




MY DISTRICT TODAY



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Special edition: Mandela Day

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OUTCOME 14: A DIVERSE, SOCIALLY COHESIVE SOCIETY WITH A COMMON NATIONAL IDENTITY

Mandela Day touches children's lives

By Sikelela Zokufa: GCIS, Western Cape



The book-reading session.



Community members at the event.



Children playing with the Springbok players at the rugby field.

On 18 July 2015, about 400 children from Nyanga and surrounding communities were invited to play with national rugby players at Lagunya Rugby Stadium to commemorate Nelson Mandela Day.

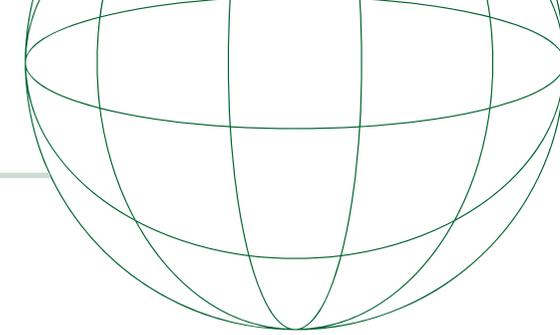
The aim of the event was to inspire children to work hard and dream big. Thabo Mabuza read Madiba's biography "Long Walk to Freedom" for the children. He said children must also do good things for their schools and communities, just like Tata Mandela.

Metropolitan Life Group supported the event by donating R5 000 to of Lagunya Rugby Club.



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After the book-reading session, the children were taken in groups to play rugby and they were led and assisted by Springbok players. Pick n Pay donated a big Nelson Mandela cake.

The event started in the morning by the painting and cleaning of ILiwa Primary School. The campaign was led by the school's former learners who formed a group and called themselves Old Buddies. Pinky Ngxola, who is a member of the group said: "This is our plough-back campaign to our school. We saw that the school needed our helping hand and we decided to take action and dedicate our 67 minutes to make a difference."

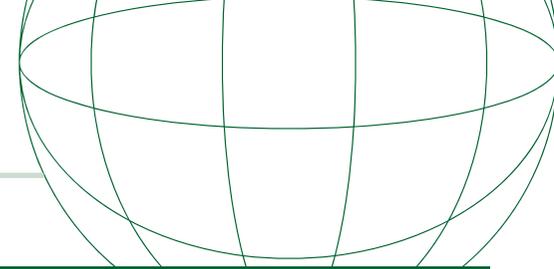


Members of Nyanga Rugby Club receiving a cheque of R5 000 from Metropolitan Life Group.



Nangamso Sihawu said:

Mandela Day always brings good results to communities. I am very happy to see former learners taking care of their school because their children are also here now. This will definitely motivate other former learners of this school to emulate their example."



Ntomboxolo Gombo said:

“I am very happy that we received a cyber lab from the Deputy Minister on this special day.”



Nozigweba Ngema said:

“It is a blessing and a wonderful experience to use tablets for learning.”



The Deputy Minister addressing community members.

OUTCOME 14: A DIVERSE, SOCIALLY COHESIVE SOCIETY WITH A COMMON NATIONAL IDENTITY

Mandela Day benefits community

By Vuyani Sibene: GCIS, Eastern Cape

Deputy Minister of Communications, Stella Ndabeni-Abrahams, and Government Communication and Information System officials worked tirelessly to make Mandela Day a success despite unpleasant weather conditions and an element of pessimism by some attendees.

They began their 67 minutes for Madiba by planting seedlings in the gardens of selected households within the village of KwaLindile. The Deputy Minister also presented blankets to the elderly, water bottles, shoes and calculators to children, and sanitary towels to girls from Ngubeszwe Senior Secondary School.

HIV Counseling and Testing was also carried out.

Dignitaries from the Department of Basic Education in the Eastern Cape, leadership from the municipality and the Chief of the area also attended the event. The Deputy Minister said: “Let us all follow in the footsteps of Tata Madiba. We cannot always go to shops to buy our food, let us practise the planting of seedlings to have carrot, cabbage and spinach from our own gardens.”

Government and Vodacom partnered to launch a cyber lab at Ngubeszwe Senior Secondary School.



The Deputy Minister hard at work.



Community members ploughing seedlings.



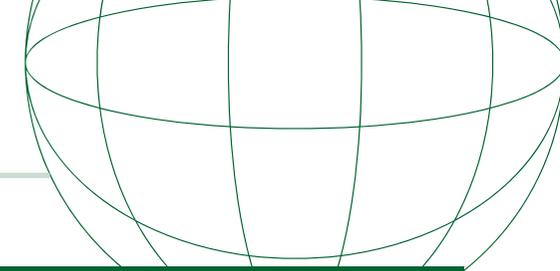
Learners with their tablets at the cyber lab.



The Deputy Minister engaging with the elderly.



Deputy Minister Ndabeni-Abrahams presenting gifts to learners.



