



Youth Crime Prevention Desk

NEWSLETTER

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Marching to Madiba's magic



Tembisa (above) and Katlehong (right) YCPD members play their part on International Mandela Day.

International Mandela Day kicked-off with a bang for the Tembisa Cluster Youth Crime Prevention Desk (YCPD).

Dozens joined the YCPD as they marched to the rhythms of the International Brass Band, which set off from the police station and made their way to Motheong Park, some two and half kilometres away.

Their mission was simple; to clean up and reclaim the park for the community. Tembisa Cluster YCPD Chairperson Kgomotso Mokoka said that criminals had taken over the park and often mugged passers-by.

Warned-up from their brisk walk, the crew started working immediately. One group raked and picked up litter while the other painted the playground. GIZ consultant Isabel Faller was delighted with the donation from Greenside Paint and Hardware. "I thought they had just given me paint, I didn't know the colours would be just right for a playground," she enthused.

Social Crime Coordinator Sergeant Themba Maphanga seemed to be in his

element as he painted the highest rung on the jungle gym while Constable Sizwe Zungu and other Ekurhuleni staff painted the bottom.

Catering was generously provided by the Gauteng Department of Community Safety. Confirmation of a job well done came in the form of the community's children, who pounced on the newly painted jungle gym for a fun-filled afternoon.

Meanwhile, Katlehong YCPD members had their work cut out. The school they chose was Ilinge Secondary in Vosloorus and was in dire need of a scrub-up – never mind a clean up. There was graffiti everywhere and the walls were filthy.

Luckily they had help. "The principal and the councillor for Ward 44 have been incredible," Cluster Chairperson Thoko Radebe said.

Principal Mdotyeni got a company to sponsor the paint, she said.

The team also roped in the Ekurhuleni authorities to supply gardening equipment to clean up overgrown bushes in the schoolyard and even convinced them to



donate bottled water to ward off dehydration on the day. However, the real heroes of the day were members of the community members who came out in their numbers to support the YCPD.

GIZ Technical Advisor, Allan Boesak brought along a group of friends to join in the clean up.

What does Mandela



“Mandela Day is about working for 67 days to give back to the dream of democracy that Tata gave us.” - Sibusiso Mash



“For me Mandela Day is an inspiration. It brings back good memories of when Tata was still alive and makes me realise that I must fight for what I want. At the same time I must have a good heart and empathise with those who are less fortunate”
- Mosa Lithakong

“Madiba gave all that time to the community, now it is our time to give back to the community” - Bongivi Bunga

“Mandela Day is about helping needy people and making safety and security visible”
-Xoliswa Nene



It is about
67 minutes
of the
day
dedicated to
service to us” -
Ninini



So long, friend



Kagiso Seleke

Katlehong North Youth Crime Prevention Desk (YCPD) member, Kagiso Seleke was laid to rest on 19 July. He was 24 years old.

He died on 9 July following a short illness due to complications with his leg.

“He was my brother. Where he was, I was,” said close friend and colleague Thabiso Moli at the memorial service held at a church in Katlehong on 17 July.

The pair registered Yona Yethu Business Enterprises together in April 2013 and were at the verge of applying for construction tenders.

In happier times, Seleke spotted a Kendrick Lamar inspired haircut and endured endless teasing from his peers as a result. But he didn't care because he loved the hip hop artist's music.

Seleke joined the YCPD last October and had already made a big enough impression to be selected as a participant in the #EKSE! My Voice, My Safety programme at the beginning of 2014. Fellow participants will remember his ready smile but his childhood friend, Itumeleng Pilane, recalled how young Seleke was a rabble-rouser.

“He was always in a fight but he never fought with me,” Pilane said at the memorial.

An avid Pirates fan, Seleke also belonged to a local soccer team and played regularly, “We often argued because I support Amakhosi,” Moli remembered.

Those who knew him were struck by how he was focused on the future.

“He was always supportive and encouraging. He urged others to be patient. He would say, ‘You have to be rational about these things’,”



“Mandela Day means a lot – if it hadn't been for him, we wouldn't have what we have today – freedom, opportunities for further education and partnering with SAPS” -

Lawrence Ndllovu



“It's about honouring Madiba. Spending 67 minutes doing community work wherever you are” - Thoko Radebe

“Mandela Day for me means celebrating and honouring Madiba by doing good in the community” - Simon Mathobela



All that glitters is brass

Rabie Ridge Youth Crime Prevention Desk (YCPD) member Nhlanhla Mofokeng surprised many when he led a brass band through the streets of Tembisa on Mandela Day.

It turns out Mofokeng is a member of the International Brass Band, a local ensemble formed in June last year.

To mark International Mandela Day the band steered the Tembisa Cluster YCPD from the police station to Motheong Park where they spent the day cleaning the park.

"I play the French horn," Mofokeng beamed as he introduced his music teacher Mpho Dlamini. Mofokeng said Dlamini wrote all the music the band performed.

Dlamini explained that he played every instrument in the band and that's how he could teach the others. "I am 100 percent self-taught," he added.

The band meets for practice every



Hidden talent: Nhlanhla Mofokeng leading the International Brass Band at Mandela Day in Tembisa, 18 July.

Wednesday and on Fridays they have camp - where they play from ten in the morning until five pm. Founder of the band,

Maggie Mashiloane, said she started the brass ensemble to help children in the community.

"I am a widower and there are orphaned children in the community. I wanted to give back in a small way to ease their circumstances," she said.

Band member Bafana Dlamini said he was happy to be part of the ensemble as it kept him out of mischief and there was no risk of him experimenting with "Nyaope", a dangerous concoction which includes heroin.

Though the band is thriving, both Mashiloane and Dlamini appealed for donations in order to provide uniforms for the young musicians,

"Some don't even have shoes," said Dlamini.

Should you wish to hire the band to perform at an event contact Nhlanhla Mofokeng on 084 413 2897.

Lights, camera, action!

Two of our own have turned into top television executives right under our noses.

Kabelo Manamela and Valentia Ndwandwe have one episode of their new TV show already in the can.

Dubbed "Youth Voice", the programme focuses on issues affecting young people and is set to screen on Ekurhuleni TV, OpenView HD.

Manamela came up with the concept, pitched it to the station and they agreed to flight the programme. In television circles he goes by the title of producer while Ndwandwe is a production manager.

However, it hasn't all been smooth sailing, "We are still grappling with getting used to the media industry. Although we have brainstormed topics for a whole season we are only now shooting the second episode."

Topics to be covered include what causes youths to turn to



Making a difference: Valentia Ndwandwe and Kabelo Manamela are executive producers on OpenView.

crime, unemployment and empowerment for young women.

"As production manager, I organise and line-up guests for the show," said the fresh-faced Ndwandwe.

Manamela admits that before taking up this project he never considered pursuing a career in media.

"I am an entrepreneur at heart and will pursue any opportunity that presents itself," he says.

Having achieved some of his goals, he also has some advice to share with young people yearning for success.

"Be flexible both mentally and physically and grab those opportunities."

#EKSE! My Voice, My Safety is a partnership between

community safety
Department: Community Safety
GAUTENG PROVINCE



The Soul City Institute and frayintermedia are service providers on this project.

Useful FYIs for #sm4ycpd:

WhatsApp group: #EK SE: My Voice, My Safety

Zanele Sabela: zanelebsabela@gmail.com

Soul City Institute: @SoulCityItsReal

frayintermedia: @frayintermedia

Gauteng Provincial YCPD: @gpyouthdesk

SAPS: @SAPoliceService

Gauteng Department of Community Safety:

@GP_CommSafety

