

DID YOU KNOW?

National Child Protection Week is commemorated from 27 May to 3 June 2013 to raise awareness of the rights of children as articulated in the Children's Act of 2005. During this period, you are requested to wear anything Green to symbolise your support and pledge to protect a child. The theme for this year's campaign is "Working Together to Protect Children".



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Outcome 7: Vibrant, equitable and sustainable rural communities with food security for all

Pondo people give the N2 Wild Coast highway a nod

Ndyebo Kopo: GCIS Eastern Cape



Pondo traditional leaders at the public meeting in Flagstaff.



Minister Nkwinti during media interviews.

The Pondo people led by traditional leaders were overwhelmed with joy when they heard about the N2 Wild Coast Highway Project. The news was announced, at a public meeting held by the Minister of Rural Development and Land Reform Gugile Nkwinti, Chair of the Presidential Infrastructure Coordinating Committee (PICC).

The PICC's is tasked with assessing the country's infrastructure gaps through spatial mapping, by projecting reliable economic growth figures, and identifying areas of the country that lack infrastructure. Based on this, 17 strategic integrated projects (SIPs) have been developed to support economic development and address service delivery in the poorest areas. They are seen as catalysts to economic growth and job creation. The Wild Coast Highway Project falls under SIP 3. It will improve

access to KwaZulu-Natal and other national routes.

The engagement session marked the start of the development which promises job creation, skills development and the development of the Wild Coast area. This development will not be restricted to the N2 Wild Coast Highway, but will include the whole Wild Coast region and will result in development in adjacent areas joining the N2 highway.

The community said they looked forward to the development and believed that it would improve their lives, as a result of new business opportunities spurred by the development.

"I am here to listen to the people's views about this project. It is important to listen because some people's

houses will be affected by the development," Minister Nkwinti said. He explained that once consensus was reached about this project, a political committee would coordinate the project.

The community agreed that the project would indeed bring about the much-needed development. "We are thankful for this day that marks the start of the development because we are very poor in this area," said Fikile Alfred Nogaya, a community member.

"I think Government must introduce programmes to develop engineers out of young people from this area to contribute in this development," said Mr Mbhedeh, who represented OR Tambo District Municipality at the meeting.

A date was set for Pondo King Zanozuko Sigcawu, leader of the political committee, to convene a meeting with all stakeholders that will form part of the committee.



Outcome 5: A skilled and capable workforce to support an inclusive growth path

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It's cool to be an artisan

Sabelo Kakaza: GCIS Eastern Cape

The Deputy Minister of Higher Education and Training Mduzuzi Manana visited the King Sabatha Dalindyebo Further Education and Training (FET) college in Mthatha for the launch of the Year of Artisans. He said, "There are very few artisans in the country and a great demand for artisans around the world, hence 2013 was declared the year of Artisans."

The national Year of Artisans launch took place at the Tembisa Campus of the Ekurhuleni West FET College in Gauteng in February this year.

Government is introducing the advocacy programme under the theme "It's cool to be an artisan" which is already becoming popular among a large number of high

school learners. Each event links a local secondary school to a local FET college and works very closely with SETAs to facilitate workplace training. All FET colleges have been instructed to host open days for high schools to promote their programmes.

Speaking at the event, the principal of the KSD FET College said, "I appreciate our partnership with stakeholders, business and government. The KSD Local Municipality is working very closely with these institutions to provide bursaries to the municipality. In addition, the office of the Premier is establishing a SETA forum in the province, and the industries such as Frad's Auto Electrical Industries and other partners help to provide apprenticeship programmes for our students."

Monde Malangeni, beneficiary of the apprenticeship programme said, "I studied at King Hintsas FET College and enrolled for the apprenticeship programme. At the end of May 2013 I will be a qualified artisan."

The municipality's master plan is revitalising industries in Mthatha to ensure that when the students complete their theory module, they will be able to enhance their skills in a commercial environment.

Deputy Minister Manana called on all South Africans to support Government to promote artisan development. This will elevate the status of artisans and build a strong skills base in South Africa in an attempt to improve the employment prospects for young people.



Deputy Minister Manana visiting the workshop and practical site at the FET college.



Outcome 2: A long and healthy life for all South Africans

Saluting nurses, celebrating Nurses Week

GCIS Gauteng

National Nurses Week, which runs from 6 May and ends with the celebration of International Nurses Day on 12 May, also celebrates the birthday of Florence Nightingale who is considered the founder of modern nursing.

The Gauteng Department of Health along with Denosa hosted International Nurses Day in Duduza under the theme "Closing the gap: Millennium Development Goals". This slogan is intended to be a countdown to 2015 emphasising health-related goals.

Nurses are often the only health professionals accessible to many people in their lifetime. They are particularly well placed to serve disadvantaged populations. Nurses care for individuals of all ages, families, groups and communities, sick or well, while maintaining their health and wellness. In addition, they have a lasting impact on psycho-social and socio-economic factors such as poverty, unemployment and environmental issues.

