

Eastern Cape Today

Meet the "other Mandela"

Morris Mandela refers to himself as Madiba's younger brother, but unlike Madiba, Morris is shy of the limelight

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Eastern Cape's new deep water harbour at Coega

Billions have been poured into a project that looks like it may yield very little

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Is access to basic education enough?

Dan Mseleku believes that basic education added very little value to his daily life

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THE MAKING OF MEN Initiation and a family's joy

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Konrad
Adenauer
Stiftung

FOREWORD

South Africa is a land of contrasts. There is prosperity on the one hand and poverty on the other. There are religious churchgoers and distressed drinkers. The internationally celebrated liberation struggle hero Nelson Mandela is juxtaposed against his unheard of brother, Morris. The vibrant and relatively wealthy Gauteng province with its commerce-rich metropole, Johannesburg, stands in sharp contrast to the impoverished Eastern Cape with its huge rural hinterland.

While these disparities often provide the country with many dilemmas, it is a haven for journalists who are provided with a boundless source of writing material. This is especially true from a foreigner's perspective.

Sixteen journalists from nine countries across the Southern African region report in Eastern Cape Today about their experiences and impressions of a province that is often overlooked.

Eastern Cape Today includes stories written by outside observers, but often from a very personal perspective. From the traditional initiation of young boys into manhood, and an exploration of what Nelson Mandela means to the province in which he was born, to an intensely personal article on the first sighting of the ocean by a journalist who lives in a land-locked country. Eastern Cape Today offers all this and so much more.

The magazine was produced during a Reporting Africa seminar entitled "Eastern Cape – Land of Mandela". The group also produced a radio programme with the same title. The seminar was organized and executed by the German foundation, Konrad-Adenauer-Stiftung (KAS). The foundation is named after Germany's first democratic chancellor after World War II.

Its regional Media Programme for sub-Saharan Africa is committed to the development of democracy in Southern Africa and concentrates its efforts on the freedom of the media. The organisation of training and workshops is just one aspect of this.

I hope you enjoy the magazine.

Frank Windeck
Director Regional Media Programme KAS





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On the cover. A Xhosa initiate covers himself in what ever he can to keep out the Eastern Cape winter's bitter cold. Photographed by Stewart Stanbury.

Above. Waiting for the ferry at the Great Fish River. Photographed by Lindsey Ridden

Editorial line up. **Course Coordinator** Frank Windeck; **Print Facilitator** Adrienne Carlisle; **Editor** Gibbs Dube; **Sub Editors** Shakeman Mugari, Mbongeni Mbingo; **News Editor** Rebaone Odirile; **Proof Readers** Manuel Mucari, Caswell Tlali, Bame Piet; **Photographs** Frank Windeck, Samuel Makaka, Lindsey Ridden; **Design** Brian Garman



The
**OTHER
MANDELA**

As he stands on his veranda, holding his pipe and fielding questions from journalists, there is little to suggest that this man is closely related to Nelson Mandela.

His voice is frail, even though he still talks with ease, as he relates how he is connected to South Africa's liberation struggle icon. Yet, Morris Mandela, a relatively unknown man despite sharing the Mandela name, contributed in his own way to shaping the life of his celebrated half-brother, Madiba.

Morris, who describes himself as a "younger brother" to Madiba, lives in relative obscurity away from the glitz and glamour that is normally associated with the Mandela name. He is content to be the unknown brother to Mandela.

In fact, this to him is more than he could ever ask for; a modest house back in his homeland in Qunu, built for him by Madiba, furnished and filled with everything he could ever need.

The house is well known and anyone around the area can point it out to you. It is also a stone's throw away from the Mandela family graveyard, and appears to be where Mandela would have spent his life had he not immersed himself in the liberation struggle and later become one of the world's greatest statesmen. Madiba went on to build a bigger home just a kilometre away, where he spends time when he visits the Eastern Cape, the place where he spent his early years.

Morris tells the curious journalists, through the help of an interpreter, that he grew up with Mandela—but cannot remember much of what he was like as a young man. It is through further questioning that he finally tells the story of how his contribution facilitated Mandela's schooling. He says he recalls that he would look after stock as a young boy, and this allowed Mandela to attend school. Some of the cattle that Morris looked after were also occasionally sold to pay for Madiba's school fees.

"I was told that I would have to look after the stock, because Nelson needed to go to school," he reveals. "I remember that he already had shown signs that he was an intelligent young man, and a priest of the area persuaded our father that he needed to be encouraged to go to school."

