

# Madiba Day to start a day early in T'kei

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**PRESIDENT** Jacob Zuma and other government leaders are expected to visit different parts of Transkei this week for the official unveiling of several multi-million rand projects.

This forms part of hospitalised former President Nelson Mandela's 95th birthday celebrations.

In Ngcingwane, Dutywa today, Zuma and Agriculture Minister Tina Joemat-Pettersson join Eastern Cape premier Noxolo Kiviet for the launch of the national one million hectare integrated food and nutrition security plan for 2013-14, as well as the harvesting of maize and beans. The produce was planted by local farmers in line with the Masibambisane Rural Development Initiative led by Zuma.

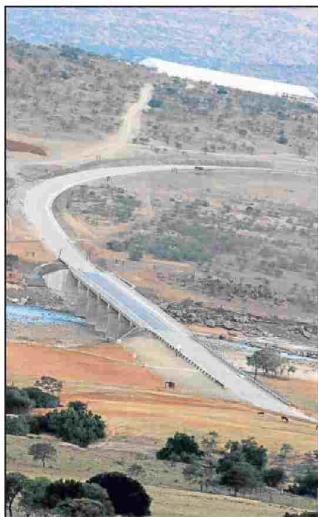
Also today Education Minister Angie Motshekga will officially hand over the Mandela Park Primary School in Slovo Park, near Mthatha. The R45-million school, which opened to pupils this year, was built through contributions from ArcelorMittal South Africa.

The state-of-the-art school includes a laboratory, media centre, vegetable tunnels, a nutrition centre and two sportsgrounds. The Minister will be joined by Eastern Cape education MEC Mandla Makupula and other dignitaries.

On the same day, provincial legislature members will join Mbashe municipality to spruce up Elliotdale, including fixing public toilets and planting trees.

Many will head to Mvezo, birthplace of Madiba, tomorrow where the Nkosi Dalibhunga Mandela Legacy Bridge will be opened officially. The R127-million project links Mvezo to the neighbouring village of Ludondolo and the N2.

Mvezo chief Mandla Mandela said the bridge helped restore the dignity of people, especially women in the area, who previously



**NEW BEGINNINGS: The Nkosi Dalibhunga Mandela Legacy Bridge is to be opened tomorrow**

Picture: LULAMILE FENI

had to strip naked to cross Mbashe River to get to the other side. "Imagine the indignity of having to undress in front of your grandchildren before crossing. Sometimes people would drown trying to get to the other side," he said.

Mandela added that the bridge would also connect the AbaThembu and AmaXhosa nations.

AmaXhosa Chief Xhanti Sigcau, whose kingdom includes Ludondolo village, said villagers were thrilled about the road, adding that visitors to Mvezo had also taken an interest in cultural activities in Ludondolo.

The KSD municipality is expected to become a major economic hub in the province as government has pumped billions into infrastructure development projects. Ngqongwa predicted the investments would turn the municipality into a vibrant economy within five years. — [sikhon@dispatch.co.za](mailto:sikhon@dispatch.co.za)