



Premier Mr DD Mabuza with MEC of Social Development Ms Nomsa Mtsweni sharing a cake with the elderly persons in celebration of Nelson Mandela Day.

Hallmarking a legacy for children and older persons

In honour of the late former President Nelson Rolihlahla Mandela, the Mpumalanga Premier David Mabuza, the members of the executive, the executive mayors, Mr Abram Masango, Group Executive, Group Capital, Eskom and Mr Lee Dawees, CEO GE Steam Power Systems Projects, GE Power South Africa, officially opened a Primary School, Sibongindawo, at the Wilge Village, Ogies, Emalahleni.

This was the first project that Premier Mabuza and his entourage visited, as a form of devotion to the 67 minutes of their time. As part of taking action and inspiring change in the lives of people, the opening of the school also became a legacy in the community of the Wilge village.

The Sibongindawo Primary school, designed to immediately cater for the 207 learners, and later 576 learners, is a joint Corporate Social Investment (CSI) project by Eskom Kusile Power Station Project, GE Power and ArcelorMittal Distributions SA. The construction of the school was a necessity because of the destruction of Sibongindawo and Imbalenhle schools because weather elements.

Unveiling the new school, Premier Mabuza said that the donors have made a great

impact in the community and that the school was a future investment for the generations to come in the area.

"This is the only gift that we can give to our children, because it will remain with them and no one can ever take it away. This gift prepares them to face the challenges of this world. To all the donors, you have secured the future," he said.

"The project will have a significant positive social, as well as an economic impact for the Wilge community with a number of skills development, employment and business opportunities being created," said Mr Abram Masango, Group Executive, Group Capital, Eskom.

Premier Mabuza and his entourage also visited and unveiled the old age retirement village at Phola that is still under construction. The village has been donated by Eskom, Siemens and the Emalahleni municipality. The design of the retirement village consist of a block for the frail people, assistant living, economic participation, gardening, gym, mortuary, playground and wellness room.

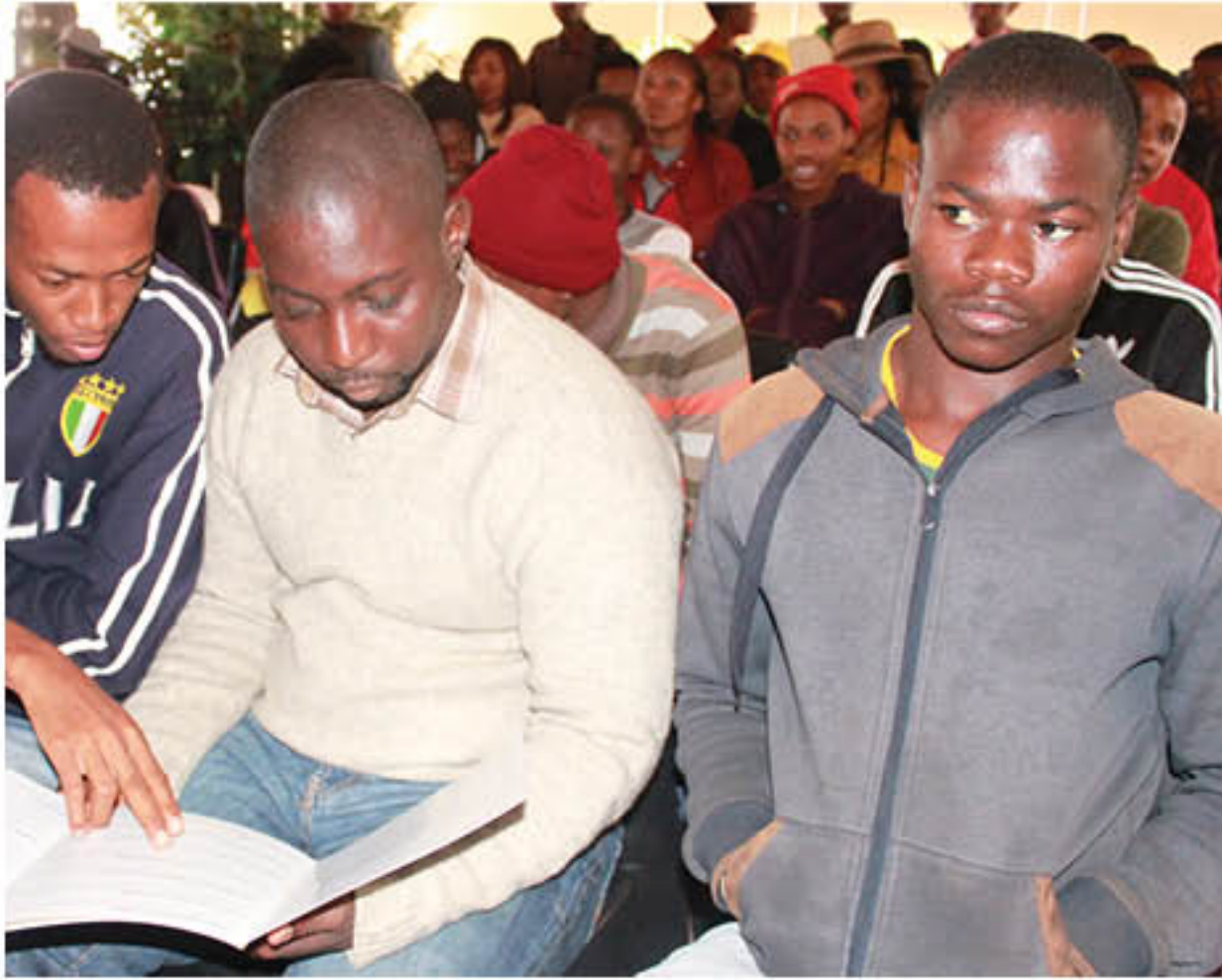
Premier Mabuza also turned the sod at the retirement village and declared that the project was for the future elders of the country.