Morris himself is uneducated. He can't read or write. He remembers he was born sometime in 1932. It may be one of the reasons that Morris remained uninvolved in the politics of the day. While Madiba was deeply committed to and involved in the liberation struggle, Morris worked as a cleaner at the national railways company. His only brief brush with the law was when the police arrested him for not being in possession of the hated 'dompas', a document all black South Africans were required by law to carry during apartheid.

He recalls that when Mandela was arrested in 1962, he hid some of his papers that he believed contained what the police were looking for.

He did not attend the Rivonia trial, though he says that he did visit Madiba a few times while he was imprisoned on Robben Island. Ironically, he was never directly informed of Madiba's 1990 release and only learned of it from other people sometime after the event.

Nevertheless, Morris has spent some time at Madiba's Johannesburg home 'looking after the family'. While others may have wanted to cash in on the Mandela name, Morris remains reserved, shying away from the limelight.

While Madiba is a relatively rich man, Morris is content with his one cow and 12 sheep. He enjoys chatting to Madiba when he is in the area. He says he last saw him in April 2007 when Madiba was in town for the installing of his grandson Mandla Mandela as Mvezo chief.

"He came by, and we had a nice chat," he says quietly, lighting his pipe.

While others may have wanted to cash in on the Mandela name, Morris remains reserved, preferring to shy away from the limelight



MANDELA: THE MODERN MOSES

TEXT MBONGENI MBINGO
PHOTOGRAPHS LINDSEY RIDDEN

The value of the open-air museum to the people is measured by the opportunities it has created for them to benefit from the Mandela brand-name magic

When former miner Mtshutshisi Tyalakhulu lost his job some years back, he thought his world had come crashing down. He was one of many miners retrenched from a mine in Gauteng, and he could not imagine what he would do to support his family.

His job at the mine was all he had ever done, and up until then, life had been good.

Tyalakhulu is a father of six, all of whom are still in school. And he understands perfectly well that he must provide for his family in order to give his children a better chance in life than he's ever had.

Fortune has, however, smiled on him. He has since landed a job at the Nelson Mandela open air museum in Mvezo as a translator following its opening in 2000. It has given him a second lease on life, and he speaks passionately about how important this job is to him. It is of particular importance to him because it is in honour of Madiba, a man born in the area and who has done so much for the country and the international community.

As a translator at the museum, Tyalakhulu is the perfect man for the job. He was born here, idolises Mandela and understands the history of the country. And now that it has given him an opportunity to put bread on the table, he is more than committed to it.

It shows in the way he speaks, and the way he understands Mandela's role as more than an icon of the area. To him Nelson Mandela is the biblical Moses of our time.

"Moses was born in a stable, and if you compare the two, you will see that where Mandela was born is similar to the story of Moses in the bible." Both men also played big roles in emancipating their people.

He reasons that the museum at Mvezo is an important part

of history. It is a place that gives people hope of a better life as it offers job opportunities where jobs are scarce. The tourists who flock to the museum also create income opportunities for the people of the area.

Villagers become excited at the sight of an approaching car or tour bus, and are always willing to speak to the tourists.

The value of the museum to the people is measured by the opportunities it has created for people like Tyalakhulu, who admits that he is not the only one benefiting from Mandela's brand name magic.

At the site of the museum, construction work on three rondavels is in full swing. He uses this as an illustration of how people are benefiting from the museum and, the fact that Mandela was born there.

The houses will belong to the newly-installed chief Mandla Mandela, Madiba's grandson. One of the builders, Nkosiphendulo Dyabha, completed his schooling last year and had been looking for employment since.

He has a mother, and two siblings to take care off. He is only too happy to be afforded such a chance, and hopes that there will be more projects like this for others to be able to get jobs.

"I'm very happy to be working. I support my family and they are all looking up to me to be the breadwinner. Really, it is because of Madiba that I am employed," he says.

Tyalakhulu sees this as only the start of good things to come. Soon, he says a project to tar the treacherous road





between the main Mthatha road and the Mvezo museum will be launched, again creating more job opportunities for the people. "There is more work to be done here, and more people will stand to benefit. The tarring of the road to the museum should start soon. There is some more construction work to be undertaken at this very site and I see more jobs being created here too," he states.

Tyalakhulu sees his job as crucial in shaping his family's future and that it has given him reason to appreciate the history of the area that surrounds Mandela. He says he works hard 'to give my family a bright future, to one day come here and appreciate what this beauty means to the world and, maybe even to them.'

