









A Legacy of Action and Compassion

Each year on July 18th, just like the rest of the globe, South Africans pause to honour the legacy of Nelson Mandela, not just with words, but with action. In Mpumalanga, Mandela Day 2025 was a powerful reminder that the spirit of Ubuntu is alive and thriving, as communities, government departments, and private sector partners came together to uplift the vulnerable and transform lives.

Province United in Service

Under the theme - "It's still in our hands to combat poverty and inequality," the Mpumalanga Provincial Government coordinated activities across all 17 municipalities. From repairing roads to painting buildings and restoring water infrastructure, leaders and citizens alike dedicated their 67 minutes to meaningful service. Premier Mandla Ndlovu's call for collective action was met with enthusiasm, as volunteers addressed the needs of the underprivileged with dignity and compassion.

Education Infrastructure: Building Futures

One of the standout initiatives came from the Ride4Hope Foundation and ROMPCO, who handed over three newly built classrooms to Boschrand Primary School in White River. This marked the third consecutive year of educational investment in Mpumalanga, following similar projects in Standerton and project. These classrooms are more than bricks and mortar. They are sanctuaries of learning, hope, and opportunity for the next generation.

Community Outreach and Empowerment

The University of Mpumalanga (UMP) mobilised staff and students across its Mbombela and Siyabuswa campuses for a series of outreach efforts. Volunteers planted food gardens, donated sanitary towels and clothing, and cleaned clinics and schools. Centres like Sandla Semusa and Verulam Drop-in received their first-ever visits from such teams, with heartfelt gratitude expressed by beneficiaries. These acts of kindness, though modest in scale, have left lasting impressions on communities often overlooked.

Day of Service, a Year of Impact

Mandela Day in Mpumalanga was not a symbolic gesture was a declaration of intent. It showed that transformation is possible when service becomes a shared responsibility. Whether through infrastructure upgrades, educational support, or community care, the province demonstrated that Mandela's legacy is not confined to history books but lives on in every act of generosity.

As we look ahead, let Mandela Day be more than a date on the calendar. Let it be a catalyst for sustained change, where every citizen plays a role in building a more just, inclusive, and compassionate South Africa.

Enjoy your happy reading

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CODE OF CONDUCT

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PREMIER NDLOVU MARKS MANDELA DAY WITH ACTS OF SERVICE

ccording to the Census 2022 conducted by Stats SA, the Mpumalanga Province is home to 5.1 million people, making up 8.3 percent of South Africa's population. The province is characterised as a relatively young province, dynamic, and full of potential with a population of only 8.1% aged 60 and older.

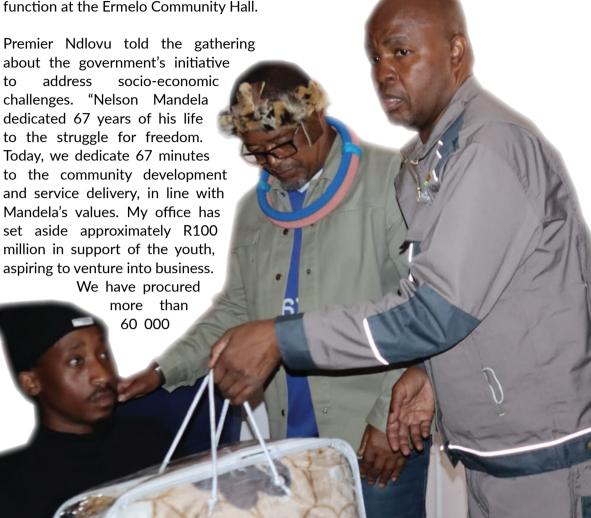
In 2023, 51.7 percent approximately 2.5 million people were living below the lowerbound poverty line of R1 058 per person per month, thus prompting the need for urgent interventions. In true Mandela spirit, the Premier, Mr Mandla Ndlovu embarked on a day of giving and community upliftment. This was part of the various Provincial Mandela Day activities across the province.

The Premier led an entourage of road engineers from the Provincial Government and the Msukaligwa Local Municipality to repair potholes and road maintenance at the Autumn Ridge, in Ermelo's Ward 8. This hands-on initiative aimed to improve local infrastructure and enhance road safety, reflecting Mandela's call to "Take Action, Inspire Change, and Make Every Day a Mandela Day".

The Executive Mayor, Cllr Mapule Nkosi, Councillors and the Director-General, Ms Maggie Skosana

on supporting the vulnerable in the society, by handing over blankets. The donation of blankets was timely for the residents who braced the chilly weather to attend the function at the Ermelo Community Hall.

accompanied the Premier. He later focused tablets for Grade 12 learners. He said 98 000 tablets will be procured for the Grade 10 learners in January 2026," the Premier announced.







CARING FOR VULNERABLE PERSONS



environment, Gogo Magola witnessed the former President Nelson Mandela's ideals of selflessness and uplifting the less fortunate impacting her life.

