

# Celebrating Madiba Day

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YOUNG and old alike are expected to experience some Madiba magic today as government, business and the general public join South Africans across the country and around the world to celebrate Mandela Day.

This annual initiative encourages all South Africans to spend 67 minutes of their time doing something useful and good to help others, in the spirit of the country's first democratically elected president.

Premier Sylvia Lucas has called on the people of the Northern Cape to do their part in improving the lives of the less fortunate, in memory of Mandela.

"If we heed the call to simply do something good every day, we would be living Madiba's legacy and help build the country of our dreams," said Lucas yesterday.

Lucas will be in Paballelo, Upington, to hand over a newly renovated home to 92-year-old Oupa Wilson Nkonzo.

"Nkonzo's home was damaged in a fire two years ago and with the generous donation of private sponsors, the premier was able to reconstruct the house," explained the Premier's Office spokesperson, Bronwyn Thomas-Abrahams.

"The premier will also be meeting roughly 200 elderly community members, to thank them for the role that they played in the liberation of our country and the continuous role that they play in contributing to the development of our country," she added. "They will be served lunch and given blankets and dignity packs."

The Northern Cape Provincial Legislature will be commemorating Mandela Day at the Sinothando Child and Youth Centre where they will be donating paint brushes, hair accessories and toiletries to the children.

Spokesperson for the legislature, Mpho Merriman, said that this comes after a special bond was formed during a similar initiative during last year's 67 minutes, which were spent cleaning the premises while two washing machines were also donated.

will be spending time addressing the needs of members of the community.

The MEC visited four households yesterday, conducting much needed maintenance to the properties while also donating furniture.

Among others, Jack visited Carnarvon's oldest resident, 107-year-old, Katriena Viviers.

This morning's schedule will include the handing over of blankets and food parcels to families of Plakkerskamp, the donation of school uniforms to pupils at Delta Primary School and door-to-door visits.

The Department of Water and Sanitation (DWS) will embark on the National Clear Rivers Campaign as part of the department's Mandela Month activities, at the Bosman Canal, Douglas at 11am.

"This annual campaign will see the DWS co-operating with various water sector stakeholders and communities across South Africa to clean rivers," said DWS spokesperson, Amogelang Moholoeng.

"Given that the country is currently recovering from one of the worst droughts in decades, the campaign seeks to create environmentally conscious communities by engaging with them in raising awareness and protecting our water resources.

"Volunteers are encouraged to adopt a proactive approach to protect our rivers, streams, wetlands and other water ecosystems.

"In the Northern Cape, the area identified for cleaning is in the Siyacuma Local Municipality where illegal dumping is threatening to pollute the Orange River system."

Education, as well as representatives from the South African Local Government Association (Salga), will be in the JTG District where MEC Martha Bartlett will be visiting a community-based soup kitchen in Batlharos to establish a food garden.

"An adopted family will receive groceries, toiletries and school uniforms that will fulfil their immediate needs," said Education spokesperson Geoffrey van der Merwe.

"We have also identified a change agent in this household, who will be provided with a working contract to sustain the needs of this household for the future."

"The secretary of the legislature, Patrick Moopelwa, made a commitment to management to adopt the centre for the next three years," Merriman explained yesterday. "This initiative made a huge difference to many children and youths."

The MEC for Co-operative Governance, Human Settlements and Traditional Affairs (Coghsta), Alvin Botes, will hand over school shoes, sanitary towels and socks to pupils from Zingisa, Reneilwe and Boitshoko primary schools this morning.

These different primary schools will meet jointly at Boitshoko Higher Primary School at 10am for the handover.

Botes will also present houses to military veterans in Lerato Park at 1pm.

"The handover of these houses affirms the department's objective of restoring the dignity of military veterans through provision of sustainable human settlements," said departmental spokesperson, Xhanti Teki.

The MEC for Finance, Economic Development and Tourism, Mac Jack, visited Carnarvon yesterday and will be in Vosburg this morning, where he

The Department of Roads and Public Works has a host of projects lined up throughout the Province for its 67 minutes.

These include the donation of school uniforms, food parcels and blankets, while members of the department will also be cleaning up the homes of elderly residents identified in each of the districts.

Cope's national president, Mosiuoa Lekota, accompanied by Northern Cape leader Pakes Dikgetsi, will conduct an oversight visit to the Kimberley Hospital Complex at 10am this morning.

This visit will include a walking tour of the hospital where some of the patients will be given toiletries.

Meanwhile, local businesses are also expected to give of their time today. These include Mekan Engineering Services, who will be sending teams to Bophelo Care Centre (for the elderly) and Children's Pride Crèche in an effort to ensure that young and old benefit from Madiba's legacy.

Both projects will involve the painting of the exterior of the buildings, general cleaning and maintenance, followed by lunch for residents.