One elder who attended the event said that the late former President Mandela had a lot of sense of humour and a lot of love for the elders, she said that she was happy for the new development as it showed love and care for the elders, especially those who do not have families.

"We are very thankful for this project, and all the works remind us of the love of the late former President Nelson Mandela, "His good works will never be forgotten, we will always remember him," she said.

Premier Mabuza together with his executive members, handed over blankets and some food parcels to the elderly during the event. In a community meeting held at Phola where Premier Mabuza and his entourage also visited, residents highlighted that they were still faced with challenges of lack of housing, unemployment, the rate of crime, drug abuse and revamping of roads. Premier Mabuza responded to the questions and requested the MEC's to assist accordingly.

Throughout his visits at Ogies, Premier Mabuza emphasized the importance of love and forgiveness beyond race and class. He encouraged the Phola community members to learn from the former President Nelson Mandela about his good spirit of reconciliation.



Determined youth of Mpumalanga looking forward to development during the dialogue with government.

Positive developmental strategy for Mpumalanga youth

June has been declared a youth month by government, where the youth across the country gather to look into strategies that will better resolve their challenges.

One of the pressing issues amongst the youth is unemployment and it is an urgent social and economic challenge. Every year prospective graduates are but that optimism seem to be replaced by heartache because of the lack of jobs.

During the Dialogue with the government and the Mpumalanga youth, held at Nutting House, where MEC for Finance, Economic Development and Tourism, Eric Kholwane who represented Premier Mr David Mabuza, the youth told the him that their biggest challenge is unemployment, access to government and the use of government facilities, marginalization of the disabled youth, delayed payments for small businesses by government, calling for recognition of the youth by the Mpumalanga Parks Board, youth serving organization and NGO's to remain apolitical, the removal of the maximum requirement for job experience that excludes the youth, the recognition of arts and sports for the youth, curbing of crime and drug abuse in the Province and many more questions that were posed to the panel.