This windfall was part of the 67 minutes programme in honour of a true legend and former statesman, Dr. Nelson Mandela as part of Nelson Mandela International Day campaign. Battling to hold back tears, she wobbled, "I can sleep in a decent house after suffering for a long time living in a shack and working as a maid. I am so thankful to Mandela's efforts in fighting for our democracy today we live a better life we even get my monthly grant".

Just as the campaign calls for all to action, Cooperative Governance, Human

Traditional **Affairs** Settlements and (CoGHSTA) MEC, Mr Speed Mashilo, alongside with local Executive Mayor, Cllr Nomhle Mashele officially handed over the house to the pensioner, Ms. Magola formerly residing in the informal settlement of Shushumela within the municipality. "As a department we are happy that we could bring on board other stakeholders, like Exxaro and Nkomati Mines to demonstrate unity in action and response to the 2005 United Nations' call to action. It is not just a gesture, but a commitment to dignity, service, and improving communities," charged Mashilo.

Private partners, Exxaro and Nkomati Mines made substantial donations by restoring the local Epilepsy Care Center. The team painted the center, provided groceries, water tanks, and blankets and establishing a garden to provide sustainable organic food at the institution. Exxaro's Group Manager for Social Impact, Ms. Tebogo Lepele underscored that, "Not only one entity can solve the challenges in the country, but also through public-private-partnership together with the community can do".

The Mandela International Day remains key for the country as it reflects Mandela's unwavering commitment towards establishing freedom, justice and human rights. This year's campaign was commemorated under the theme – "It's still in our hands to combat poverty and inequality"











MER BRINGS HOPE AND HUMANITY ON MANDELA DAY

"What counts in life is not the mere fact that we have lived. It is what difference we have made to the lives of others."

Nelson Mandela -

This year, the Mpumalanga Economic Regulator (MER) took that call to heart. The MER staff members rolled up their sleeves at Millennium Home of Hope in White River, a facility that has become a sanctuary for vulnerable children, many of whom have been affected by the HIV/ AIDS pandemic.

A Haven for Vulnerable Children

Established in 2000, Millennium Home of Hope cares for 13 foster children and 17 permanent residents aged between three months and six years old. Approaching its 25th anniversary in 2025, the centre continues to provide a lifeline for young children in need, but like many care facilities across the country, it relies heavily on donations and community support. For MER, the visit was more than a corporate initiative—it was personal. Staff members contributed from their own pockets to purchase essentials, ensuring that Mandela Day was not just symbolic but truly impactful.

Meaningful Moments

The day's activities reflected Mandela's call for compassionate service. MER's female staff members donned aprons and prepared a hearty meal of chicken stew, fresh vegetables, and rice, bringing warmth to both stomachs and spirits.

Other volunteers tackled maintenance tasks: painting walls, cleaning, planting trees, and reorganising storerooms. These efforts, while practical, carried a deeper message of dignity and care. For the children, however, the highlight was neither the food nor the freshly painted walls, it was the time and attention. MER volunteers read stories, played games, and held the youngest children close, offering the kind of human connection that no donation can replace.

Beyond Mandela Day: Sustaining Support Speaking at the event, Mr. Nivard Lubisi, MER's Executive Manager for Research and Planning, underscored the importance of continuity: "Mandela Day is a reminder, but it should not be the only day we act. Homes like Millennium need consistent support throughout the year. True impact comes from sustained partnerships."

Kindness in Action: From Meals to Alongside their hands-on support, MER staff delivered donations of food, clothing, diapers, baby essentials, toys, and cleaning supplies. They went a step further by personally contributing branded goody bags, warm blankets, and additional toys-gestures that brought visible joy and comfort to the children. Receiving the contributions, Mr. Nhlakanipho Malambe, the home's Public Relations Officer, expressed heartfelt gratitude: "These acts of kindness mean more than words can say. They reassure us that we are not alone in this mission of care."

Carrying Forward Madiba's Legacy

For MER staff, Mandela Day was more than a single afternoon of service; it was a call to action. The personal involvement employees, whether through donations, cooking, or simply holding a child, underscored a shared belief in the power of humanity to drive change. As the team left Millennium Home of Hope, the echoes of laughter and gratitude stayed with them. What remained was a renewed commitment: to keep showing up, long after Mandela Day passes. Because, as Mandela himself reminded us, "It is in your hands to create a better world for all who live in it."







It always seems impossible until it's done.





HONOURING PAST AND FUTURE GENERATIONS





Recognising their contribution means more than saying thank you - it means not only creating an opportunity for them to feel valued but also a renewed sense of pride and purpose.

MEGA recognises that lasting change started not in boardrooms, but in neighbourhoods and or communities, therefore, we pay tribute to the extraordinary intentional advocacy for equality, dignity, justice, and solidarity and community development. By working together, as citizens, we will build a peaceful. equitable sustainable and nation. For generations, it was a given that families looked after their elders, however, due to urbanisation, migration, diseases and economic pressures, that structure is under strain.