Dr Ramokgopa told nurses they have helped to increase life expectancy in South Africa dramatically from 54 to 60 in three years. Nurses have also made it possible for the country to reduce mother-to-child HIV transmission from 8% to 2,5%. This is a positive sign that the country is on the verge of eliminating mother-to-child HIV transmission in South Africa by 2015.

"You should be proud of this achievement. This is your contribution towards helping the country achieve the Millennium Development Goals," Dr Ramokgopa added.

She urged nurses not to see their profession as inferior to other health professions and encouraged them to work hard for the achievement of the millennium development goals (MDGs).

"Now that we are approaching the finish line of the MDGs in 2015, you should give your best to ensure that the country achieves these developmental goals, especially those related to health and more" said Dr Ramokgopa.

Unity among nurses also came under the spotlight. Ms Thembeke Gwagwa, Secretary General of Denosa said it is important to unite nursing organisations to advance the socio-economic status of the profession and to influence health policies. "We need to work together regardless of our union or political affiliation. It is the only way to advance our profession and influence policies," she said.

Ms Gwagwa assured the Deputy Minister that Denosa would educate nurses on the eight Millennium Development Goals and encourage them to ensure that the country achieves these goals. Bonginkosi Shongwe and Thembinkosi Alam, both male nurses, said the day meant a lot to them, especially after being informed about nurses' contribution towards the country's achievement of MDGs. "We are amazed that nurses still manage to do a lot with little resources."

To Jabulile Khumalo and Kate Manyoni the day was like a restoration to the nursing profession, the honour and the noble tradition of the profession.

Thanks to technology, today's nurses have the benefit of proper medical facilities, technology and pharmaceuticals which have advanced way beyond anything that could have been imagined by Florence Nightingale. The compassion and professionalism with which she nursed remain at the very heart of the profession. Hence, during the celebration, a symbolic lamp was lit signifying that nurses will keep vigil over the sick and be a light unto others.



Nurses listening attentively to the Deputy Minister's speech during International Nurses Day celebrations.



MEC for Health Hope Papo introduces the Deputy Minister during International Nurses' Day.



Sister Morudi leads the symbolic lighting of the lamp and the reading of the Nurses' Pledge of Service.



The Lady with the Lamp – a symbol of nurses' commitment to serve humanity.



The Deputy Minister of Health Dr Gwen Ramokgopa addressing nurses during International Nurses Day in Duduza.

"I salute nurses as we celebrate and honour the nursing profession. You are the backbone of the country's health system. As the largest healthcare profession in the world there is no doubt that nurses are essential to achieve the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs)," Deputy Minister of Health Dr Gwen Ramokgopa said.

Improved quality of basic educations

Government delivers on commitments

Bongani Mazibuko: GCIS Mpumalanga

It is worth noting that a democratic government is the one that continuously interacts and consults with the people. This government faces challenges head-on and seeks ways to resolve them. This was evident when the National Council of Provinces (NCOP) held its programme Taking Parliament to the People in Carolina, in Chief Albert Luthuli Municipality (CALM), Mpumalanga, in March 2013.

It is hardly 60 days after the NCOP's visit and the Minister of Sports and Recreation Fikile Mbalula has already delivered on the commitments he made to the people. On Friday, 17 May 2013, he handed over sports equipment to the youths of Gert Sibande District Municipality. These

included poles, jerseys and balls of different sporting codes, athletics equipment such as the javelin and high jump.

A tennis court is also under construction and the community stadium will soon be renovated. Encouraging learners, the minister said: "You need to respect your teachers as your parents. If you respect and listen to elders you will go far. MEC, Mayor and teachers, the real work has begun. The tennis court under construction will be finished in the next three weeks.

We have delivered school sports equipment to several schools in this district and will return to renovate the

nearby stadium. The sports fields are not for hosting bashes, but for you to play so that we can meet you in Johannesburg during the School Sports Championships. We need young people who will represent Mpumalanga. Your role is to study and to play."

The youngsters were very excited about the equipment. One of the teachers said, "Children are very active people and if there are no sports equipment they turn their energy to crime which could destroy their future."

The district Mayor, councillor MPP Nhlabathi thanked the Minister and all who made this possible.



Recipients from Mkhomazane P School (above) and recipients from Violet Jiyane High School.



Top photo: MEC for Culture, Sports and Recreation Ms Sibongile Manana, Executive Mayor of Chief Albert Luthuli Municipality, Councillor Busisiwe Shiba, Chair of the National Council of Provinces Mr NJ Mahlangu, and the Minister of Sports and Recreation, Mr Fikile Mbalula.

Bottom photo: MEC for Culture, Sports and Recreation Ms Sibongile Manana, and the Minister of Sports and Recreation Mr Fikile Mbalula at the sod-turning ceremony for the construction of the tennis court.



The sports equipment delivered to the schools in Gert Sibande District Municipality.



The Minister of Sport and Recreation Fikile Mbalula interacting with recipients during the handover.



Chairperson of the NCOP addressing the community



*Left: The Minister of Sport and Recreation Fikile Mbalula being interviewed by SABC News.
Right: The MEC for Culture, Sport and Recreation Ms Sibongile Manana being interviewed by SABC News.*



The community in attendance.