

Eastern Cape to become EV hub — Ramaphosa

President unveils Madiba statues in Qunu and Mthatha to commemorate Mandela Day

SIKHO NTSHOBANE

The Eastern Cape will be one of the hubs in the country for the mass production of electric vehicles, President Cyril Ramaphosa revealed on Tuesday.

In his main speech, delivered in Qunu during the 10th commemoration of International Mandela Day, Ramaphosa said: "Already the Eastern Cape became the first centre for the manufacturing of Covid-19 vaccines in Africa."

"As we move, we are also going to see the automotive industry going to a higher level when we start manufacturing the electric vehicles that are going to be in demand in the rest of the world."

"The Eastern Cape will be one of our provinces that are going to be leaders in making electric vehicles."

As part of the celebrations on what would have been Madiba's 105th birthday, Ramaphosa unveiled two statues of the iconic statesman, one at the Bhunga building at the Nelson Mandela Museum in Mthatha, and the other at the Mandela Museum in Qunu, where he grew up.

Mandela died aged 95 at his home in Houghton, Johannesburg, on December 5 2013.

Ramaphosa said programmes geared towards infrastructure development in the Eastern Cape were starting to take shape.

These included large-scale

roadworks and construction of two major bridges on the eastern side of the province.

The government had also made available R8bn for the first phase of the construction of the long-awaited Umzimvubu Dam.

Ramaphosa said the government was committed to creating more job opportunities, especially for young people, in the province.

He said the Eastern Cape had also been identified as a hub for the mass production of renewable energy.

"For now we are opening opportunities to the new sectors of the economy on renewables."

"The Eastern Cape is one of those provinces where we are going to see a lot of renewable energy projects from the sun and the wind."

"You will also be generating a

For now we are opening opportunities to the new sectors of the economy on renewable energy

lot of energy for the rest of the country."

He said Qunu had held a special place in Madiba's heart because it was where the first seeds of his political consciousness were born.

The president said he hoped the two statues would serve as an inspiration to the young people of Qunu to aspire to greatness and fulfil their own destinies.

He also called on the government to invest in developing the two museums, saying they would serve as magnets to attract thousands of tourists.

He said Mandela had shown that, despite circumstances, anyone could still rise to greatness.

The statue in Mthatha of Madiba wearing a suit depicted his life as a statesman and world leader.

By contrast, the Qunu statue, which depicts him clad in traditional Xhosa/ AkaThembu regalia, reminded everyone of the traditional values that he lived by.

"I would love to see more South Africans travel to Qunu and Mthatha to see this place of our history in the statues and other Madiba artefacts," Ramaphosa said.

He said they should remind current leaders to build a nation where no one was left behind.

The president said Mandela had taught leaders that they must get value for money on state projects.

He said misappropriation of funds, meant for specific projects, resulting in them being left incomplete, and this must come to an end.

The state should also fight

against overpricing of projects to honour Madiba, Ramaphosa said.

He called on the people of Qunu to protect the museums as they were built with public money and would assist in creating much-needed jobs and attracting tourists.

Ramaphosa urged the provincial government to look into developing agriculture, saying the Eastern Cape was blessed with some of the most fertile areas in SA.

"You can be a food basket," he said.

Madiba's widow, Graca Machel, said in a letter read out by Mandela's eldest granddaughter, Ndileka Mandela, that memorials honouring Madiba continued to humble her and give her a renewed sense of gratitude.

She said the two statues should be cared for, the same way Madiba had cared for his people.

"May they be connected to public programming for the development of communities and to continue to inspire others."

Earlier, Premier Oscar Mabuyane said unemployment, inequality and poverty were some of the obstacles facing the province.

He said crime and gender-based violence, as well as the deaths of initiates, were among the social ills plaguing the Eastern Cape.

He said the government needed to invest more in technology to increase production and economic opportunities for young people.

Mabuyane said the province was also vulnerable to disasters.