In many homes, older people are now holding the line alone - providing for grandchildren, stepping in where systems fall short, and doing so with quiet strength. Their needs are often overlooked, their work often invisible, even though without them, many families would simply not function.

It is with this daunting reality that MEGA sees Mandela Day as an invitation to pause with intention and amplify being of service in practice, especially for the elderly. That enduring invitation Nelson Mandela left us with: "It is in your hands", anchored and embodied in being of service to the elderly. The World Health Organization has named loneliness as one of the greatest health risks facing the elderly today, which is both a social concern and a public health issue. So, when we create a space where older people feel seen, heard, and useful, the impact goes far beyond the financial.

That old wise adage that it takes a village to raise a child is still relevant today as were yesterday. Ubuntu suggests that 'I am because we are'. We should be intentional in being of service by inculcating these values even in our daily lives and or relationships, in how we challenge injustice in small rooms, in how we recalibrate care, in our homes, and in our workplaces. Only then, our human experience will embody triumph of the human spirit.

If we're serious about building a just and inclusive future, we must centre those who have carried us here.

GSDM OBSERVES MANDELA DAY THROUGH SERVICE DELIVERY

commemoration of International Day 2025, the Gert Sibande District Municipality (GSDM), in partnership with the Dr Pixley Ka Isaka Seme Local Municipality, rolled up its sleeves to bring tangible change to communities through a series of impactful service delivery initiatives in Volksrust on 18 July 2025.

The Executive Mayor of GSDM, Cllr Walter Mngomezulu, alongside Dr Pixley Ka Isaka Seme Local Municipality Executive Mayor, Cllr Bheki Mhlanga, led activities that focused on improving basic infrastructure and community hygiene. These included patching potholes on two streets in Volksrust, repairing broken streetlights

Mandela in Ward 4 and thereby enhancing public divisions that threaten national progress. safety and clearing an illegal dumping site in Vukuzakhe thereby promoting environmental cleanliness.

> These actions were carried out in the true spirit of Nelson Mandela, whose legacy calls on every citizen to contribute meaningfully to their communities. The 2025 Mandela Day theme, "It's still in our hands to combat poverty and inequity," served as a reminder of the collective responsibility to create lasting change.

> Addressing stakeholders during a briefing session, Executive Mayor Mngomezulu emphasized the importance of unity and social cohesion, cautioning against racial

"In recent months, we have witnessed troubling signs of division that go against the spirit of uTata Mandela. South Africa belongs to all who live in it. We must never allow ourselves to be divided," said Cllr Mngomezulu.

He further called for the restoration of national pride, including renewed awareness of national symbols like the South African flag, and encouraged citizens to actively pursue reconciliation and unity. The commemorations not only honoured Mandela's legacy but also demonstrated the municipalities' commitment to handson governance and community upliftment.







MRTT & SA CHEFS ASSN. ON A HUNGER REDUCTION CAMPAIGN



∎he Mpumalanga Regional Training Trust and the South African Chefs Association, two institutions, dedicated fostering excellence in the culinary arts and empowering youth through skills development and community uplifting, joined hands with other Hospitality and Tourism industry players in a special #67000Litres Soup Campaign in commemoration of Mandela Day on the 18th of July 2025 in Mbombela, at the KaNyamazane Good Morning Kids Zone.

Also joining the two entities on the day were the following industry players Southern Sun Mbombela, Mecure Hotel, Protea Hotel, and Food Lovers Nelspruit who brought in food donations and got their hands dirty cooking a storm. The

University of Mpumalanga joined and our campaign and participated in food preparation and serving. Under the banner of the #67000Litres Soup Campaign, the Hospitality and Tourism industry players cooked a storm using the MRTT Hospitality Academy suitable kitchen for the food preparation then started transporting the food to the centre, where the owner cooks and feeds both the elders and children are suffering from hunger.

Chairperson for the Mpumalanga Region of the South African Chefs Association has this to say about the Mandela Day Campaign partnership and support the entity and the industry on this day "we greatly value our partnership with MRTT. They provided us with a well-equipped facility that accommodated all the

chefs involved in this project. From the beginning, MRTT has been fully supportive - from offering resources to involving their students in serving the soup. We are truly grateful for the collaboration. It's inspiring to see how a small act can make a meaningful difference. Going forward, we hope to build on this partnership and continue reaching out to those in need through similar initiatives.

The KaNyamazane Good Morning Kids Chef Petros Montwedi, the Regional Zone was selected as a beneficiary for this year's Mandela Day campaign based on the good food feeding scheme they are providing to the vulnerable community within KaNyamazane and also its location on the basis of being in the parameter of MRTT Hospitality Academy which also deals with food and serving people on a daily basis.



