

Minister Nxesi to spend his 67 minutes on Mandela Day in a school named after struggle hero, Dr WF Nkomo in Pretoria

Minister TW Nxesi as part of the Mandela Day, will honour the day by spending his 67 minutes by renovating the Dr WF Nkomo High School in Atteridgeville.

The Minister accompanied by more than 80 departmental officials will spend the day painting, cleaning and fixing broken windows at the school. The Minister will also handover uniforms to needy learners.

Dr Frederick Nkomo a struggle hero was born in Makapanstad near Pretoria in 1915. In 1937 Nkomo studied for a BSc degree at the South African Native College (Fort Hare). He also obtained his BA degree from the University of South Africa (UNISA). He taught at the Kilnerton Institute near Pretoria for six months after which he started the first secondary school at the Dougall Hall in Marabastad. The school later moved to Atteridgeville to become Hofmeyr High School and in appreciation of his services to the community the Dr W.F. Nkomo Secondary School was established in Atteridgeville.

In 1941, he obtained a scholarship to study medicine at the University of the Witwatersrand (Wits). He was elected to the Wits Student Representative Council and represented the university at the National Union of South African Students (NUSAS). When the ANC National Youth League (ANCYL) was founded in 1944 Nkomo became chairman of its provisional executive committee, but was later replaced by Anton Lembede in order to complete his studies. On completion of his medical course he did his internship at McCords hospital in Durban and went into practice in Lady Selbourne and Atteridgeville.