




MY DISTRICT TODAY



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OUTCOME 12: AN EFFICIENT, EFFECTIVE AND DEVELOPMENT ORIENTED PUBLIC SERVICE AND AN EMPOWERED, FAIR AND INCLUSIVE CITIZENSHIP

Mandela Day community outreach: Eersterust

By: *Robbie Senoelo: DoC, Gauteng*

"Mandela lived and died, so that we could all have a better life!" shouted Quinton Davids after receiving a food parcel during the Mandela Day Community Outreach campaign, held next to the Eersterust Christian Centre in Eersterust on Friday, 18 July 2014. "Seeing poor people provided with food, courtesy of the selflessness of some among us, makes me glad, but I feel sad that we cannot feed ourselves because we are unemployed," concluded Davids.

In his 2014 State of the Nation address, President Zuma called on all South Africans to practise a healthier and cleaner way of living by taking care of their environment, and cleaning up the areas where they live. All South Africans were encouraged to dedicate 67 minutes of their time this Mandela Month to clean their communities and ensure food security.

In an effort to achieve this, DoC Tshwane, in conjunction with My Kassie 2ndChanz Foundation, embarked on a cleaning campaign with children from poor households and then fed them for the day.

My Kassie 2ndChanz Foundation is a local non-governmental organisation that caters for the well-being of poor households. According to the co-founder, Mrs Breda Koopman, they couldn't allow such an honourable and auspicious moment to pass without showing compassion to those unable to fend for themselves.

"Our focus this year is food security, which is a crucial social measure to ensure that homeless children, and people from poor households have access to sufficient food to maintain a healthy and active life. I want to thank community volunteers, South African Police Services Legal Support, The Presidency and the DoC for their support in making this day a success," concluded Breda Koopman.



Mrs Anne Steenkamp and Sis Angie Kieviets (wearing a cap) serving soup to people from poor households as part of spending their time to assist the less fortunate in the spirit of Nelson Mandela.



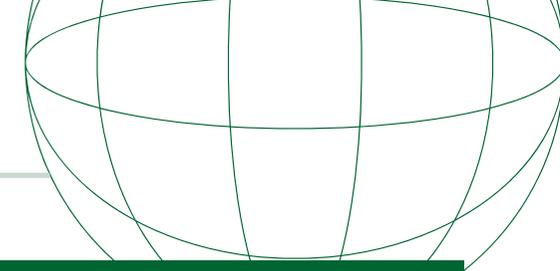
Members of the community queuing to receive food donated and prepared by My Kassie 2ndChanz Foundation, DoC, SAPS and The Presidency.



Quinton Davids: "Mandela lived and died so that we could all have a better life!"



Meiki Muller: "Thanks to Tata Mandela, we are all treated as human beings, despite being poor. Thanks to the spirit of Ubuntu, we have something to eat."



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OUTCOME 12: AN EFFICIENT, EFFECTIVE AND DEVELOPMENT ORIENTED PUBLIC SERVICE AND AN EMPOWERED, FAIR AND INCLUSIVE CITIZENSHIP

Minister urges businesses to play a role

By: Odas Ngobeni: DoC, Limpopo

During an Imbizo at Giyani on Saturday, 19 July, Faith Muthambi, the Minister of Communications, said that businesses and the community should play a role in turning Evuxakeni Care Centre into a centre of hope. Muthambi said, "It is my strong view that working together with the business sector and all the relevant stakeholders in our communities, we can turn this facility into a centre of hope."

The minister visited the psychiatric hospital as part of the Imbizo Focus Week. She led a 67-minute clean-up campaign at the centre, while others, including business people led by the Mayor of Greater Giyani, painted the steel palisade fence. She later helped to serve lunch to hundreds of patients at the centre.

"The National Development Plan requires active participation from everybody. We all have an active role to play in changing the lives of others. I am calling on the community of Giyani and the businesses to visit the centre more often, find out what the challenges are and assist where you can," she said. She announced that her department was adopting the centre, saying: "I've made a commitment to adopt the centre. The staff at our head office will be coming down here to celebrate the next Mandela Day with the people at the centre."

"The mayor has already committed to fixing the cracks in the walls in one of the wards and in the dining hall by the end of November, but there's still a great deal that businesses can contribute to turn this facility into a centre of hope. The issue of shortage of staff will be taken up with the MEC for Health. We have also heard that you used to have a revitalisation programme, which has stopped, but we will make a follow-up on that," she said.

The minister called on the community to emulate the humility of the late statesman. "I was touched by the initiative of the staff at my office in Pretoria to celebrate with the vulnerable people in Hammanskraal. The staff made a contribution from their own pockets to give to the needy, and that, to me, sent a message that, indeed, they are caring civil servants. This is a caring government."

"We are encouraging you to donate your old clothes. The moment you throw food in a dustbin, it must click in your mind that someone somewhere is going to bed on an empty stomach," she said.

Muthambi later told a local radio station that the training of councillors on communication will be prioritised. "We want our councillors to use this platform to talk to their communities. We are also going to make sure that our constituency offices are used by our communities as centres of help. We heard what our people want during elections. Our people want water, they want roads. This administration is about implementation now," she said.