SALGA TAKES PART IN MANDELA DAY

CELEBRATIONS

n the 25th of July 2025, the South African Local Government Association (SALGA) in Mpumalanga celebrated the worldwide annual Nelson Mandela Day by donating Uthandiwe supportive supplies to Children's Home in Malelane under the Nkomazi Local Municipality. The donations included, amongst other things: sleeping beds, bedding, sanitary towels, office furniture, appliances, smartphone, school uniforms, stationery, cleaning supplies, and grocery items.

The Nelson Mandela Day Celebration is a global movement to encourage individuals to dedicate 67 minutes of their time to demonstrate love and help those in need, reflecting the 67 years Mandela dedicated to public service. The day was officially declared by the United Nations in 2009 and is a call to action for positive change and building a better world.

During the visit at Uthandiwe, SALGA Provincial Director of Operations (PDO) in Mpumalanga, Dr Derrick Ndlovu, emphasized the significance of emulating the teachings of our father Nelson Mandela in giving back and taking care of each other. "What matters most is what we are gathered here for because we are trying to build a caring nation," said Ndlovu. The PDO also added that every little effort we make in helping those who are in need goes a long way and makes a huge difference.

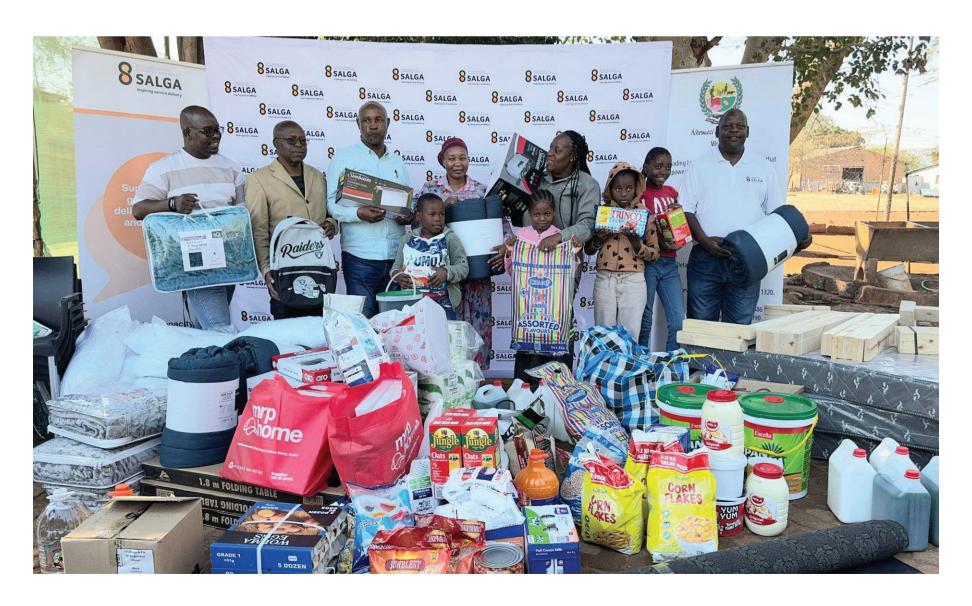
SALGA also committed themselves to donating a laptop to the centre – the laptop was not part of the items that were donated on the day. Nkomazi Local Municipality Member of the Mayoral Committee (MMC) for Infrastructure Development, Cllr. Thandeka Makamo offered words of encouragement to the children from the centre, and said that, "My kids, it doesn't end here. It is all part of the journey (referring to the struggles that the kids encounter). There is a great future ahead."

MMC Makamo also appreciated the opportunity to be part of the celebration, stating further that the municipality's

(Nkomazi) responsibilities are not limited to service delivery -however, "it is also the municipality's responsibility to look after those who are disabled and disadvantaged."

A Board Member of Uthandiwe Children's Home, Mr Stanley Malele, said that when the Home was established the aim was to cater for kids who do not have homes and shelters.

Malele said that the significance and purpose of the centre extends beyond the South African borders – "Even today, the home itself continues to serve the children in the Nkomazi sub-district, the surrounding areas, including unaccompanied minors from Mozambique, The Kingdom of Eswatini, and other neighbouring African countries." "Thank you, SALGA, for what you have done for us, we will never forget you," he concluded. SALGA remains committed to contributing towards transforming and bettering the lives of South African communities across the country.







The MEC for Finance, Mr Bonakele Majuba and Executive Mayor for Govan Mbeki Local Municipality, Cllr Nhlakanipho Zuma will participate in the refurbishment of Isidingo Day Care Centre in Embalenhle, Secunda in commemoration of the 2025 Nelson Mandela Day.