MADIBA STATUE PROJECT STALLED TILL AFTER 2010

TEXT MBONGENI MBINGO

While Gauteng already has one and London has just got one, the Eastern Cape is unlikely to get one anytime soon – a statue honouring Nelson Mandela that is.

The region in which this international icon was born has an ambitious proposal to raise a 65m statue in his honour, but bickering has caused chronic delays in the project.

By the end of 2007, a sculpture of Mandela will grace Parliament Square in London. One already exists in Sandton Square (now known as Nelson Mandela Square) in Gauteng. But it will take at least five years, well after the 2010 FIFA World Cup has come and gone, before the construction of the Eastern Cape's ambitious proposed 65m high "Nelson Mandela Statue of Freedom" begins.

According to the Financial Administration manager at Mandela Bay Development Agency, Ashwin Daya, the programme to build the estimated R1billion statue has been effectively suspended due to haggling between a private developer, government's Transnet and the Nelson Mandela Metro Municipality over the land on which it is to be built.

The Statue of Freedom project is expected to consist of the giant 65-metre-high statue revolving on a 40m plinth, a Freedom Museum, a Long Walk to Freedom Avenue and "general access" infrastructure.

However, Daya says that they have to "wait for Transnet to release the land" in order for work to begin.

Daya confirmed that, having completed the competition to select the winning design, the project itself is alive, but "on hold for a while". Stalled for more than a year now, he estimates it will be at least another five years or so before construction even begins. He admits that they are now resigned to pushing other projects, in particular focusing on the 2010 FIFA World Cup.

"If it could have been done (by 2010) it would have been fantastic, because it would have boosted our tourism industry, in addition to creating jobs," he said.

The statue, Daya says, is not only symbolic for the Eastern Cape, but for the region and would have a lot of spin-offs.

The Statue of Freedom will stand taller than the Statue of Liberty, and according to its developers, will have "the same status and market magic."

A DRAMATIC METAMORPHOSIS

TEXT MANUEL MUCARI

A walk in the city gives the impression that nothing is going on. But one old man whispered in my ear that there was nothing to worry about. "Remember son, still waters run deep," he said.

The Eastern Cape Government has embarked on a marathon drive to create the necessary infrastructure to successfully host several of the 2010 FIFA World Cup games in three years time.

The buzz, the fanfare and the popping of champagne corks when South Africa won the bid to host the 2010 World Cup are something of the past and the Eastern Cape in general, and Port Elizabeth (PE) in particular, have suddenly woken up to the fact that its time to kick off with some hard work.

Port Elizabeth, which will host about five games, must ensure that it puts in place all the necessary infrastructure and amenities in time to promote an image that eclipses the eight other "hot spot" host cities.

Strolling around Port Elizabeth city, there is a sense of enthusiasm that the city was chosen to host some of the matches. But for all the enthusiasm, many wonder how the Eastern Cape and its people will actually benefit from the tournament.

There are clearly diverging views between the authorities and at least some of the city's citizens.

While a walk in the city, gives the impression that nothing is going on, an old man whispered in my ear that there was nothing to worry about. "Remember son, still waters run deep," he said, perhaps hinting that little seemed to be happening but that PE is undergoing a very dramatic metamorphosis

At the stadium construction site, mere metres away from the N2 to Grahamstown, there are signs of this metamorphosis. Cranes, and bricks and stones dominate the scene. Dust mushroom rooms from the site.

At the site of this proposed R1.8bn stadium I find Mbongile*, a stonemason who is a married man with four kids. In his jumpsuit, covered with dust and cement he says he is contented because he has secured a job for the construction period. "I was unemployed," he says. "For the past three years I just counted the city's streets. I had nothing to do, had no skills to find a

WHAT THEY SAID

Doc Khumalo – Former Bafana Bafana midfield maestro and 2010 FIFA World Cup Ambassador

"These games should be looked at beyond 2010 for they will create conditions for the development of a strong sport structure in the country. We'll have more youngsters interested in playing football inspired by the world class players that will showcase their skills during the tournament."

Bennett Mdebuka – First National Bank Provincial Chairman

"The right to host the 2010 World Cup will be a catalyst to unlock our potential as a nation and will be a great accelerator for economic growth, particularly in Eastern Cape with the Coega project and the construction of the new stadium already in full swing."

Lucas Radebe – former Bafana Bafana player and 2010 FIFA World Cup Ambassador

"This tournament is being hosted by 46 million South Africans and it is the collective enthusiasm of the people that will, I am sure, make the event such a great success. It offers an unprecedented opportunity for all South Africans first to welcome the finest footballers in the world and enjoy the first major sporting event to be staged on our continent, and second to do whatever they can to make sure that our country projects a positive image to the world."



proper job and was living basically on piece jobs.”