Palesa Chakela said:

"I was very worried about how my child and I were going to survive this winter without blankets to keep us warm. I would like to thank government for this wonderful gift."



Jojo Kopung said:

"I am happy to have received a blanket. I wish government also gives me a job so I can buy myself blankets and other things in future."

OUTCOME 14: A DIVERSE, SOCIALLY COHESIVE SOCIETY WITH A COMMON NATIONAL IDENTITY

Nelson Mandela Day celebration in Setsoto

By Ntombi Mhlambi: GCIS, Free State



Mayor Jakobo, Councillor Mukhuoane and Councillor Mthimkhulu presenting a blanket to a beneficiary.

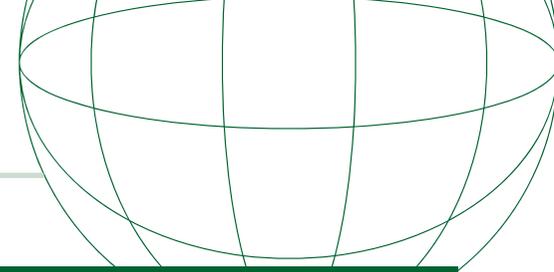


Members of the Community Workers Programme cleaning one of the households in Meqheleng.

On 18 July 2015, South Africans celebrated Nelson Mandela International Day. The day is commemorated in remembrance of the work of former President Nelson Mandela. The event is normally celebrated by dedicating 67 minutes to help others.

The Setsoto Local Municipality partnered with different stakeholders and took part in a cleaning campaign led by the Mayor of the municipality, Councillor Tshediso Jakobo. The cleaning campaign took place in all four towns of Setsoto with focus on child-headed and indigent families. After cleaning and renovating the households, the Mayor and Councillors donated blankets to identified beneficiaries. The generosity was also extended to pre-schools where hand-knitted blankets were donated by the Office of the Community Works Programme on behalf of the Department of Cooperative Governance and Traditional Affairs.

"We must ensure that the legacy of Nelson Mandela lives on by making everyday a Mandela Day. To us, this kind of activities might seem small but to those at the receiving end, it is a change that brings a sense of hope," said Mayor Jakobo.



OUTCOME 14: A DIVERSE, SOCIALLY COHESIVE SOCIETY WITH A COMMON NATIONAL IDENTITY

Nama Khoi Municipality reaches out to the elderly

By Willem van Dalen: GCIS, Northern Cape

The Mayor of Nama Khoi Municipality in Springbok, Boeboe van Wyk, and other government officials dedicated their 67 minutes for Mandela Day to the community of Komaggas, near Springbok in the Northern Cape.

These dignitaries embarked on an outreach campaign and entertained the elderly by doing, among other things, manicures, hand massages, tea and coffee, and preparing food for them.

Mayor van Wyk addressed the senior citizens and explained the origin of Mandela Day. "The world wanted to honour this great son of Africa who put the problems of others above his. He spent his life fighting for what is right and to assist those in need," he said.

The Mayor also said that on Mandela Day, all people should do something to make life better for others. "We do not honour Madiba alone but all people who made sacrifices so that we can live better," he continued.

Mayor van Wyk urged the senior citizens to share their wisdom with the youth because it cannot be found in books. He said they should share their wisdom to ensure that it does not end in vain.

The event was put in a party mode after the speech. Coffee and tea was served and little groups of older people got together to interact with one another.

Municipal officials did manicures and hand massages to the elderly while others prepared hot soup and bread.



Gillian Pieters said:

"I think Mandela Day should be highlighted on every person's calendar every year. When we celebrate the day, we remember our history and all the sacrifices that Madiba made for us. This opportunity allows us to show our love to the elderly and make them aware that we value them."



An elderly woman getting her nails cut.



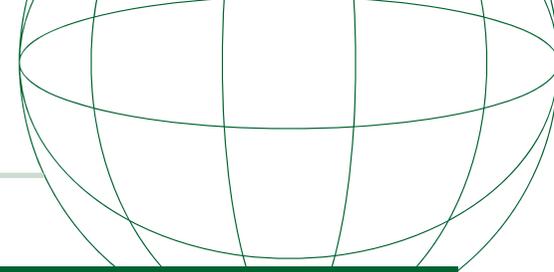
Councillor Goedeman welcoming the community members as Mayor van Wyk, Diergaardt and Councillor Pieters listen.



Municipal officials taking care of the elderly.



Councillor Pieters assisting an elderly man.



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Johannes Damon said:

“The whole event was inspirational. It brought the people of Komaggas nearer to each other. We really enjoyed the day.”



The Mayor having his hands washed.



An elderly person getting a hand massage.



Elderly women having a chat.



Elderly men enjoying one another's company.



Mona Engelbrecht said:

“This was a very enjoyable day. Mayor van Wyk presented a great speech with emphasis on the importance of sharing, caring and loving one another as members of the community. I enjoyed the day.”