Follow Us On: () Mpumalanga Treasury

- Establish Food Garden

- Erection of field Fencing

- Donation of Food Garden Starter Pack

(Wheelbarrow, horse pipe, seeds,)

- Tree Planting

- Painting

oumalanga Treasury 🛞 MPTreasury 🖲 Mpumalanga Treasu

I MILLINGUAGO A ANGENE A GUARANCIA PARA













09:00-12:00

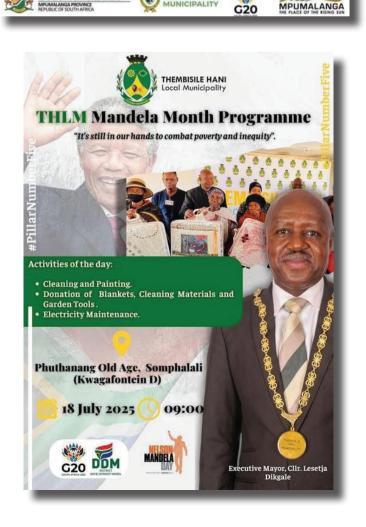
12:30-14:00

Dundonald Ward 5;

Embhejeka Ward 18

Hloniphani Primary School

MANDELA









RENOVATIONS ON MADIBA'S DAY



or Provincial Treasury, Mandela Day is more than an annual observance; it is a call to action to live out Madiba's values through responsible stewardship of public resources, promoting good governance, and ensuring that every Rand spent brings value to the people of Mpumalanga.

MEC Bonakele Majuba and Executive Mayor for the Govan Mbeki Local Municipality, Cllr. Nhlakanipho Zuma celebrated Nelson Mandela day by renovating Isidingo Day Care Centre in Embalenhle, Secunda. The centre got a donation of gardening implements and seedlings, educational material, toiletries,

heaters, paint and painting accessories, baby blankets, a fridge, baby plastic chairs and tables, windows, baby sponges and jungle gym equipment and a trampoline to assist with the daily running of the centre and to make the environment safer for the young kids.

Isidingo Day Care Centre caters for young children from 0-5 years in the community as an Early Childhood Development Centre. The centre has been in operation since 2003. The centre operates from an old building donated by the municipality. This centre is home to the 60+ learners who come in daily for their lessons and early development needs.

The MEC emphasised that this is a special day not only South Africa but the world over. "We celebrate Nelson Mandela Day as a recognition of his contribution to the liberation struggle and lifelong commitment to rights based society. I encourage you to take it upon yourself to do well for the community and donate anything that will make our people's lives better. Education plays an important role in the child and serves as a foundation for their future hence the need to invest in centres such as Isidingo".



KEEPING IT CLEAN ON MANDELA DAY



Ihe Swarfontein In-Patient Treatment Centre which is managed by the Department Social Development (DSD) providing programmes and operating with prevention of and treatment of substance abuse received a major boost when the DSD and the City of Mbombela (CoM) provided cleaning services to the centre during the International Mandela Day.

DSD and the CoM officials spent their 67 minutes cleaning the tennis court, soccer field and motivated users about their stance which they took voluntary to be admitted at the centre.

The treatment centre which has a history of trading those who are battling with substance abuse gave service users an opportunity to interact with officials from the department and the city about new existing opportunities that the department will provide after finishing their treatment programme.

Nomphumelelo Hlophe hailed the bravery of those individuals who have taken the vital step of recognising their struggle with substance abuse and committing with themselves for being part of healing and transformation.

"The Department is aware about the daunting task that you are facing now, the task of battling with substance abuse and the danger of relapsing while you have completed the course, however they must hang in there and refrain from going back and to substance abuse ".

The MEC invited the service users to be Speaking during the cleaning campaign part of her guest during the tabling of her at the Swarfontein In - Patient Treatment policy and budget speech, and emphasize Centre MEC for Social Development the importance of relaunching the Kemoja Without Drugs Campaign which translate into "I am fine without drugs which will play an important role in educating the people of Mpumalanga about the danger of substance abuse.



DISPLAYING ACTS OF SOLIDARITY AND SERVICE



he global community observed
Nelson Mandela International
Day on 18 July 2025, a day
dedicated to honouring
Madiba's legacy through acts
of service and solidarity. In Mpumalanga,
the Department of Public Works, Roads
and Transport, in partnership with the
Bushbuckridge Local Municipality, marked
the occasion with impactful activities
at the Vuhlayiselo Disability Centre in
Mbhumba Trust.

Leading the commemorative event were MECThulasizwe Thomo, Executive Mayor, Cllr Matlanatso Lydia Moroane, Speaker, Cllr Blantina Raganya, and Chief Whip, Cllr Bhunu Malandule of Bushbuckridge Local Municipality. As part of the Mandela Day

initiative, the teams focused on revitalising the Centre to improve accessibility, safety, and dignity for the children and caregivers. Renovation work included:

- Constructing a gate ramp;
- Repairing broken windows;
- Replacing the old, hazardous roofing;
- Installing a wheelchair-accessible ramp;
- Widening doorways to accommodate mobility aids; and
- Painting the facility to restore its welcoming appearance.

