South Africa] was an important voice for emerging economies, adding that while South Africa's economic links with traditional trading partners remained important, prospects for growth and development will depend on diversifying and strengthening economic links with economies of the south, including Indonesia.

"The expansion of South Africa's trade and direct investment with the countries of the South, notably the BRIC countries, continues apace, with China and India at the forefront," he told the meeting.

Indonesia is the largest economy in South-east Asia, with gross domestic product (GDP) of around US\$1-trillion.

According to the Department of Trade and Industry, trade between South Africa and Indonesia grew between 2007 and 2011, with SA ranking 23rd as a destination for Indonesian exports, and Indonesia ranking 26th for imports from SA.

SOUTH AFRICA 'LOOKING TO THE SOUTH'

The share of the European Union in South Africa's total trade has declined from 36% in 2005 to 26.5% in 2011. "By contrast, the share of the BRIC countries in South Africa's total trade has increased from 10% in 2005 to 18.6% in 2011," he said.

South Africa, said Davies has a direct interest in extending BRICS cooperation to support Africa's economic development agenda.

Davies co-chaired the two countries' Joint Trade Committee (JTC) with his Indonesian counterpart Gita Wirjawan.

SUPPORTING AFRICA'S DEVELOPMENT AGENDA

Davies said South Africa had a direct interest in extending BRICS cooperation to support Africa's development agenda, particularly by "increasing financial aid to build infrastructure and industrial capacity, and increasing imports of value-added manufactured products from the continent.

"The abundant natural resources of Africa, the growing consumer power of Africa's emerging middle class, and high growth rates offer an opportunity to build a more sustainable and mutually beneficial relationship with Africa in the next decades," said Davies.

The South African government is of the view that the BRICS led Development Bank that is under discussion should mobilise resources for infrastructure and sustainable development projects in BRICS and other Emerging Economies and Developing Countries (EMDC).

South Africa will host the 5th BRICS Summit in March 2013 with preparations of the summit being already at an advanced stage. South



Minister of Industry and Trade Mr Rob Davies.

Africa was admitted to the economic bloc of emerging markets in 2010.

Among the key decisions expected to come out of the South African summit include the formation of a BRICS Development Bank. The plan is a subject of discussion among BRICS leaders who see it as a possible alternative financial institution to the International Monetary Fund and World Bank.

The aim behind the creation of a BRICS bank is to have a development-focused finance institution to support and drive commerce between the BRICS economies.

SA, Zim to develop small businesses

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South Africa and Zimbabwe have signed a statement of intent to identify ways of supporting and developing small enterprises and cooperatives in both countries.

The signing took place in Harare in October, and was witnessed by Deputy Trade and Industry Minister Elizabeth Thabethe and Zimbabwe's minister of small enterprises and cooperatives, Sithembiso Nyoni.

Thabethe, accompanied by a 40-member South African business delegation, is currently leading her fourth Investment and Trade Initiative to Zimbabwe.

FACILITATING TRADE AMONG COOPERATIVES

According to the agreement, a team responsible for cooperative development in South Africa will visit Zimbabwe by February to study the setting up of a cooperative training academy in that country, explore areas of commodity exchanges, and facilitate trade among cooperatives from both countries.

The group will also study the 1st Choice Wholesalers concept, a franchise that facilitates relationships between small manufacturers, suppliers and cooperatives, especially in rural areas, the Department of Trade and Industry (DTI) said.

"The two countries also agreed that South Africa will look into the possibility of sending its small enterprises or recently qualified graduates to be trained at the Indo-Zimbabwe Technology Centres by 2014, while officials responsible for enterprise and cooperatives development in Zimbabwe, and chamber representatives will study the incubation models in South Africa," Thabethe said in a statement.

"Zimbabwean small enterprises will also have an opportunity to be incubated in South Africa by the end of 2013."

'A LOT TO LEARN FROM EACH OTHER'

Thabethe said the agreement showed that South Africa and Zimbabwe had a lot to learn from each other.

"The expected beneficiaries of these visits

and interaction between governments will be businesspeople themselves. There is a lot that our countries can cooperate in for the development of our small business sector."

She added that South Africa's Small Enterprise Development Agency (Seda) and the Small Enterprises Development Corporation of Zimbabwe would soon meet to discuss areas of cooperation and the possible signing of a memorandum of understanding by the end of this year.

The Department of Trade and Industry's Investment and Trade Initiatives are part of its drive to create investment and export opportunities for South African companies in targeted high-growth markets.

Thabethe has in recent months led South Africa business delegations on a number of such missions, to countries including Gabon, Cameroon, Benin and the DRC.