During the dialogue, the youth needed government to guarantee them that there will be jobs and funded projects that can enable them to stand on their own and become competitive business owners in the future. Responding to the youth, MEC Kholwane

said that most of the challenges faced by the youth today are not unique to South Africa and yet some originate from the legacy of the South African history during the apartheid era.

He called upon the youth to work together with government in tackling these challenges.

"As a provincial government we have since taken a view that says we cannot continue to do things for and on behalf of our youth.

We have adopted a positive youth development strategy that seeks to engage you young people within your own communities, schools, organizations, peer groups and families in a manner that is productive and constructive, and also recognizes, utilizes and enhances your strengths as youth," he said.

We see you as our partners not as recipients, beneficiaries or minors who cannot think for themselves," he added.

MEC Kholwane said that the role of Government is to create an enabling environment for young people to thrive. He said that they are doing this by creating structures together with the youth like the National Youth Development Agency (NYDA) that are geared to support young people by providing technical and financial resources.

"The skills revolution" as referred to by MEC Kholwane is government's long-term plan aimed at ensuring that Province becomes a "Skills Capital" of South Africa. "We are skilling our young people to become drivers of job creation in various

Youth Development Directorate

The Office of the Premier has launched a Youth Development Directorate that will work with the youth clusters in the Mpumalanga Province. Desmond Moela, Senior Manager, Youth Directorate said that the establishment of the office is aimed at fostering and coordinating Youth Development in the Province.

According to Moela, the newly established Youth Development Directorate is mandated to mainstream Youth Development across all Departments of the Mpumalanga Provincial Government and its implementing agencies. "This will be done through the continuous development and implementation of Youth Development programmes and the Youth Policy. In ensuring that Youth Development programmes and interventions are mainstreamed they must reflect an integrated, non-discriminatory, cross sectorial and holistic approach. This will ensure that Youth Development is seen as part and parcel of the developmental agenda of Government," he said. He added that the directorate will also be guided by the 6 commitments of the youth accord that includes Education and Training, Work Exposure, Public Sector Measures, Youth Target set asides, Youth Entrepreneurship and Youth Co-operatives and Private Sector measures.

"The youth continues to be faced by challenges such as unemployment, affected by the economic challenge, skills lack, social ills like substance abuse, that include drugs, and liquor abuse, teenage pregnancy, diseases like HIV/AIDS, TB and other," he said.

sectors of our economy as projected through the National Development Plan (NDP)," he said. MEC Kholwane said that government has partnered with the private sector in building a Maths, Science and Technology Academy, also with South 32, a mining company that was born of BHP Billiton, he said that an academy will be launched soon and the main hub is in Emalahleni with sub hubs in all other regions.

MEC Kholwane expressed gratitude about the University of Mpumalanga that has been established. "After two decades of political emancipation, Mpumalanga now has a university. We expect this university to be fully functional and offering most if not all courses that are demanded by various sectors of our industries within the next three years," he said.

He stated that other commitments and partnerships by government to ensure youth development include partnership with the private sector for training artisans and the Setas.

MEC Kholwane said that the Mpumalanga Provincial is prepared to work together with the youth and aims to ensure that the youth is at the forefront of the industrialisation programme that government is driving as envisioned in Vision 2030.

"Importantly, the National Development Plan and our Vision 2030 as well as other guiding policy documents emphasize the need for the creation of a continuous supply of quality science and technology, human resource development and innovation for the South African economy to grow," he concluded.



Class of 2016 graduates from the Mpumalanga College of Nursing ready to take their place in the health fraternity.

557 New nurses are ready to serve in our health facilities accross the province

Mpumalanga College of Nursing awarded diplomas to 557 nursing students who have successfully completed their studies at the Mpumalanga College of Nursing in a ceremony that was held on 01st July 2016 at Apostolic Faith Mission of SA Communio – Nelspruit.

The event was graced by the presence of Dr Savera Mohangi the newly appointed HOD of Department of Health in Mpumalanga who was representing MEC for Health Mr. Gillion Mashego. The students who begin their journey in 2012 were awarded with the following diplomas: 226 Diploma in General Nursing (Bridging), 75 Diploma in one Midwifery, 214 Diploma in Nursing (General, Community & Psychiatric and Midwifery), and 42 Diploma in Clinical nursing science, Health assessment, Treatment and Care.