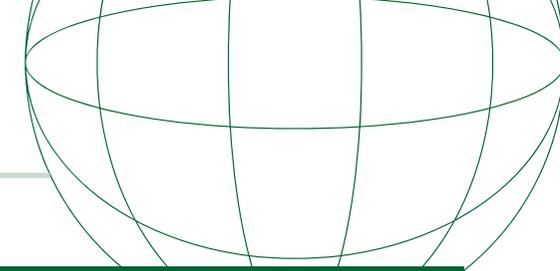
Minister Faith Muthambi serves lunch to patients at Evuxakeni Care Centre in Giyani on Saturday, 19 July.



Mayor Patrick Hlungwani of Greater Giyani Municipality, Minister Faith Muthambi and Tintswalo Mabunda, CEO of the hospital, dancing to a song by one of the patients at the centre.



Members of the community and hospital staff line up to receive information products at the DoC exhibition stall during an Imbizo at Evuxakeni Care Centre in Giyani.



OUTCOME 12: AN EFFICIENT, EFFECTIVE AND DEVELOPMENT ORIENTED PUBLIC SERVICE AND AN EMPOWERED, FAIR AND INCLUSIVE CITIZENSHIP

67 Minutes for Mandela

By: Tshiamo Maruping: DoC, Northern Cape

In November 2009, the United Nations General Assembly declared 18 July Nelson Mandela International Day, in recognition of the former South African President's contribution to the culture of peace and freedom.

Consequently, on 18 July 2014, the "67 minutes" Mandela Day was celebrated across the globe to honour the late global icon. This was Nelson Mandela's first birthday to be celebrated after he was called to higher service. For 67 years, Mandela devoted his life to the service of humanity as a human rights lawyer, a prisoner of conscience, an international peacemaker and the first democratically elected President of a free South Africa.

John Taolo Gaetsewe District Municipality officials kicked off the day by visiting a senior citizen in Mapoteng and laying the foundation for a new RDP house to be built for her by the municipality. The elderly woman, aged 90, has been living in a mud house her whole life. On Mandela Day, officials also handed over food parcels to the 90-year-old. The municipality aims to eradicate all mud houses in the district.

Municipal officials then went on to the Mothibistad playgrounds, where they got their hands dirty by pulling out weeds, clearing the area of papers and bottles, and burning the grass.

The John Taolo Gaetsewe District (JTG) Municipality has been making a difference through a variety of activities – from rebuilding homes to giving school supplies to children, preparing meals for the elderly, helping out in orphanages and cleaning up parks. Their objective is to not only offer a helping hand to the community on 18 July, but also to reach out to the public regularly.

"I am very happy that the municipality will be building me a house, as I have not been in a position to finance myself to build a decent shelter for me and my family. I have been living in a mud house all my life," said the 90-year-old woman.



District Mayor of John Taolo Gaetsewe Municipality, Mrs Sophia Mosikatsi said:

"This day symbolises Mandela's achievements in working towards conflict resolution, democracy, human rights, peace and reconciliation. Mandela taught us to be of help to our fellow citizens and with the 67 minutes we chose to assist a senior citizen by providing her with an RDP house. Fellow South Africans, let us continue making every day a Mandela Day."



Basic Services and Infrastructure Department's Mr Motshabi Molusi said:

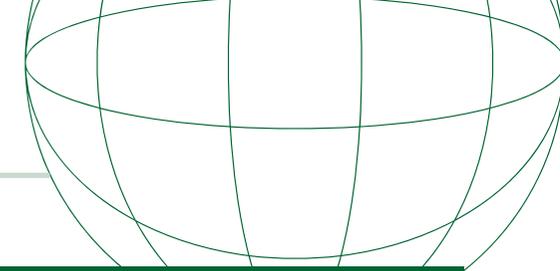
"Coming here today made me realise the importance of giving back to our communities. This initiative of building a house for some of our citizens is part of the Integrated Development Plan of the municipality. We will continue to eradicate poverty in South Africa."



The Executive Mayor of JTG District, Councillor S Mosikatsi and Mrs Mogodi handing out food parcels to the 90-year-old woman who will be the recipient of the new RDP house.



Municipal officials working hard during the sod-turning event in Mapoteng.



Mapula Mothebe said:

“Being a new mother without a job, you always worry about keeping your child safe and warm. Tonight my baby and I will be warm. Many thanks to all those who made this possible.”



Lerato Mokoena said:

“Tonight I will be sleeping wrapped in my new blanket. It is extremely cold where we live, but this blanket will make sure that the coldness of winter is kept at bay.”



After receiving gifts, Masello Moliroa said:

“I am so happy today to be receiving this gift on Mandela’s birthday. This means a lot to me, especially since I was also born in 1918, just like him.”