SA steps up campaign for UN change

Sipho Seakamela



South Africa is campaigning for the United Nations Security Council (UNSC) to include African representatives.

Africa, which comprises 54 countries, is not represented in the UNSC, the permanent category of the organisation's peace and security organ.

As a principal organ of the UN responsible for maintaining international peace and security, the Security Council does not reflect the reality of the 21st century in terms of its composition and working methods. The reform of the UNSC in both the permanent and non-permanent categories is essential for the Council's legitimacy and efficiency. About 70% of the Security Council agenda relates to African country-specific situations, while the largest deployment of UN peacekeeping personnel is in Africa, most noticeably in the Democratic Republic of the Congo and Sudan. Despite these realities, Africa still does not have a permanent member on the UNSC.

In this context, South Africa has consistently supported the African position, calling for two permanent members and an additional three members in the non-permanent category since the establishment of the inter-governmental negotiation process at the UN. Pretoria has



President Jacob Zuma addresses the 67th United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) held at the United Nations headquarters in New York, USA.

simultaneously collaborated with progressive UN members within the so-called L.69 Group to speed up negotiations within the inter-governmental process to move beyond rigid positions of member states. With such persistence and the resolve of South Africa and many agents of change at the UN, I am convinced that the ultimate reform of the UNSC is unavoidable.

The world has changed significantly since the UN was established in 1945. For instance, the organisation's membership has tripled

from 51 in 1945 to 193 in 2012 and all African countries, except for the Western Sahara, have become independent. Inter-state conflicts are decreasing while intra-state conflicts are on the rise. However, the world still experiences intractable challenges such as terrorism, climate change and infectious diseases, even as globalisation gains momentum.

Equally importantly, new concepts such as the responsibility to protect, protection of civilians and humanitarian intervention are seemingly questioning the fundamentals of a

nation state including sovereignty and territorial integrity.

All these aspects make it important for the UN to review, revitalise and reform itself to become relevant in the 21st century. Accordingly, South Africa and like-minded countries in the African Union and other negotiating groups have supported and insisted on the reform of key UN organs.

The United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) contrasts sharply to the UNSC because it is more representative. All 193 heads of states attend the UNGA in New York every year. As the main and most representative organ of the UN, the UNGA requires vital revitalisation. In addition, its working methods need to respond effectively to challenges, including those in the three pillars of the UN: security, development and human rights. It is unsustainable for the assembly to be perceived as merely a rubber stamp of the UNSC decisions and platform for protecting some members of the UN who are often in contravention of the organisation's values and principles as adopted in the UN Charter. South Africa will continue supporting an enhanced role for the General Assembly in global affairs through its revitalisation process.

Sipho Seakamela is the advisor: President of the General Assembly United Nations General Assembly's 67th session



Sport

Learners from rural schools get a chance to play

Albert Pule



They came from the dusty rural and farm school playgrounds and gathered at the Boksburg Stadium to show off their sporting talents. Some of them came to the city for the first time in their lives to take part in the finals of the Transnet Rural and Farm Schools Tournament in October.

In total, 2 000 young people gathered at the Boksburg Stadium to display their talents, playing football, netball, athletics and chess on grass fields.

"Coming from a rural area, the children were so excited to be in the city. For some, this was their first time here," Bakamela Rai, a teacher from Mabela Intermediate School in the Free State, said.

The Transnet Foundation gives opportunities to learners who do not have access to sport facilities. In addition, the foundation identifies and develops young sporting talent in rural areas to become successful. By means of the programme, young people

from rural areas can display their talent to the broader sporting public. The initiative is jointly hosted by the Department of Education and aims to form holistically run sports leagues for boys and girls between the ages of 13 and 19 in rural areas.

"We have to nurture the collaborative partnership with Transnet Foundation to elevate and turn our farm and rural schools into centres of excellence. It creates conditions through which quality learning and teaching can take place. This has to be treasured and nourished by all concerned," the Department of Basic Education said.

The tournament started with 22 000 learners from seven provinces taking part. Many were eliminated and only 2 000 survived to face off over three days in Boksburg. Sports celebrities as well as former Miss South Africa, Bokang Montsane, and Transnet executives attended the event.

Transnet group chief executive officer Brian Molefe encouraged participants and said it was an achievement to compete in the tournament. "You are all champions in



Participants at the Transnet Rural and Farm Schools Tournament in Boksburg.

your own way. This doesn't mean you have to be number one. Just do your best.

"Consider for a moment what we achieve from sport, the sheer fun of competing,

the building of a healthy and alert mind and body, stamina, courage, perseverance, dedication, commitment, selflessness, and most importantly, the will to excel."