In addition to the infrastructure upgrades, the Centre also received essential donations such as dignity packs, a water tank, and blankets, critical support items for the wellbeing of those at the facility. MEC Thomo emphasized that the Department's involvement would not end with Mandela Day "Recognising that the needs of the Vuhlayiselo Disability Centre go beyond a single day of service, we have committed to ongoing support," said MEC Thomo.

"We will continue to engage with the Centre to address their additional needs and ensure that our impact extends well beyond this Mandela Day celebration," concluded MEC Thomo. The activities stand as a testament to the spirit of Ubuntu, demonstrating how collaboration between government and communities can uplift and empower the most vulnerable.









SOCIAL UNDERTAKINGS FOR THE NEEDY



andela Day is celebrated globally, transcending geographical boundaries and uniting people in the spirit of service and solidarity. The day encourages participation in various community projects, such as volunteering at local charities, assisting those in need, or contributing to environmental initiatives. In Mkhondo, MEC for Health, Sasekani Manzini and the Local Municipality, Executive Mayo, Cllr Ngelosi Ndlovu celebrated Mandela Day, in Mkhondo Local Municipality in honour of the legacy of former president, Nelson Mandela. The Mandela Day was declared by

UN in 2009 and started to be celebrated on the 18 July 2010.

The day is annually celebrated on July 18th by the global community honouring Nelson Mandela's legacy by encouraging individuals to dedicate 67 minutes of their time to service, reflecting the 67 years Mandela spent fighting for social justice and equality. It's a day to reflect on Mandela's values of determination, justice, human rights, and reconciliation, and to translate those values into action.

MEC Manzini and her encourage started the day by visiting Khayelihle Old Age Centre in

Thandukukhanya, where she donated blankets and BP Machines, fortunately the Home has a retired professional nurse who volunteer to monitor the blood pressure of the members in the Centre.

MEC Manzini also gave health talks to learners, touching issues such as teenage pregnancy, mental health and general healthy lifestyle, and donated school shoes and sanitary towels at the career exhibition organised for learners of Mkhondo circuit in Ezakheni Combined Boarding School, Driefontein. Manzini's last stop was at Piet Retief hospital where she served food to the patients.







EDUCATION DISTRICTS HONOUR MANDELA LEGACY



n honour of the legacy and person of former President, Nelson Mandela, the Mpumalanga Department of Education hosted four activations of the Mandela Day in July dubbed the Mandela month. The Mandela Month celebrations were held as part of the Rhandza Xikolo Xa Wena Campaign.

This campaign seeks to actualize one of the greatest quotations made by former President Mandela when he said, "Education is the most powerful tool that can change the world" in an effort to make education delivery fashionable. Another objective of the campaign is to foster teaching and learning at every school ensuring that the school environment is clean and the ambience allows teaching and learning efficiency.

It instills discipline in both learners and teachers in terms of efficiency and time management amongst others. Each of the four-education districts, namely Bohlabela, Ehlanzeni, Gert Sibande and Nkangala held their own activations on different dates, and this was done with a partnership with the local House of Traditional Leadership, local municipalities of Bushbuckridge, Nkomazi, Chief Albert Luthuli and Thembisile Hani the District Municipalities of Ehlanzeni, Gert

Sibande and Nkangala, Old Mutual, Forek Institute of Learning and the Departments of Correctional Services and Agriculture,

Rural Development, Land and Environmental Affairs and Mpumalanga Regional Training Trust.

These activations seek to conscientize school communities to take good care of their school, always take ownership and advance education delivery. The Bohlabela activation was held at Khomanani Day Care Centre where an admin block was demolished and a new one constructed, construction of a kitchen, food and flower garden and the rehabilitation of the playing facilities. Painting, planting of trees and fixing of broken material took place.

The Ehlanzeni district activation was held at Mahhushe agricultural school in Mzinti where a kraal and pigsty were constructed and modified, a greenhouse was also constructed, and a vegetable garden was also enlarged. In Gert Sibande the project was held at Methula High School in Empuluzi and entailed the fixing of classroom ceilings, painting, fixing of toilets, establishing a food garden and planting of trees.

In Nkangala District, the activation was at Mphalali Secondary School in Kwaggafontein,

where the painting of roof, revamping of toilets, fixing of ceilings and painting of buildings took place. A food garden was also established and the planting of trees.

To stress the importance of the Rhandza Xikolo Xa Wena Campaign in honour of Mandela Month, the MEC for Education, Ms. Lindi Masina said, "Our mandate to deliver quality education carries on. This cause is bigger than any of us and carries the hopes, aspirations and ambitions of our beloved nation. It is thus prudent that we pull together for the sake of our children, their education and future.

We dare not fail our children, and in honour of Mandela Month in line with the Rhandza Xikolo Xa Wena Campaign, let us all forge ahead and provide them with a fair chance to grow and realise their dreams so as they can partake in the economic development of our country and nation. Education is the greatest vehicle towards that realisation, let's make it happen."

