

Weather Today



Eastern Cape (Eastern Half)
Partly cloudy and cool to warm with light rain in places, and isolated showers and thundershowers in the northeast. The wind along the coast will be a moderate to fresh south-westerly, becoming northeasterly in the evening.

Expected Temperatures for Travellers	min	max
Bloemfontein	13	30
Johannesburg	14	24
Pretoria	16	26
Durban	20	23
Polokwane	17	27
Kimberley	15	32
Upington	14	30
Cape Town	14	23
George	12	22

Expected Temperatures Today	min	max
Aliwal North	11	29
Bhisho	11	29
Cradock	12	27
East London	17	22
Fort Beaufort	11	24
Graaff-Reinet	11	28
Makhanda	11	23
Joubertina	13	23
Mthatha	13	24
Ngqura	11	24
Plettenberg Bay	15	23
Port Alfred	17	22
Gqeberha	15	22
Port St Johns	19	22
Komani	11	24
Uitenhage	15	22

Sunrise	04h52
Sunset	19h07

Yesterday's Weather
Max temp: 19.5°C
Min temp: 15.3°C
Discomfort index: Nil
Barometer: 1014.7 kpa Decreasing
Wind: Southerly at 13 knots
Rain (at 2pm): 72mm
Humidity (at 2pm): 94%

Flight Times

SA Air-Link & FlySafair

Arrivals	
4Z913	Johannesburg0750
FA150	Cape Town0805
FA388	Johannesburg0845
4Z915	Johannesburg1205
FA240	Johannesburg1310
FA142	Cape Town1445
FA382	Johannesburg1645
4Z917	Johannesburg1745

Departures	
4Z914	Johannesburg0820
FA151	Cape Town0845
FA389	Johannesburg0925
4Z916	Johannesburg1235
FA241	Johannesburg1350
FA142	Cape Town1525
FA383	Johannesburg1725
4Z918	Johannesburg1815

Shipping

Arrived yesterday: Nil
In port last night: Tourino at R-Extension, SAS Dock at N-Berth, El Shaddai at Repair Quay
Sailed: Nil
Due today: Nil

Moon Phases	
December 8	Full Moon
December 16	Third Quarter
December 23	New Moon
December 30	First Quarter

December Tides	High	Low	High	Low
Tue 06	0203	0824	1441	2055
Wed 07	0303	0857	1512	2124
Thur 08	0355	0929	1542	2153
Fri 09	0406	1001	1611	2225
Sat 10	0437	1033	1640	2254
Sun 11	0510	1107	1710	2326
Mon 12	0544	1142	1743	---

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A:	

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Plan to open Mandela’s grave to public

Statesman's resting place will eventually be a place of pilgrimage, granddaughter reveals at commemoration function

LULAMILE FENI

Nelson Mandela's family is close to finalising a long-term plan to open the late statesman's grave to the public. Mandela's eldest granddaughter, Ndileka Mandela, revealed an update at the ninth commemoration of Mandela's death hosted by the Nelson Mandela Museum in Mthatha on Monday.

Mandela died at his Houghton home in Johannesburg on December 5 2013, aged 95. He was buried 10 days later at his ancestral home in Qunu. Ndileka Mandela said her grandfather's resting place would "eventually" be open to all, to function as a place of pilgrimage. "Next year, being 10 years since my grandad passed on we want to open what will be called the Nelson Mandela Gar-

den of Memory. "We don't have an exact date as yet, but we are in talks as the family. "If we keep it closed we really will be denying him what he wanted and what he wanted for the Eastern Cape. "The intention was always to open it to all. "Grandad was a person of the people. "Talks are also going on between us and the government. "From the word go, even if we wanted we could not divorce him from the ANC and the government. "Whatever we agree upon as the family will have to include them." In 2018, the year Madiba would have turned 100, many articles were written hinting that the grave would be available for public visits. Ndileka Mandela said Madiba himself had chosen to be buried in Qunu. "He said that if he was buried somewhere else his bones would not relax, but rattle in the grave. "That choice was part of

ploughing back to the province that made him who he was. "Our intention is to open it to the public as being a place of reflection." Mandela said a museum could be opened, and cultural art fairs could be held leading to