Celebrating 100 years of Alex

Following decades of adversity and years of uncertainty, struggle and triumph, Alexandra, the oldest township in South Africa, shines as it celebrates its centenary this year. It has been a turbulent ten decades for the township that has survived apartheid. This significant suburb of Johannesburg has been home to many, both notable leaders and citizens, and has withstood the worst of many struggles. At the launch of Celebrating 100 Years of Alexandra, government has reflected on the rich history of the township to mark this historic milestone.

Alexandra, or Alex, has become a densely populated settlement inhabited by a cosmopolitan mix of people from around the country. It was largely ignored for many decades before the onset of democracy. Many people learned to survive by their wits. This spirit of enterprise runs through the community of Alex, with spaza shops, street vendors and informal businesses flourishing. In addition, a culture inextricably linked to its rich heritage has also emerged, setting the township apart as one of Jozi's cultural hotspots.

Alex counts among its prominent former residents, former President Nelson Mandela, former cabinet ministers Alfred Nzo and Joe Modise, writer Mongane Serote, musician Hugh Masekela, soccer boss Irvin Khoza, church minister Reverend Sam Buti, former President of Mozambique, Samora Machel, and former First Lady Zanele Mbeki.

Sandwiched between Johannesburg's north-eastern suburbs Sandton and Bramley and the N3 highway, which outlines the eastern periphery of the metro, Alexandra is a sprawling ghetto township some 12 km northeast of the Johannesburg city centre.

It is characterised by high levels of unemployment, crumbling homes and rundown infrastructure, although there have been some notable developments recently.

Alex is home to a diversity of people speaking many languages, practising their traditions and cultural heritage. It still attracts new arrivals to the city even today, with many foreigners and people from other provinces settling in the township. One of the major problems facing the suburb's youth is the high rate of school dropouts because of pregnancy, poor academic performance and hopelessness. Crime is on the rise, driven by poverty. Many young people spend their time hanging out on street corners, loitering with little intent. Many find solace in drugs and alcohol – the most prevalent social ills affect-



President Jacob Zuma addresses the community during the centenary celebration of Alexandra township in Johannesburg.

ing the community.

Alex was initially proclaimed a township for white workers who were removed from Johannesburg's city centre in 1905. In 1912, the plots in Alexandra were sold to African and coloured people with freehold rights, making it a native township. "We must use this milestone to dedicate ourselves more than ever before to build a united and prosperous South Africa built on the foundation of Ubuntu, dignity and respect. Whatever challenges we face we will overcome working together," said President Jacob Zuma, at the centenary celebrations at Alexandra Stadium.

South Africans need to stand up for their rights without losing their dignity, he said. "South Africans are not hooligans; we are a nation of proud, respectful people who stand up for our rights and do so without losing our dignity and Ubuntu. We must promote this national pride so that the world will not develop the wrong impression of South Africa's people," the President said, adding that societies need to take stock and reflect on themselves.

In keeping with the tradition of the suburb,

a book containing unique, researched and documented stories of Alexandra has been published – *Alexandra: A History*. The book has been researched and written over the past six years and is a product of the Social History Project, a component of the Alexandra Tourism Development Project (ATDP).

But Alexandra is much more than just the book, there are many more exciting things in Alex.

ALEXANDRA TOURISM DEVELOPMENT PROJECT

The creation of the ATDP dates back to 2001, when the R1,2 billion project was launched to renew the vibrant but ramshackle township. The community-based initiative aimed to realise a vision for heritage tourism as a vibrant sustainable industry that builds on the rich resources of arts, culture and heritage in the suburb, while improving the quality of life of the residents.

ALEXANDRA HERITAGE CENTRE

The project also included the development of the Alexandra Heritage Centre, which sits

across the site known as Mandela's Yard, a shack, in which the former president Nelson Mandela himself occupied in the 1940's. The project builds a sense of community and provides poverty relief by training inhabitants in tourism and heritage, nurturing small enterprises, and by displaying the arts, culture and heritage of Alexandra. The centre is a place where residents and visitors can learn more about the history and heritage of the township through photographs, artworks, quotations and documents.

HERITAGE SITES

Over 100 heritage sites have been identified in Alexandra. Some include the Alexandra Beer Hall, Twelve Apostles Church of Africa, prominent family homes, the Alexandra Cemetery, hostels, Freedom Square, the Anglican Mission School, and the Msomi Gang headquarters.

Steeped in its rich culture and history, Alexandra has come a long way since the dawn of democracy, but still has a long way to go.