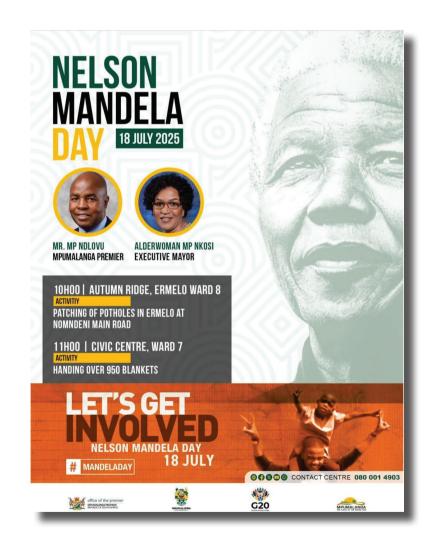
Through the Mandela Month, the Department of Education makes a declaration call to all communities to make everyday a Mandela Day and to partner with it to ensure that education delivery is achieved at the highest possible levels.











Education is the most powerful weapon which you can use to change the world

- Nelson Mandela -

67 MINUTES WITH THE ELDERLY

The Mandela Day campaign emphasizes that even small acts of kindness and service can collectively create a meaningful impact. This specific duration is a symbolic representation of the 67 years Nelson Mandela dedicated to public service. On 18 July 2025, MEC Jesta Sidell of Economic Development and Tourism led a delegation from the Department and its public entities to celebrate the Nelson Mandela International Day with the elderly at Vlakbult Old Age Centre, KaMdladla in the Nkomazi Local Municipality.

In pursuit of this noble cause, the MEC together with the Nkomazi Local Municipality Executive Mayor, Cllr. contribution to humanity by our former Phindile Magagula and the entire DEDT family undertook a programme of action which included the painting of the Vlakbult Old Age Home, the strategic planting of macadamia and avocado trees to promote sustainable livelihoods, and the official hand over of much needed electrical appliances and grocery hampers to restore the dignity and wellbeing of our senior citizens.

Speaking to the elderly at the Vlakbult Old Age Centre, MEC Sidell explained the importance of the day, "Today we are here to celebrate and honour the selfless

President, Isithwalandwe, uTata Nelson Mandela, with you the elderly of Vlakbult Old Age Centre at Kamdladla, in the Nkomazi Local Municipality. uTata Nelson Rolihlahla Mandela encouraged every individual to take the responsibility and be the change that they want to see.

For that reason, the Department and its Public Entities that I am leading in collaboration with the Nkomazi Local Municipality we are here to make that positive change that we want to see in the community of KaMdladla".



I learned that courage was not the absence of fear, but the triumph over it.

- Nelson Mandela -



ENCOURAGING SCHOOL KIDS TO PLANTING TREES



donation is a gift given to a cause, charity, or person, often with the intent to help, and it can take many forms, including money, goods, services, or even blood and organs. It's a voluntary contribution, meaning there's no expectation of something in return.

In commemorating the Mandela Day campaign, a total of ten buckets of paint (20-litre) were donated to Hloniphani Primary School in Dundonald in the Chief Albert Luthuli Local Municipality where MEC for Agriculture, Rural Development,

Land and Environmental Affairs, Ms Khethiwe Moeketsi and Local Executive Mayor Cllr. Mbuso Magubane spent Nelson Mandela International Day on 18 July 2025. They planted trees in the school yard, painted walls, also helped in establishing a quarter-hectare food garden and donated food garden starter-pack.

The food garden will help augment food security for the 133 learners enrolled at the rural school, while any surpluses will benefit the local community. While planting trees at the school yard, MEC Moeketsi said the trees will improve and promote environmental

awareness in the area, calling on the locals to continue planting more trees to ensure a safe and healthy learning and teaching environment for both the learners and educators.

The entourage also went to Embetjeka near Tjakastad where MEC Moeketsi donated fence material to a local agricultural project, which they will use to protect their crops from roaming livestock. The 2025 Nelson Mandela Day was commemorated under the theme: "It's still in our hands to combat poverty and inequality".



BRINGING CHEER, WARMTH AND MORE TO BOTLENG



lankets, sports equipment, seedlings, desktop computers, and books were donated by the department for the Mandela Day event held at Botleng.

Aligned with the event's theme, "It's still in our hands to combat poverty and inequity," the donations reached across the township, covering Wards 2, 3, 5 and 6. The donations brought smiles to locals, especially the

elderly, who ululated in excitement. They understood that these items would keep the community warm, active, and their minds engaged long after Mandela Day had passed.

The initiative was led by Culture, Sport and Recreation MEC, Leah Mabuza, alongside the Mayor of Victor Khanye Local Municipality, Cllr Vusi Buda, local leadership and stakeholders.