●● **If we keep it closed we really will be denying him what he wanted and what he wanted for the Eastern Cape**

other economic activities attracting tourism and trade to the Qunu area. The grave site could be connected with other Eastern Cape heritage and liberation sites like Mvezo, Mqhekezweni, Clarke-bury, Healdtown, Fort Hare University, the gravesite of King Ngubencuka in Ngcobo and homes of other liberation fighters including Walter Sisulu, Chris Hani, OR Tambo, Dr AB Xuma and the girlhood home of Winnie Madikizela-Mandela at Mbhongweni in Mbizana. Mandela said the anniversary of Madiba's death always brought mixed feelings for the family. "This is the day we lost him. I could not even mourn his passing as a grandchild because I was a cog in the wheels of preparation for the 10 days of mourning, and also the plans we made for the eight years before his death for what would happen after he died. "There was a time when he was sick and really I prayed for his release because I knew he would not have wanted to see himself in that state."



HONOURING AN ICON: Nelson Mandela's eldest grandchild Ndileka Mandela leans against one of Madiba statues at the Nelson Mandela Museum during the ninth commemoration of the late statesman. Ndileka announced that the family is mulling the idea of opening the world icon's grave in Qunu to the public. Picture: LULAMILE FENI

Museum pledges R50,000 for restoration of Mqhayi’s grave

SITHANDIWE VELAPHI

The Nelson Mandela Museum said keeping the legacy of the former statesman from Qunu alive while disregarding that of Samuel Edward Krune Mqhayi was a betrayal of Madiba. Teacher, poet and writer SEK Mqhayi died in 1945. At an African Liberation Heritage indaba in East London in October, the museum pledged R50,000 to restore his grave in Ntabozuko (formerly Berlin). Museum CEO Dr Vuyani Gweki Booli said Mandela held Mqhayi in great esteem. His grave is accessed via an entrance at BCM's Ntabozuko landfill site. It is not easy as one has to walk in a bushy area after driving into the dumpsite. There is no signage on the way and the markings on SEK's tombstone have faded. At the indaba, Azapo secretary-general Chris Swepe said: "Let's start an initiative to restore Mqhayi's grave. "On behalf of Azapo, I am pledging at least R5,000 for the restoration of Mqhayi's grave. Booi said: "SEK Mqhayi was significant in the cultural landscape of SA, especially promotion of indigenous languages, in particular isiXhosa. "When he visited Healdtown, when Nelson Mandela was a student, he was so articulate that Mandela was moved. "Madiba even attributes Mqhayi's works with his realisation: 'I am a true African.'" Booi said neglecting Mqhayi's grave was no better than actively erasing African history.



ABANDONED: SEK Mqhayi's neglected grave in Ntabozuko near East London. Picture: MICHAEL PINYANA

"As the CEO of Nelson Mandela Museum, I thought to myself I would be betraying the legacy of Nelson Mandela if we cannot contribute towards the restoration of this grave. "If we let the grave of Mqhayi deteriorate, we are eradicating an African memory," he said. Speaking on behalf of the Mqhayi family, Prof Needile Saule said the initiative was welcome. "If the intention has no hidden agenda then it is good. I am sure the Mqhayi family would also like to do something about the grave

through their foundation [launched in Qonce on Thursday]. But from the museum's side, if they want to do something, it is because Mandela [learnt from] SEK Mqhayi and loved him. Booi said Mqhayi's teachings were still relevant today. "If you read *Long Walk to Freedom*, Mandela says Mqhayi had what he called sacred values. Mqhayi is also so important to this current generation. "If we want to decolonise our minds, let's go deep down to the works of SEK," Booi said.

‘Rivonia Trial’ play makes welcome return in Mthatha

SIKHO NTSJOBANE

After a 12-year hiatus, *The Rivonia Trial*, a play written and performed by a group of Eastern Cape actors, made an emphatic return to the stage in Mthatha on Sunday. The famous Rivonia Trial took place in Pretoria between 1963 and 1964 and led to the imprisonment of Nelson Mandela and others after they were arrested, convicted of sabotage and sentenced to life in prison. The play is the brainchild of veteran Eastern Cape theatre director, playwright and stage actor Khanyiso Billy Dakada. It first premiered in Sweden and Switzerland back in the late 90s and closed in 2010. Dakada, who played Mandela, and his fellow actors Siyabulela Ngewu, who played an apartheid policeman and a Robben Island prison warder; Thembele Vacu, who played Govan Mbeki; Nondumiso Zweni, who played the Rivonia trial judge and Winnie Madikizela-Mandela; and Siphiwo Ngqongwa, who played a priest and Faku, a political prisoner arrested during the Ingquza Hill massacre, gave scintillating performances. They were given a standing ovation at the Mthatha Art Centre. "It's a constantly evolving story," Dakada said. "Some of us do not even know where we come from because the history of the struggle has been buried. "Our people have never been educated on the history so that they can protect this freedom

