



higher education  
& training

Department:  
Higher Education and Training  
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA



Where Quality Meets Potential by Creating Your Tomorrow Today

**SPECIAL EDITION 3**

**JULY 2016**

# **DR NELSON MANDELA DAY SPECIAL EDITION**



**MAKE EVERYDAY A MANDELA DAY**

# GSC Donates Mandela House

The Mandela Day motto for 2016 'Take Action. Inspire Change' inspired Gert Sibande TVET College to build a home for an elderly resident in Sakhile, Standerton on 17 July 2016. Ms Elizabeth Mbatha (65), who is disabled and wheelchair bound, was identified to benefit from this initiative by the College as part of their Nelson Mandela Day contribution for 2016.

The Minister of Higher Education and Training, Dr Blade Nzimande, joined the college to acknowledge the contribution of the late Dr Nelson Mandela to the struggle for democracy internationally, by handing over a newly built house to Ms Mbatha on behalf of Gert Sibande TVET College on the day.

The project was funded by the community development fund of the College as well as through contributions from various business partners. The house was built by Gert Sibande TVET College students under the supervision of a qualified contractor. College staff members and community members also assisted in the construction as part of their contribution towards Mandela Day. The house was fully furnished by various business partners of the college. The sponsorships included two fully furnished bedrooms, a lounge with a lounge suit and TV (with DSTV), a fully fitted kitchen with a stove, fridge, microwave and kitchen units. Groceries were also sponsored by the College staff while fruit and vegetables were sponsored by a local fresh-produce supplier. Minister Nzimande, thanked Gert Sibande TVET College for this wonderful initiative and magnanimous gesture. He praised the students and staff who worked tirelessly to ensure that the home was completed on time. Dr Nzimande noted with appreciation the growing trend of Technical Vocational Education and Training (TVET) Colleges contributing towards the upliftment of the communities they serve. "This is going to change the life of Gogo Mbatha dramatically and significantly in the name of our late leader, Dr Nelson Mandela. "The students have acquired construction and building skills from Gert Sibande TVET College that enables them to make a difference to their communities," said the Minister.

The emotional Ms Mbatha was extremely grateful to the College and all those that assisted. "This wonderful gift will change my life", she said. Her emotional address brought tears to all attendees. Fikile Mtshali, speaking on behalf of the college council, indicated that the college would not be successful without the support of the community and that this project was the college's way of giving back to the community for their overwhelming support. The executive Mayor, Linda Dhlamini, expressed his pride of having 'the leading college brand in South Africa' in his municipality. "Gert Sibande TVET College is a shining light for our community and we are grateful for the significant contributions that they continue to make both in providing high-quality training and community development initiatives," said the executive Mayor.

"Changing the world for better and making individual sacrifices so that our communities can benefit were practices of Tata Madiba and this project is our way living the legacy of our great hero", said the College Principal, Nick Balkrishen. "Tata Madiba would be beaming with pride with the amazing contributions of staff, students and business partners who worked collaboratively together to contribute towards changing the life of Mrs Mbatha" he concluded.

# GSC Donates Mandela House in pictures



*Before*

*After*





# THE HANDOVER CEREMONY IN PICTURES



CEO and Principal of Gert Sibande TVET College directs the programme during the house handover



The Minister of Higher Education and Training, Dr Blade Nzimande, congratulates Ms Mbatha on her gift

Gogo Mbatha giving thanks to the ancestors



Ms Jabulile Mhlabane, assistant Director: Communications, delivers a vote of thanks

College council member, Ms Fikile Msthal, delivers a message on behalf of College Council



Ms Vuyi Maboja, staff member, hands over the donated food parcels by staff members and local business people

# OTHER MANDELA DAY ACTIVITIES

## 1. Career Development Festival

The Department of Higher Education and Training (DHET) hosted its 7th annual Mandela Day Career Development Festival in support of the International Mandela Day, as declared by the United Nations, on 18 July 2016 at the Gert Sibande TVET College (Ermelo Campus) in Ermelo, Mpumalanga.

More than 3500 pupils from different schools across the Gert Sibande region flocked to the Campus to be part of the career development festival. The Mandela Day Career Development Festival seeks to empower high school learners and NEET Youth from the surrounding rural and semi-rural areas with the opportunity to interact with and get career guidance and information on study opportunities, funding, learnerships and scholarships direct from industry professionals.

The morning session consisted of exhibitions for Grade 9 - 12 learners and Out-of-School-Youth by universities, universities of technology, TVET Colleges, government departments, agencies and industry.

Learners and out of school youth then proceeded to the main event where the minister got the opportunity to address them. According to the Minister, the department came up with the career development initiative to honour and follow the footsteps of the late Dr Nelson Mandela. "The learners need to know the different opportunities that the government provides and young people need to take full advantage of these opportunities," said the minister.

The minister also stressed the importance of career guidance. "Young people need to make an informed choice about the career path they want to follow and to do that they need to have the correct information," continued the minister. Dr Nzimande also touched on the importance of artisanship in the country. According to the Minister, the country needs artisans therefore all the youth that has been out of school need to enrol with the Artisan Development centres to combat the skills shortage in the country.

The CEO and Principal of Gert Sibande TVET College, Mr Nick Balkrishen, also stressed the importance of education and gave a brief explanation of the requirements for pupils to enrol at the College. Principal Balkrishen also thanked the Department for bringing the Career Development festival to Gert Sibande TVET College.

The department aims to take action and inspire change in the lives of South Africa's youth With the Mandela Day Career Development Festival in their journey to achieving success by ensuring that they have the right information to make informed decisions for their future. It is through education that the youth will be able to free themselves, free others and then serve our nation.

## 2. Career Day Festival in Pictures at Ermelo Campus on 18 July 2016

5000 Learners attended



Employers, Government and SETA'S Exhibit



Learners workshopped on career information



## Ermelo Campus



*In the spirit of Mandela day, Gert Sibande TVET College, Ermelo Campus, donated blankets to Ermelo Activity Centre for the Disabled as part of Mandela Day celebrations.*

## Balfour Campus



*Staff members, SRC, Class reps and peer educators painted, cleaned the yard and donated grocery to a needy family in a township of Siyathemba in Balfour.*

## Evander Campus



*Evander Gold Mine together with the Temple of Faith church visited Evander Campus on 18 July 2016 and they donated blankets to students and toiletry packs for Men/Women which included: Toothpaste, Toothbrush, Sanitary towels, Body lotion etc. they also donated bus tickets to 24 needy students for a period of 12 months.*

## Sibanesetfu Campus



*Sibanesetfu celebrated Mandela Day by renovating a hall at Khanya Primary School*

## Perdekop Campus



*Perdekop Campus staff members contributed money and bought grocery that they donated to Siyazenzela home-based care centre in Perdekop*

## Standerton Campus



*Standerton Campus SRC and Peer Educators celebrated Mandela Day by cleaning at SANTA TB Hospital as part of Mandela Day celebrations*