The involvement of small communities like Botleng underscores the Mandela Day philosophy: that every individual and locality matters in the slog toward equality and dignity. Through civic participation even for 67 minutes residents exemplify the spirit of Madiba's legacy. Botleng's Mandela Day 2025 observance reflects how local actions, however modest, feed into a broader tapestry of human solidarity.

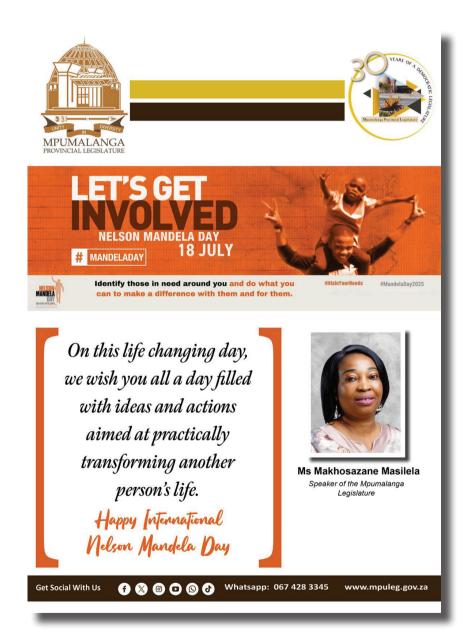


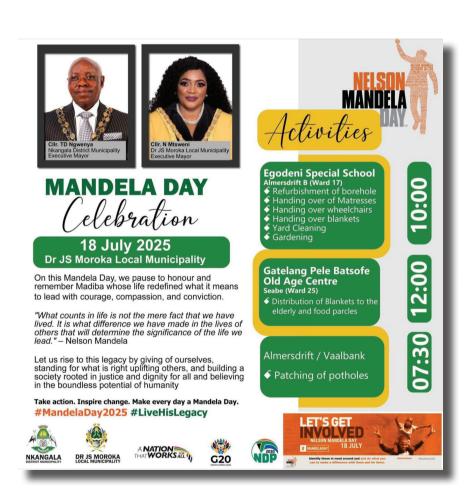












What counts in life is not the mere fact that we have lived. It is what difference we have made to the lives of others that will determine the significance of the life we lead.

KEEPING OUR RIVERS CLEAN



journey of a thousand miles begins with a single step. This is exactly what authorities together with stakeholders demonstrated by cleaning rivers and streets of Lynville Township at eMalahleni Local Municipality, Mpumalanga. The activities led by Water and Sanitation (DWS) Deputy Minister, Mr Sello Seitlholo, in conjunction with Provincial Cooperative Governance, Human Settlements and Traditional Affairs (CoGHSTA) MEC, Mr Speed Mashilo and local Executive Mayor, Cllr Vusi Nhlapho was marking the Nelson

Mandela International month programme. Supported by the private sector, business and the community, the trio cleaned the Klipsruit River and few streets in the towshhip. The activities form part of DWS's River Clean-Up programme.

Leading by example, cleaning of the Klipspruit river serves as an illustration for the community that it starts with them, keeping the rivers clean and the township is key.

The eMalahleni Local Municipality will continue enforcing bi-laws and review

the policies that addresses such issues like illegal dumping and polution. It is the responsibility of CoGHSTA to enforce municipalities to follow the guidelines for water and sanitation.

The campaign encourages community involvement and raises awareness about protecting water resources in a water-scarce country. It involves public clean-up drives, promoting environmental stewardship, and educating communities on the importance of healthy water ecosystems for drinking, washing, and a sustainable future.

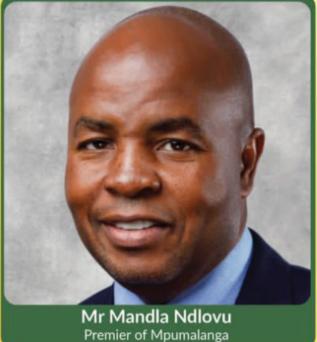












MEMBERS
OF THE
EXECUTIVE
COUNCIL
IN MPUMALANGA



Mr Speed Mashilo MEC: Cooperative Governance, Human Settlements & Traditional Affairs



Ms Lindi Masina MEC: Education



Mr Thulasizwe Thomo MEC: Public Works, Roads & Transport



Ms Brenda Moeketsi MEC: Agriculture, Rural Development, Land & Enviromental Affairs



Ms Jesta Sidell MEC: Economic Development & Tourism



Ms Sasekani Manzini MEC: Health



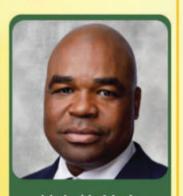
Ms Leah Mabuza MEC: Culture, Sport & Recreation



Ms Nompumelelo Hlophe MEC: Social Development



Mr Bonakele Majuba MEC: Finance



Mr Jackie Macie MEC: Community Safety, Security & Liaison



"Mpumalanga, a Province that works for all"