Dr Savera Mohangi thanks the college for producing credible and quality nursing personnel that are expected to deliver professional health care services to our people. "Today, I see before me, young and energetic nurses who have the willingness to work hard. It is an honor to graduate on the first day of Mandela Month, It would please me if each and every one of you here, can at least donate 67 minutes of your time, outside working hours of course, and service our people in the different health facilities that you will be deployed to. Remember that as government we are saying, Mandela day should not be on the 18th only, and it must also not be limited to the month of July but it must go beyond said Mohangi".

"In the past years I have been with the Department, I have witnessed many male and female nurses graduating from the Mpumalanga Nursing College. I have

also seen a great desire for our young generation to become nurses. That is why each and every year, during the intake at the college, we receive quiet a large number of applications. This means there are a lot of people who have the desire to serve our communities concluded Dr Mohangi". She further appreciated the support the department is getting from the council of the college led by Professor JP Shongwe. Mr. Mthokozisi Mthethwa who received a diploma in General Community & Psychiatric and Midwifery was excited to complete his studies, he dedicates his achievements to the dedicated tutors and the leadership of the department of Health for making his dream come true. In addressing the challenges of staff Graduates will be deployed in our hospitals and clinics in the province to serve our people where there is serious challenge with the nursing personnel.

Sexual, reproductive health rights

The MEC for Social Development, Ms Nomsa Mtsweni joined the country in Celebrating the World Population Day which is celebrated on the 11th July yearly. The department held its own at Daggakraal in Pixley ka Isaka Seme Local Municipality on the 12th of July 2016. Still continuing with the same theme "Sexual Reproductive Health and Rights". In her keynote address, The MEC began by responding to the concerns raised by the youth in Daggakraal from their dialogues pointers to the reasons why Daggakraal is among the areas with the highest rate of teenage pregnancy in Mpumalanga. To mention a few; peer pressure, lack of recreational facilities, lack of good role models, lack of parental guidance and motivation from families. Coming to the "THEME" of the event, the MEC encouraged parents to build a good relationship with their children. This is will be easier for them to talk about issues of health and development challenges faced by our society today. She further requested the community members to take responsibility in raising each one's kid as their own. The MEC indicated her disappointment about the developments of Population research on this issue. It has been revealed that, there is high prevalence of teenage



Prof R.E. Mhlanga illustrating the dangers of engaging in sexual activity at early age.

pregnancy in the area, young girls between the ages of 12-17 are already parents and some are infected with HIV/AIDS. She said that this is a great concern to the government, the "Blessers" trend that has grown in the country, this picture points that, adults are the ones committing themselves to these innocent kids. She also indicated that, times have changed and we must accept that. In the past, children could not speak to their parents about relationship issues, which have led to greater challenges in the society. It is time we take a stand as the society and communicate with our kids' about these issues.

From the Health perspective, Prof R.E. Mhlanga indicated that, as people, we grow

mentally and spiritually. There should not be an interference of growth in these regard. If children commit themselves to relationships whilst they are still young, they disturb the process of growth and development. He further said that engaging in sexual activities while still young increases chances of getting cervical cancer and other diseases. In this case, our children should wait until the right time has come. We must admit as parents that, it is our responsibility to make sure that our children grow in that instance; by making sure that we create a space that will enable us to communicate on these issues. He also encouraged those who are in relationships to undergo tests to determine the risk of cancer development.

Substance abuse forum commit to tackle the substance abuse



MEC of Social Development Ms Nomsa Mtsweni encouraging the community against substance abuse.