Now he is happy because for the next 18 months he will be able to put food on the table. But in the long term, he sees a bleak future as he has no formal education, and job opportunities in the Eastern Cape are scarce. “I was lucky to secure this job, but now I’m worried about the future. Once we finish building this stadium we’re back to the same situation, I’m not sure if we will benefit from the 2010 World Cup.”

While many others expressed the same reservations, there are those who view the World Cup as an opportunity to seize and make a bit more money, especially those selling crafts.

Amos Gagu sells crafts just outside the Checkers mall, on Govan Mbeki Avenue. He makes beautiful earrings, necklaces, bracelets, and other decorative jewellery which attracts the eye of passers-by.

He says crafts sell well and he can make ends meet with the money he earns. He sees the upcoming World Cup as a treasured gift. “I feel I’m going to make a lot more money during that period with the prospects of having foreigners coming to watch the games. Tourists are our prime target. I cross my fingers that I can make as much money as I possibly can.”

But Andisua Nyangwe, a street vendor with only a matric qualification is more bleak.

She says that as long as she remains unemployed, she sees little benefits for the province from the World Cup.

But the local Department of Sport, Recreation, Arts & Culture predict the World cup will create 3500 new jobs per year between 2006 and 2008, a further 750 in 2009 and 1260 in 2010 itself.

“I’ve heard vaguely that there’ll be a lot of job creation, but I can’t take it seriously because we haven’t seen major work being done to ensure that we can get some sort of job,” said Nyangwe. She’s been running a public pay cell phone business because she couldn’t get a job when she finished school.

However, the authorities are very optimistic about the benefits the province and the city of Port Elizabeth will enjoy. They say that during the construction phase the unemployment rate, which conservatively stands at 27 percent for an estimated population of seven million, will be reduced.

“The government will be investing R20 billion in infrastructure development, R8.4 billion in the construction of venues and the remnant R11.6 billion will be used in supporting infrastructure”, says 2010 FIFA World Cup Local Committee CEO Danny Jordaan.

According to Jordaan these investments are of great value as they will create jobs and business opportunities in the region. Apart from creating jobs during the construction phase these investments create “spin-offs” for micro-enterprises, which is where the reduction of poverty can be measured, he says.

All in all, he believes things are “well advanced”. The construction of the stadium as well as supporting infrastructure such as roads and accommodation is moving at a fast pace. Everything is being tackled in order to make sure that by 2010 the city is dressed afresh to cater for the influx of an estimated 350 000 to 500 000 guests.

The Chairperson of Sport Art and Culture at the City Council, Nancy Sihlwayi confirms preparations are well advanced, although much remains to be done.

To her the tournament is of great importance as it creates a legacy for the future in the form of infrastructures and the “massification of sports in the region”.

For many years the Eastern Cape has suffered from severe poverty. For many, the 2010 World Cup represents more than just an opportunity to watch world-class football. It is a unique opportunity to invest in the province and its people.

* Not his real name



TEXT BAME PIET AND MATHABISO RALENGAU
PHOTOGRAPH FRANK WINDECK

With R7.5-billion having been spent already, and little but open space to show for it, some believe that Coega will contribute little to the province. But investors are finally starting to knock at the door.

While the Coega Development Corporation (CDC) says investors are finally knocking at its door, there are those that believe it will have little benefit to the province.

The South African government has spent in the region of R7.5-billion developing the Coega industrial development zone (IDZ) and deepwater port at Coega, arguably making it the single biggest infrastructure project in the country's history.

Canadian based aluminium giant, Alcan, will become the zone's anchor tenant and is to build a R19 billion smelter there. Construction of the first phase is expected to begin in 2008 and it is scheduled to produce the first metal in 2010. Hot on the heels of this announcement, and the CDC's Marketing and Communications Manager Vuyelwa Qinga-Vika revealed that 17 more companies have subsequently shown an interest in doing business in Coega. She said Coega had so far created 18 000



jobs, during the construction phase alone.

Qinga-Vika stressed that the project is a long-term dream for government and is targeting metal, automotive, textiles, and chemical producers as well as service providers.

A site visit to Coega confirms the size of the project. Project Manager for Customs and Logistics Sibusiso Sibandze said the port was built for the world's bigger vessels which South Africa's smaller ports battle to accommodate. He expressed confidence that the convenience of the Coega deep water port would attract investors to the Eastern Cape.

