



KZN MEC Themba Mthembu, Department of Agriculture and Rural Development, Umvoti Mayor Thamsanqa Ngubane, Msinga Mayor B. Ngcobo and members of Operation Sukuma Sakhe within Umzinyathi District took to their hands and delivered the joyous Mandela Day at Umvoti AIDS Centre on 18 July.

This year's Mandela Day was a different one. MEC Mthembu and his delegation changed the lives of 100 young victims of HIV through the donation of warm blankets, donated mushroom garden with farming implements, and vegetable gardens. The intervention of the department continued to the planting of a one hector vegetable garden which is part of Food Security Interventions of the department. The joint operation was a swift response to the Department of Agriculture and Rural Development to fight poverty and bring much needed relief to Umvoti AIDS Centre and surrounding communities. This was confirmed by Umvoti Mayor Thamsanqa Ngubane during the community engagement where he told members of the community that the MEC for Agriculture came at the right time to his ward to support the most vulnerable communities. "It was a good coincident for our MEC to visit this ward since we really needed his services. Umvoti AIDS Centre is doing very well to support our communities and as government we have no reason to turn a blind eye on their effort to increase the life expectancy of our people", added Mayor Ngubane.

As part of the day's proceedings, MEC Mthembu also handed over 67 food vouchers to needy community members and five months grocery to the AIDS Centre. "We believe that with today's donation will improve many lives as the dream of our Honourable Mandela. The community garden we have ploughed today together with Umvoti AIDS Centre Mushroom will bring a much needed relief to both the AIDS centre and community as whole", added MEC Mthembu.



MEC Themba Mthembu and Umvoti Mayor Thamsanqa Ngubane with Operation Sukuma Sakhe Representatives planting vegetables and mushrooms for the AIDS Centre and community during Mandela Day.



Kids and community members during the Mandela Day for the AIDS Centre.



Umvoti Mayor Thamsanqa Ngubane and MEC Themba Mthembu addressing community members during the Mandela Day at the AIDS Centre.



Community members receiving food vouchers from MEC Mthembu and his delegation during Mandela Day.



Umvoti Mayor Thamsanqa Ngubane handing over blanket to kids. Umvoti Mayor Themba Mthembu, Msinga Mayor B.P Ngcobo, MEC Themba Mthembu and AIDS Centre Management receiving the five months grocery during Mandela Day.