Under the theme "Listen first" the Mpumalanga Department of Social Development observed the 2016

International Day against Substance Abuse and Illicit trafficking in Kwaggafontein on Tuesday 28 June 2016. The International Day against Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking is commemorated annually on the 26th of June to raise awareness on the negative effects of substance abuse among the youth and the communities as a whole. As part of this year's commemoration, the MEC for Social Development, Ms Nomsa Mtsweni joined by the executive mayor of Thembisile Hani Local Municipality Cllr. Ndaweni Mahlangu led over 2000 young people on a 1.5 km march which commenced at Kwaggafontein old taxi rank to Kwaggafontein Community Hall in the Thembisile Hani local Municipality. It is pleasing to note that municipalities have active local anti-drug committees

which consists of all stakeholders including general community members. These operate to deal with substance abuse.

The government is really worried about young people idolizing drugs and seeing them as a way of life, said the MEC when addressing community members who gathered to commemorate the day. She further indicated that the Government is in huge drive to to construct facilities wherein people will get rehabilitated as part of the fight against substance abuse. These facilities include emalaheni Treatment and Rehabilitation Centre as well as extension at Swartfontein Treatment Centre.

Funding of organisations that are operation this area of work continues through the Province.

Members of the community are encouraged to seek assistance of how to quit substances or drugs. The help is there.



The MEC for Health, honourable G.P Mashego and the executive mayor of Thaba Chweu Municipality Cllr Selina Mashego-Sekgobela officially opened the New wing (OPD, Pharmacy, Admissions and Casualty) at Sabie hospital, Thaba Chweu

Sabie hospital received state of the art facelift

The MEC for Health, Mr Gillion Mashego and the Executive Mayor of Thaba Chweu Municipality Cllr Selina Mashego-Sekgobela officially opened the New wing (OPD, Pharmacy, Admissions and Casualty) at Sabie hospital, Thaba Chweu Sub -District in Ehlanzeni District. The event was attended by more than 1000 people from Sabie and the surrounding areas who came to witness the radical transformation with regards to infrastructure developments by Mpumalanga province department of Health. The project started on the 9th of January 2015 and was completed on the 15th of April 2016. Sabie hospital is categorised as a level 1 district hospital serving the communities of Sabie, Harmony hill, Simile, Graskop and Pilgrim Rest with a population of 31 184 people.

The hospital started as a war memorial hospital in 1919 and subsequently, the hospital was rebuilt on another site in 1941 funded by the then Transvaal provincial administration consisting of 3 wards, namely female wards, male wards and maternity wards with 99 approved beds. In later years the male general wards was housed in an asbestos structure as well as dental unit, pharmacy and rehabilitation unit. MEC Mr Gillion Mashego said in order to address the infrastructure challenges of the hospital, the department constructed a state of the art new wing of the hospital consisting of casualty department, Pharmacy, OPD providing number of services i.e. dental, rehab, dietetics, psychology, eye care, HIV & AIDS counsellors and TB unit as well as for general OPD and Admissions. He

further said the department also renovated the existing structure with the male general wards moving from the asbestos structure to the renovated old maternity ward and the paediatric ward moving to a repurposed area within the maternity block. The asbestos structures are currently being demolished and the process is nearing completion. A patient by the name of Mr L Magagula was excited to be accommodated to this state of the art hospital, "we feel at home in this new structure compare to the old asbestos structure that was unsafe, the new look hospital is fantastic he said". The MEC appeal to the members of the community and the staff to take care of the hospital and the hospital will take care of them.

No discrimination against gay and bisexual men in the health facilities



MEC for Health Mr. Gillion Mashego, Executive Mayor of Msukaligwa Cllr S. Bongwe and the chairperson of the clinic committee Cllr M. Mhlanga officially launched Health4Men clinic.

