



# MY DISTRICT TODAY



Issue no. 20, June 2012

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## Magnificent Friday for magnificent athletes

Writer: Candice van Reenen – Western Cape

On a chilly winter's morning, joining in on the festivities of the official launch of Magnificent Friday, warmed up scores of commuters.

Magnificent Friday, as launched by the Minister of Sports and Recreation, Mr Fikile Mbalula, is a national campaign, aimed at rallying South Africans to support our sportsmen and -women at the upcoming London Olympic and Paralympic Games.

As with Football Fridays, South Africans from all walks of life are called to proudly wear their favourite South African t-shirt, cap or jersey every Friday, in preparation for this magnificent event and support Team South Africa.

The launch took place at the Bellville Train Station in the Western Cape amidst rail commuters and traders. A team of ambassadors, who included sporting heroes such as Desiree Ellis, Team South Africa ambassador; Western Cape MEC for Sports, Dr Ivan Meyer; 2012 Comrades Marathon Winner, Ludwick Mamabolo; and Jimmy Tau of Kaizer Chiefs, joined the Minister who addressed the nation through a direct broadcast on Morning Live.

Nadeema Petersen, a community development worker from Mitchells Plain who came in support of the event said, "I woke up at four am this morning to be here, because I feel it's important for South Africans to be patriotic and stand by the athletes who will represent us."



The Olympic and Paralympic Games are major international events in which thousands of athletes from around the world participate in a variety of physical competitions. More than 200 countries will participate in the Olympic Games, which first started in Greece.

**"I woke up at four am this morning to be here, because I feel it's important for South Africans to be patriotic and stand by the athletes who will represent us."**

According to Minister Mbalula, events leading up to the Olympic Games are all part of showing unwavering support for the national teams who qualify. "We do this to show our undivided support for all our athletes and our national teams on their journey to London. Our country is behind you," he said.

This activity, which brought back fond memories of the 2010 FIFA World Cup™ also saw the participation of the official mascot of Team South Africa, Chukuru – The word, chukuru is the Setswana word for "rhinoceros."

This Western Cape activity forms part of a national roadshow, where the Department of Sport and Recreation will travel throughout the provinces to promote the campaign.

Some of the sporting codes include hockey, football, athletics, cycling, rowing and swimming.

The Olympic Games have come to be regarded as the world's foremost sports competition. The Olympic Games are held every two years, with Summer and Winter Olympic Games alternating, although they occur every four years within their respective seasonal games.

The Minister recently announced that Sport and Recreation South Africa had set aside more than R34 million for the preparation of South African athletes who will participate in the forthcoming London Olympics. Most of the money will be transferred to the South African Sports Confederation and Olympic Committee, the organisation responsible for the technical and physical preparation and management of Team South Africa.



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**This government is at work**

Writes Yolisa Manxiwa

**“The Lubala Initiative is a living testimony that working together we can do more in fighting the triple challenges of poverty, unemployment and inequalities. It further calls you and the council at large to consider replicating this model as you implement the priorities of your Integrated Development Plans (IDP),” said the Deputy Minister in The Presidency responsible for Performance Monitoring and Evaluation, Mr Obed Bapela, when he delivered his speech at the post-State of the Nation Address (SoNA) communication seminar that was held at Ingquza Hill Local Municipality, OR Tambo District.**

The Deputy Minister, accompanied by Ingquza Hill Local Municipality leadership during his public participation activity, expressed satisfaction with the progress made in the delivery of services at the Lubala War on Poverty (WoP) site of government at Ingquza Hill Local Municipality. This was an interactive platform in the form of a site visit and media walk-about at the Lubala WoP site where the Deputy Minister visited and assessed the progress that was made, which preceded a post-SoNA communication seminar.

Deputy Minister Bapela indicated that he will assess progress and identify areas that need intervention to report back on them so that departments can work together with the municipality to ensure delivery in those areas.

The Lubala community through the intervention of government’s WoP Programme received, among other things:

- built houses
- fenced gardens and seedlings

- funding and support of the poultry project
- water tanks
- building of an early childhood development centre
- building of a health post and provision of basic health-care services
- support to learners for further education through bursaries who will later become change agents.



Deputy Minister Obed Bapela at the Lubala Poultry Project with one of the members taking him through the facility.

The Deputy Minister noted the challenge of access to clean water and the district municipality made a commitment to roll out access to water to many rural areas including Lubala in the 2012/13 financial year.

Lubala Steering Committee Chairperson, Mrs Makhwalo Ncekana, expressed appreciation and acknowledged progress made by government in fighting poverty and changing the lives of the people of Lubala. Mrs Ncekana stated that they also welcomed the economic spin offs of the programme and the creation of jobs as many community members are currently employed on the various projects in the community through the Expanded Public Works Programme by building the early childhood centre; road maintenance; building houses; and building the health post. She pleaded

with government to look into the water crisis, as it is their biggest challenge. It affects the other poverty alleviation projects put in place, which include the food gardens and the poultry project.

The Government Communication and Information System (GCIS) undertook to make concerted efforts in supporting the creation and facilitation of communication platforms between members of the Executive and the public to afford political principals opportunities to experience first-hand information on government progress and forge strategic partnerships with communities. The post-SoNA information seminar was held at Lusikisiki College where various stakeholders in Ingquza Hill were able to engage in a dialogue in shaping the development of the community.



Deputy Minister Obed Bapela and Ingquza Hill Mayor, Mdingi at the Lubala symbolic electricity switch-on.

Deputy Minister Obed Bapela, interacting with stakeholders at this information sharing session, highlighted the announcement from the SoNA on government’s commitment to infrastructural development and the number of initiatives to be rolled out in the Eastern Cape, including the Umzimvubu Water Catchment, which will result in socio-economic opportunities for people in the area.