which is now being treated like a spaza shop for a few corrupt individuals. "This was a liberation event that changed the face of SA and the world. "The Rivonia Trial was a turning point in the struggle in SA, which was followed by a lot of violence, bloodshed, boycotts, and people going into exile. "This is the story that saw many politicians ending up on Robben Island, which became a political school so they could educate and arm our cadres." Many people, particularly current government leaders, have forgotten the history of how the country attained its freedom, he said. The aim was now to take the play to schools and churches around the province to educate "our people as a defence against corruption". Ngewu, who was one of the three original cast members

alongside Dakada and Vacu in 1997, told the Dispatch how while touring overseas, he had almost been assaulted on stage by a member of the audience who had become enraged. In one of the scenes Ngewu, playing a prison warder, slaps a fellow cast member so hard that every audience member cringes. Recounting the encounter with the fan in 1997, he said the man had dared him to hit him instead of his fellow actor. This showed the power of acting and the emotions it sometimes evoked in people. "He was so angry and kept on saying 'hit me, hit me'. "I thought maybe I was over-acting or too real in my portrayal of the prison warder. "I was shocked and ran backstage." His two fellow actors ended up having to improvise and assure the audience member the prison warder had been fired and replaced. Mthatha-born musician, hip-hop artist and producer Musa "Top Shayela" Maki, who was in the audience on Sunday, described the show as refreshing. He had seen it before, but Dakada had done a sterling job to keep it fresh. "It has emotional and funny moments. It takes you on an emotional rollercoaster and it's a credit to him." Nomsa Duda said the actors had made the events portrayed seem so real at times. Though she knew about the real Rivonia Trial, watching it coming alive on stage had elicited strong emotions in her.

The aim was now to take the play to schools and churches around the province to educate 'people as a defence against corruption'

inbrief

Intercape driver shot in W Cape

An Intercape bus driver was shot in Cape Town on Sunday. He is recovering in hospital. Two passengers escaped unharmed. Long-distance bus operators have faced a number of attacks, allegedly by elements in the taxi industry over routes between provinces, a battle company CEO Johann Ferreira warned could "wipe out long-distance bus operators completely". Driver Bangikhaya Machana, 35, was shot dead in Cape Town in April. Three drivers and a passenger have been shot and injured. Western Cape premier Alan Winde vowed to take "decisive action". "We cannot allow criminals to bring anarchy to the bus industry." - **TimesLIVE**

Grade 6 pupil dies

A grade 6 pupil from Refalotse Primary School in Winter-veld, Tshwane, was found "unresponsive" in a swimming pool and died during a school trip on Friday. Gauteng education MEC Matome Chiloane extended condolences to the family and school community. Education spokesperson Steve Mabona said grade 6 pupils, with teachers and parents, travelled to a resort on Friday. After lunch, the learners went to swim under supervision. Teachers and parents were alerted by pupils that the boy was "unresponsive" in a swimming pool. Parents tried to resuscitate him while waiting for EMS and police but paramedics certified him dead. Police are investigating. - **TimesLIVE**

emergency numbers

BUFFALO CITY METRO

Electricity (043) 050-5683
Water East London: (043) 705-9234/9235; Mdantsane: (043) 705-9860/9861; King William's Town: (043) 604-8506
Fire (043) 705-9000/9097
Roads/ Potholes (043) 705-9220/ 9223
Illegal dumping East London: (043) 721-1980/1969; Mdantsane: (043) 705-9900; King William's Town: (043) 604-8455

KING SABATA DALINDYEBO MUNICIPALITY

Electricity
Call Centre (24 Hour service) (047) 532 2222; (047) 532 4444; and (047) 501 4182;
Fire (047) 532 2222;
Refuse (047) 501 4075
Roads (047) 501 4037
Accounts (047) 501 4020