As part to encourage health facilities to provide health services for gay people and men having sex with men without any discrimination because of their sexual orientation, MEC for Health in Mpumalanga Mr. Gillion Mashego accompanied by the

Executive Mayor of Msukaligwa Cllr S. Bongwe and the chairperson of the clinic committee Cllr M. Mhlanga officially launched Health4Men clinic in NM Cindi clinic Ermelo, Gert Sibande district. Anova in partnership with the Mpumalanga Department of Health and funded by PEPFAR through USAID, Health4Men established 2 Regional Leadership Sites in Mpumalanga; Nelspruit clinic in Ehlanzeni district and Thusi Clinic (NM Cindi) in Gert Sibande district. Health4Men has developed extensive expertise in all areas known as men who have sex with men (MSM) sexual health, including HIV combination prevention and both STI and HIV treatment, and mental health. Other areas of focus include MSM-focused community outreach models including interactive digital platforms, media production and topical

research initiatives.

MEC Mashego said, the aim of the launch is to encourage health facilities to provide health services for gay people and men having sex with men without any discrimination because of their sexual orientation. He emphasised that government made health facilities to be accessible to everyone regardless of who you are or your sexual orientation, he further pleaded with parents, families and the communities to accept and support their children sexual orientation unconditional.

Nurses at 20 health care facilities across Mpumalanga province, have been trained and mentored by our highly skilled team to ensure that gay and bisexual men receive excellent treatment and comprehensive care regarding their sexual health, including HIV-related MSM services.



Computerised Learner Drivers Licence Mobile Unit.

Driving skills development in the province

Mpumalanga Community Safety, Security and Liaison MEC Mr Vusi Shongwe says Youth Capacity Development Programme initiative that was launched recently will assist young people to stay away from crime.

Shongwe was speaking during the launching of the initiative which is a partnership between the Department of Community Safety, Security and Liaison (DCSSL) and Service Seta. The launch took place in Mbombela recently.

The Services SETA and DCSSL are embarking on a Youth Capacity Development Project which seeks to address the challenges of unemployment and lack of skills faced by the young people in the province.

Being licensed to drive a vehicle has become one of the requirements job seekers must meet. Consequently many youth miss out on

these opportunities due to a lack of driving licenses while in possession of required job related skills.

This exclusion often leads to young people becoming economically inactive and losing out on further opportunities due to apathy that then follows as they lose conviction in their own capabilities, as a result.

It was due to these findings that DCSSL initiated the Youth Capacity Development Project in driving skills targeting Grade 11 and 12 learners to expose them to this skill. The initiative will also provide for youth who are already out of school to benefit from the project. This initiative is part of the #BEINGSAFEISCOOL Programme.

As part of the initiative, two Computerised Learner Drivers Licence Mobile Units were also unveiled. The Computerised Learner Drivers Licence Mobile units are able to offer learners licence tests from wherever they are. Over 760 underprivileged youth

will benefit from this initiative.

When candidates apply for learners licence tests they often have to wait for long periods. When fully deployed, these mobile units allows for the testing of large number of candidates without long waiting periods. The initiative will also cover funding of the trailer mobile units where the learners would be trained. It covers marketing and management for unemployed youth. A further 69 000 K53 books will also be distributed in all schools libraries in the province.

The MEC said: "We are basically empowering young people to be able to be equipped with driver's license because a driver's license is a requirement. We want them to prepare with the particular skills so that we take them out of the streets, we take them out of drugs, and we take them out of all wrong doings in the province and in the country."

Mobile Testing and Weigh Units assist road crash reduction

Mpumalanga Community Safety, Security and Liaison, MEC Vusi Shongwe said that Mobile Vehicle and Weighing Units that the department unveiled N4 Kia Ora outside Mbombela recently will go a long way towards reducing road crashes in the province.

According to Shongwe, most vehicles obtain vehicle roadworthy certificates after being purchased and after that they do not get tested frequently so that defects are timeously identified and attended to. He says in worst cases some vehicle owners even bribe corrupt officers to issue them with roadworthy certificates when their vehicles have defects. He said that the equipments will also assist in alleviating

corruption at vehicle testing stations because the equipment has been fitted with a camera.

"You may have a fraudulently acquired a road worthy certificate when your vehicle has defects, but should you get caught the law will take its course and your vehicle will be immediately impounded.

What is also effective is that once the vehicle has been tested, the driver will receive a print out that will show the details of defects if there are any in their vehicle," the MEC said.