OUTCOME 12: AN EFFICIENT, EFFECTIVE AND DEVELOPMENT ORIENTED PUBLIC SERVICE AND AN EMPOWERED, FAIR AND INCLUSIVE CITIZENSHIP

Merafong City Mandela Day Community Outreach

By: Tshidi Mokoka: DoC, Gauteng

On 18 July every year, Nelson Mandela Day is celebrated throughout the world. This day is celebrated in honour of this icon, to embrace what he stood for, and continue with his legacy and initiatives of changing the world for the better. The Mandela Day initiative is celebrated under the theme, “Take Action; Inspire Change; Make Every Day a Mandela Day.”

In an effort to continue with this legacy, the Department of Communications, South African Police Service (SAPS), in partnership with Carletonville SAPS and other local stakeholders (the Department of Cooperative Governance and Traditional Affairs and the Department of Communications), embarked on a campaign to create awareness about the day. During the campaign, toys and sweets were donated to children in Carletonville, while hospital blankets, lunchboxes and tracksuits were also donated to those identified families living in poverty at Plot 8 in Merafong. In emulating the actions of Nelson Mandela, stakeholders forged partnerships to give of their time and do something to change the lives of the community.

Ntombi Mbembe from the Carletonville SAPS said that this year was extra special, seeing that it was the first Mandela Day initiative since Nelson Mandela’s passing last year. “We deliberately chose to visit the children’s ward at the Carletonville Hospital to spend time with these children, their parents and medical staff, to encourage them and bring a smile and some happiness in their lives,” she said.

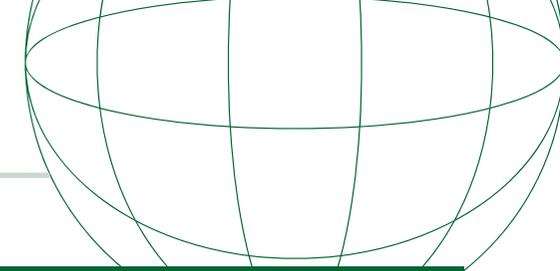
Staff members at the hospital were appreciative to stakeholders of what was being done for sick children. Acting Nursing Manager Mrs Ntaoleng Mazini said, “This is what Nelson Mandela stood for: encouraging individuals to take action and take time out of their busy schedules to make a change in someone else’s life.” She added that Mandela Day should not only be recognised on Mandela’s birthday, but that initiatives such as these should be continued throughout the year to ensure that the lives of people and communities are changed for the better, as this had been the legacy and dream of Nelson Mandela.



Ntombi Mbembe from Carletonville SAPS donating toys to children at the Carletonville Hospital.



Some of the children from Plot 8 Farm holding their newly donated lunchboxes.



Seated at the table, from left: The Premier of North West, Supra Mahumapelo; Deputy President Cyril Ramaphosa; and the Minister of Cooperative Governance and Traditional Affairs, Pravin Gordhan, after painting and cleaning Bophelong Provincial Hospital.



North West Premier Supra Mahumapelo cleaning Bophelong Provincial Hospital.



Deputy President Cyril Ramaphosa cleaning and painting Bophelong Provincial Hospital.

OUTCOME 12: AN EFFICIENT, EFFECTIVE AND DEVELOPMENT ORIENTED PUBLIC SERVICE AND AN EMPOWERED, FAIR AND INCLUSIVE CITIZENSHIP

Deputy President Cyril Ramaphosa cleans Bophelong Provincial Hospital in Mahikeng on Mandela Day

By: Tlhoriso Virginia Tlhome: DoC, North West

Deputy President Cyril Ramaphosa, together with the Premier of North West, Supra Mahumapelo, and other dignitaries embarked on a cleaning campaign in Mahikeng to celebrate the first Mandela Day since the passing of former President Nelson Mandela. President Zuma announced the cleaning theme during his State of the Nation address.

“Mandela Day is a global international day of the father of South Africa,” said the Deputy President, who emphasised how honoured he was to be in Mahikeng on such a special day.

Bophelong Provincial Hospital was cleaned and painted, and received a new Phaco machine for the visually impaired. The machine was handed over by Mr Phandle from the South African National Council for the Blind. Mr Phandle said that Bophelong Hospital was suitable to receive the machine, as it had a permanent eye-care centre and needed the equipment.

“The Phaco emulsification machine is used to remove cataracts from eyes. It saves time, prevents avoidable blindness and patients heal faster after an operation,” said Dr Kvasanda. The machine is now accessible to the community for free.

The Deputy President expressed his gratitude for the machine, saying, “The Department of Health is now a social service with business benefits.”

He also encouraged Mahikeng residents to keep Mahikeng and the hospital clean on a daily basis, and maintain its high standards. “Mahikeng is a town on the move under the new administration,” he said. He congratulated residents on their town being cleaner than previous years and on the fact that they had moved on to cleaning long-distance taxi ranks and repairing leaking taps.



Deputy President Cyril Ramaphosa cleaning and painting Bophelong Provincial Hospital.



From left: Mr Phandle of the SA National Council for the Blind hands over the Phaco machine to the MEC of Health, Magome Masike; the Premier of North West, Supra Mahumapelo; and Deputy President Cyril Ramaphosa.