Foundations combine to give Mdantsane house a makeover

SIVENATHI GOSA

Daily Dispatch 2022 Local Hero Bulelani Fowl, founder of the Real View Foundation, commemorated Mandela Day by painting and cleaning the homes of two people in Mdantsane.

A total of 19 young people gathered at the NUS Mdantsane home of Khayalethu Bottoman, 52, where he lives with his elder brother, who is 56.

Bottoman said he was grateful for what Fowl did at his home as before he met him and got a job at the foundation he had been unemployed.

"I was not expecting this at all from him," he said.

"I started volunteering at the foundation because I did not have anything to do. I now have a permanent job as a security guard at the foundation."

The four-roomed house was tended to by members of the foundation, as well as members of the Siyakholwa Development Foundation.

They scraped walls and doors, cut and raked the grass and painted the whole house.

Fowl said they had identified Bottoman as someone to help as they lived in the same neighbourhood and he saw his neighbour's living conditions.

"He would get piecemeal jobs, which did not sustain his livelihood or support his child," he said.

"Since we have a soup kitchen, he usually goes and gets a meal. One day I visited his house and saw his poor living conditions. I promised him I'd celebrate Mandela by revamping his home."

"He got a job from EMPWP which pays him a monthly stipend as a security guard for



HELPING HANDS: Local Hero winner and community developer Bulelani Fowl commemorates Mandela Day by painting two houses of elderly people in Mdantsane. Fowl started a NPO, the Real View Foundation, in 2017. Picture: SUPPLIED

the foundation."

Fowl said they got the cleaning equipment and paint from Spar Build it at Qumza Highway taxi rank.

Themban Keivise of Siyakholwa said this was the first time the foundation had partnered in a task, and that they were planning to work together again in the near future.

"Our foundation is about youth development and I be-

lieve it will work hand in hand with Real View Foundation to make a difference in the lives of young people of Buffalo City Municipality."

The second house will be revamped on Wednesday.

Fowl founded the Real View Foundation non-profit organisation in 2017. It has a soup kitchen, does house and school renovations, donates food parcels and wheelchairs, organ-

ises clothing drives and offers skills development programmes to those in need.

It operates from a shipping container and a large shed built from donated materials in NUS, Mdantsane.

The container is used as a shelter to accommodate people at the soup kitchen.

It feeds 380 children and 45 elderly people with rice, bread, soup or samp.

McDonald's employees pitch in to offer a few treats for centre's senior citizens

BOMIKAZI MDIYA

For 67 minutes on Tuesday, the Love Care Centre's senior citizens were showered with sweet treats and offered cleaning services by McDonald's employees celebrating Mandela Day.

The centre is an assisted living facility in Beacon Bay providing support for the elderly who are able to live independently, as well as caring for the frail and those recovering after being in hospital.

The residents were delighted and grateful to have the visitors with them.

Former East London magistrate Desmond Hooper, 93, was excited to have visitors in his house a few streets away from the centre.

"This is very good of them to remember us as seniors on this

day and be able to celebrate with us," he said.

Hooper is an avid reader of the Daily Dispatch, saying his newspaper is delivered daily which helps him keep abreast with what is happening in the metro.

Daphne Nicholson, 86, said it felt great to be remembered.

"I feel appreciated and I am grateful that they are able to lend a hand to assist at the centre."

Love Care Centre liaison manager Sister Margaret Ntlokwana said: "The involvement of young people with the older generation helps give them an idea of how senior citizens live."

"We really appreciate that they were able to take the time to offer this service in honour of the great man [Nelson Mandela]."

She said the retirement fa-

cility was home to 18 people aged between 70 and the early 90s.

McDonald's East London general manager Colin Masina said this was their way of contributing to make the elderly feel special and to encourage others to take part.

"This may not be much, but the little things we do really go a long way for our people and the communities that we serve as an organisation."

Masina said their aim was to make it a memorable day for seniors.

"We just want to make them feel special and appreciated. "Often in society they are forgotten and neglected — we wish we could do more."

Masina said they were looking forward to partnering with the retirement home in the future too.



