

# Ford gives gift of mobility to Mthatha patients

**ZAVELA MAKWABE**

FORD South Africa, one of the country's leading automobile and commercial vehicle manufacturers, has designed, produced, and donated five state-of-the-art walking frames to Mthatha's Nelson Mandela Academic Hospital on 24th February.

The height and width adjustable walking frames are designed to improve balance and provide maximum stability and comfort for patients with movement disorders, especially cerebral palsy. The walking frames are compact and are equipped with lockable brakes to control movement.

This first-of-its-kind innovation will benefit over 300 patients in the hospital and will be used as treatment aids during Outpatient Department (OPD) treatment sessions in the hospital's Occupational Therapy OPD. They will also be used for in-ward based therapy sessions.

Hospital manager Dr. Mpumzi Mledle



Nelson Mandela Academic Hospital Clinical Manager Dr Mpumzi Mledle and staff receiving walking frames from Ford SA.

PHOTO: SUPPLIED

said this partnership reflects the power of collaboration in making a meaningful difference in the community. "These frames

will be especially beneficial for children with cerebral palsy, providing them with much-needed mobility support. We are truly

humbled and grateful for this contribution which will significantly enhance the quality of care we provide," he said.

## Big response to human rights champ search

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EARLIER this year, the Nelson Mandela Museum issued a call for submissions as part of a Human Rights Essay Competition.

This required Grade 10 and 11 learners to pen down 3 to 4 pages of a well-researched and argued essay on which legal instruments they would rely on to foster and protect their rights, as enshrined in the constitution, if they felt discriminated against by other learners and educators owing to their sexual orientation.

The competition officially closed on 20th February, and the contest has seen

a whopping 702 scripts pouring in from schools across the country.

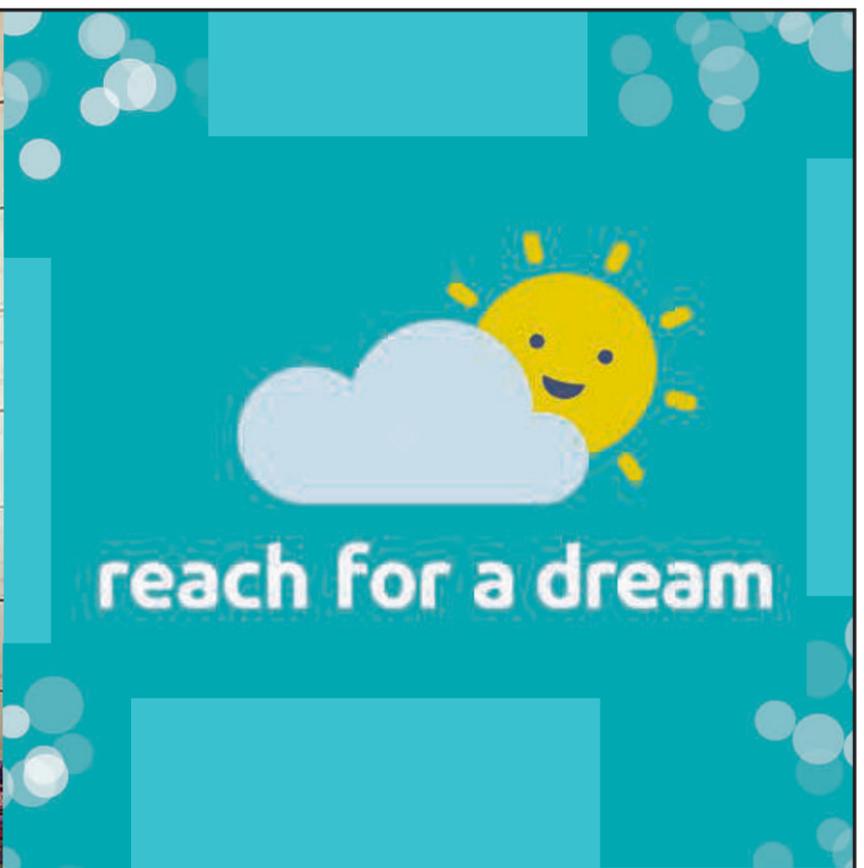
The team of adjudicators, made up of a group of independent candidates, has already started the daunting task of picking the top 10 essays. They said they are looking for innovative ideas, critical thinking, and passionate advocacy.

The chosen entries will then go through to the next round of the competition, and they will orally present their essays at the Nelson Mandela Museum in Mthatha on March 13th. There, the top three will receive competition prizes, whilst the rest will receive participation certificates.



The team of adjudicators going through the entries.

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