With regard to vehicle owners who often evade weigh bridges by using other routes, the mobile weigh unit will assist in bringing to book once they are stopped.

Shongwe explained that the devices are

sophisticated in such a way that even the vision of the drivers can be tested on the spot. Once the drivers' eyes have been tested they are then advised on the next course of action depending on the results. The Mobile Testing and Vehicle Weighing Units will be used to examine the roadworthiness of vehicles and weigh them simultaneously. The department believes that the introduction of these two units will have a major impact on the enhancement of road safety in the province. Furthermore this will lead to effective law enforcement. At the launch of the units, several units were checked and they included trucks. The team that was accompanying the MEC was able to stop some vehicles and others were also impounded.

Overjoyed for new houses

Happiness enveloped three underprivileged families at KwaGuqa Ext 11, Mzinti Village and Wesselton at eMalahleni, Nkomazi and Msukaligwa Local Municipalities as they received newly built houses and blanket donations from the Department of Human Settlements, stakeholders and business community during the Nelson Mandela International Campaign this month. The activities were rolled out through a partnership between the Department, Emalahleni Housing Company and contractors who donated blankets, food parcels and furniture to needy households and welfare organisations. In doing their civic duty, the participants symbolically constructed and painted houses during the three days.

An 86-year old, Emma Mkhatswa who lived in a one room house was excited to be led into her new fully furnished house that was donated by one of the contractors. Mkhatswa who survives on her pension fund said that it had never occurred to her that she will one day ever live in a decent house. "I am excited to be among the beneficiaries. I have been longing for a moment like this for years now, thanks God today you came to me. I thank the good teachings and the spirit of Ubuntu Tata Mandela taught you", exclaimed the excited Mkhatswa.

Leading the team at Mzinti, MEC Violet Siwela and Nkomazi Local Municipality Executive Mayor, Cllr Thulisile Khoza took part to paint Mr Elijah Sihlangu and Ms Ressa Nkomo's houses. They made grocery donations and planted vegetable seeds at these households. MEC Siwela reminded the participants of the great work Madiba has done for the country and globally. "Madiba was selfless in his work and stood for humanity", she quipped.

Contractor, Mr. Michael Nesane, expressed happiness when he saw the beneficiaries ushered into their long awaited houses. "I have never felt so much good in my life. To see such happy faces it really brings joy to my heart. To this day my company has been able to give back to 86 families in the form of donating furniture and some food



GOOD CAUSE: MEC Violet Siwela officially hands over the house to the excited gogo Emma Mkhatswa assisted by Nkomazi Mayor, Cllr Thulisile Khoza

parcels. I am excited and wish our communities can adopt the culture of giving out to the needy."

The Department started this year's celebration for Madiba month at eMalahleni Municipality with a symbolic construction and painting of houses at KwaGuqa Ext 11 on the 18th July 2016. The Department also partnered with the Emalahleni Housing Company by donating 1000 blankets to needy households and welfare organisation in the municipality.

The 18th July was declared by the United Nations (2009) as an annual international Mandela Day celebration and seeks to entrench and promote the legacy, values and principles of Dr. Nelson Mandela and encourages society to undertake civic duty. On this day, people are encouraged to dedicate 67 minutes of their time to make difference in other people's lives.

Youth equipped with construction skills

Youth Brigade Programme participants in Mpumalanga have been equipped to take part in the construction sector. The Department of Human Settlements honoured 17 of the programme's participants with Building and Civil Construction certificates at Vaalbank, Dr. JS Moroka Local Municipality at the conclusion of youth month. The recipients successfully completed their theory and practical training with the Department. The initiative seeks to develop their skills, broaden the understanding and aspirations for working within the building environment and access opportunities available within the human settlements delivery chain.