FEEDING THE HUNGRY: McDonald's East London staff dedicate their time and efforts to providing cleaning services and bringing treats to delight the elderly residents of Love Care Centre in Beacon Bay. Picture: RANDHELL ROSKRUJCE

Former Little Miss SA spearheads new library for her school

LULAMILE FENI

Little Miss SA 2022 Avile Nkita, 14, a pupil at Zingisa Comprehensive School, has become an unlikely hero at her school after managing to get the Nelson Mandela Museum to fund a library that will benefit hundreds of her fellow pupils.

The grade 8 pupil decided to take matters into her own hands by walking into the office of museum CEO Dr Vuyani Booi unannounced and telling him how pupils like her had to walk to town to access a library.

Avile could not contain her excitement on Tuesday as sports, recreation, arts & culture minister Zizi Kodwa visited her school outside Mthatha to hand

over the facility as part of International Mandela Day celebrations.

Avile, who is from Qunu, fought back tears of joy after she saw the library.

"This is unbelievable. I'm very happy, and very thankful to the museum, and also to Tata Nelson Mandela. Even if he is not alive, his legacy lives," Avile said.

Avile was a pupil at Faith Primary in Mthatha when she won Little Miss SA 2022.

"When I arrived at Zingisa, I found out that the school did not have a library. When I was in primary school, I was looking forward to going to a library in high school."

"This is not for me only, but

for the more than 1,000 pupils at my school and the generations to come," she said.

Avile visited the Nelson Mandela Museum in March.

Even though she had no appointment, she succeeded in getting the CEO to listen to her presentation.

"I am also very happy that the museum is officially opened on the birthday of Tata Nelson Mandela, who was a world icon; a giant so passionate about education and children," she said.

"My advocacy is for community development and the empowerment of young people, and the museum assisted me to achieve my goal," she said.

Avile's term as Little Miss SA

ended in June, and is now a finalist in the Pre-Teen Universal SA pageant.

Her mother, Ntandoka Ntra Nkita, and coach, Lihle Qhina, who accompanied her when she met Booi, said they were proud of her.

Booi said: "The way Avile made her presentation, highlighting her goal, there was no way we could not accept her request and fulfil her wish for her school to have a library."

"When meeting me she said she wanted to contribute to society, inspired by the principles and values of Nelson Mandela, and I requested the museum to build a library for her school," Booi said.

Booi said they renovated an

old library, and put in books and six computers.

Kodwa said other children could learn from Avile.

"If Madiba were alive, he would be very happy with the little girl."

"We want more leaders like her. This initiative by her also makes President Cyril Ramaphosa his cabinet, and education MEC Fundile Gade, happy," Kodwa said.

Principal Nomonde Matyumza said the library would add to the quality of education Zingisa aimed to provide to its pupils.

"Avile has left a legacy at Zingisa on the day we commemorate the legacy of Mandela," Matyumza said.

JOIN THE FINANCIAL PLANNING BOOM IN SA!

Start with our accredited **Higher Certificate in Financial Planning**

Take advantage of the growing demand for financial planners in SA! Learn the skills to equip you for a financially-rewarding career* as a:

- Self-employed Financial Advisor or Broker
- Administrator in Insurance, Banking, financial planning practices
- Tied Agent or Intermediary in various environments

Study online: at home, work, or one of our 47 Support Centres Nationwide.

boston.ac.za

REGISTER NOW

Start studying 31 July!

* Recognised by the FSCA and meets the FAIS Fit-and-Proper requirements.
* Additional regulatory requirements may apply, e.g. work experience under supervision or a final regulatory exam.

Boston City Campus

Education For Life

Serious about Education. Serious about You.

PAYMENT PLANS, TEXTBOOKS INCLUDED.

National Call Centre 0861 BOSTON | 47 Support Centres Nationwide

Boston City Campus (Pty) Ltd Reg No: 1997/032901/09 is regulated with the Department of Higher Education and Training as a private higher education institution under the Higher Education Act, 1997. Unit No. 501 of 5027 Registration Certificate No. 20029/14/ETD/2002.

Dispatch LIVE.CO.ZA