The programme is a partnership between the Department, National Youth Development Agency (NYDA) and the National Home Builder's Registration Council (NHBC). Speaking at the event, MEC Violet Siwela confirmed that the Department has allocated 10 percent of its budget which translates to R132 million to support youth owned enterprises. "With this initiative it is clear that the Department is therefore well positioned to facilitate coordinated planning towards the realization of progressive development to our youth. We are very pleased with the manner in which they responded to this programme and cooperated with their supervisors to the end," highlighted Siwela.

Ms Pontso Maako (28) said that the training was entirely an eye-opener for her and has assisted in intensifying her interests in the construction industry. "I have always been petrified with the idea that this was a male dominated trade. I am excited that I was able to follow my heart and persevered throughout the sessions to get my



RECOGNISED: Sifiso Mkhabela and Pontso Maako receiving their certificates from MEC Violet Siwela during the Youth Brigade graduation ceremony.

recognition," explained Maako.

The programme is an initiative that involves youth within the human settlements delivery process and the programme is characterized by community service, structured learning and personal development. It also seeks to facilitate the participation of youth and is aligned to the comprehensive plan for the creation of sustainable human settlements. Additional 200 youth recruits from; Steve Tshwete, Mbombela, eMalahleni, Dr Pixley Isaka Ka-Seme, Thembisile Hani, Govan Mbeki and Lekwa will take part in the programme this year.

Mpumalanga municipalities deliver top performance

Municipalities in Mpumalanga have the highest number of households with access to services such as sewerage, sanitation and electricity. This has been confirmed by STATS SA's Statistician-General, Mr Pali Lehohla when tabling the 2014/15 report. The report indicates the following:

- The number of households with access to sewerage and sanitation services increased by 13.9%.
- The number of households with access to refuse removal increased by 15.4%
- The number of households with access to electricity increased by 10.7%.

This achievement comes in the backdrop of a recorded increase of the delivery of water by eight (8) municipalities in Mpumalanga. These municipalities were announced by MEC for Co-operative Governance and Traditional Affairs (COGTA), Ms Refilwe Mtshweni when she tabled the 2016/17 Policy and Budget speech in the legislature in May this year. The municipalities are as follows:

1. Dr Pixley Ka Isaka Seme (96%),
2. Steve Tshwete (93,8%),
3. Victor Khanye (93,5%),
4. Chief Albert Luthuli (93%),
5. Govan Mbeki (93%),
6. Lekwa (91%),
7. Umjindi (91,1%)
8. and Dipaleseng (90,2%).

The number of people with access to water is expected to increase as more resources are channeled towards municipal support for the delivery of water. An allocation of about R2 billion was announced by the Premier, Mr David Mabuza during the State of the Province Address (SoPA) in February this year. Part of the allocation will be used to install boreholes in water-distressed municipalities as a short term intervention, due to the drought.

MEC Mtshweni appealed to communities to use water sparingly, as this will contribute towards the expansion of water delivery. The department has introduced the war on leaks programme aimed at fixing the water infrastructure in both Umjindi and Bushbuckridge Municipalities as part of the

plan to support municipalities in the delivery of water.



Water and sanitation a priority for the Department of Co-operative Governance and Traditional Affairs.

Mpumalanga treasury call centre speeds up payment services



The team responsible for the call centre. Back row is Linda Mkhonza and Kholofelo Sekome. Front row, Xoliswa Jele, Sabelo Msimango and Zanele.

The Mpumalanga Provincial Treasury has established a Call Centre to focus on 30-days payments process for service providers who do business with the Provincial departments and entities.

The introduction of the new Call Centre flows from the commitment of MEC Sikhumbuzo Kholwane to improve business processes which include payment of suppliers within the stipulated timeframe.

The Call Centre will mainly focus on invoice queries. "As the Department that provides oversight on implementation of the Financial Management legislation we have an interest in ensuring administrative justice for the suppliers in the Province.

"It is unacceptable for suppliers to wait more than 30 days for Public Institutions to honour their financial commitments", said MEC Kholwane. The Call Centre has been operational from 01 July 2016, and suppliers can contact the Provincial Treasury on 0800-00-66-57 or send an email to payme@mpg.gov.za to register their challenges.