Locals have welcomed the project as a step in the right direction. Security guard Victor Mkigimi hopes he will get a better job as soon as Coega starts operating. College student, 25-year-old Moye Sisongo of Kwazakele in Port Elizabeth sees Coega as "a great chance" to get a job.

However, critics believe the possible benefits do not warrant the extraordinary amount that is being spent on Coega.

And the price of investment is high with Coega offering reluctant investors huge subsidisation and other incentives. To sweeten the deal and win Alcan's patronage, Coega reportedly offered the company a R1.93 billion tax incentive and hugely subsidised prices for South Africa's scarce electricity. The CDC will also spend R4billion on an electricity power upgrade.

Cape Town-based economist, Terry Crawford-Browne, dismissed Coega as a "great inconvenience" to the people of South Africa. He said that Alcan was only attracted to the area because of the subsidised electricity which came at the expense of ordinary people. He added that the port would only create jobs for highly skilled young people at the same time killing the agricultural sector in the Eastern Cape.



COEGA QUANDARY

SMALL BUILDERS HIT BRICK WALL

TEXT AND PHOTOGRAPH WILTON MAMBA



Eastern Cape retailers and small builders are taking strain as cement supplies dry up in the face of numerous big infrastructure projects.

In a bid to meet at least some demand in the region, certain retailers have resorted to limiting buyers to purchasing half their cement requirements. This comes at the height of a national surge in the construction industry as South Africa lays out infrastructure in preparation to host Africa's first ever FIFA World Cup in 2010.

Producers, such as PPC, have watched their sales figures skyrocket with the domestic cement market growing by about 12 percent last year alone. But some retailers in the Eastern Cape and elsewhere have literally had to ration out cement to the smaller customers as they wait for their suppliers to import more of the product to meet a demand that only seems to benefit large contractors and developers.

To avoid massive price hikes that could upset the market even more, Cashbuild, one of South Africa's largest retailers of building material has three times this year had to ration the number of cement bags it sells to its customers throughout

its 16 or more outlets in the Eastern Cape.

"We have had to explain our predicament to our customers and negotiate to sell them half what they need, while we wait for supplies," said Cashbuild Queenstown Assistant Manager Andy McPherson. So, if a customer wishes to buy 80 bags of cement, Cashbuild negotiates to sell them only 40 bags. He said Cashbuild anticipated more shortages in the province during the last two weeks of July as they await the next imported shipment from China.

In March this year, at the height of the cement crisis, Cashbuild Chief Executive Officer Pat Goldrick called upon government to use the more expensive imported cement to build stadiums for the 2010 soccer world cup and roads, arguing that this would make cheaper, domestically-produced cement available to local builders.

Goldrick said if the government did not do this, contractors working on its big projects would get the best bulk deals on cheaper local cement, leaving ordinary South Africans to pay more for the more expensive imported products.

This is already happening in the Eastern Cape



Contractors working on big projects are likely to get the best bulk prices on cheaper local cement, leaving ordinary South Africans to pay more for imported products

where the multi-billion rand Coega Development Project in Port Elizabeth, has reaped maximum benefits from suppliers dropping their prices to minimal levels to secure contracts. CDC Marketing and Communications Manager Vuyelwa Qinga-Vika said the Coega Development Corporation had not felt the effects of the cement shortage. She said she believed cement suppliers, which had started importing cement in 2005, were doing enough to respond to demand.

However, Qinga-Vika acknowledged that the CDC had an advantage as it attracted many suppliers, who offered very competitive prices. She cited a case where one contractor dropped the price of cement from R30 to R20 per bag to beat the competition.

A small town builder in Grahamstown, Xolani Ntlanjeni, is not so lucky.

He is presently out of a job as his prospective clients in Hlalani and Fingo Village, overlooking Grahamstown, have been reluctant to build new houses in the past few months because of skyrocketing prices. He is paying between R48 and R52 for a bag of cement, more than double what

the CDC forks out for the same bag.

"I am told this is because of the coming World Cup, which we cannot stop because it is also good for the country, says Ntlanjeni. "I just wish we smaller builders were also considered for these jobs."

Jacques Du Toit, a senior economist at ABSA Group recently pointed out that the year-on-year building cost inflation was at 10.6 percent. However, he predicted the demand for building materials and skilled labour would continue to put upward pressure on building costs. This pressure would continue until at least 2010.

Rhodes University based Economics Professor Geoff Antrobus predicts that building projects could face delays. "The shortage in cement means that concrete buildings will be more difficult to erect as a result of demand, which means prices will go up. As the cost of building increases, it will delay building projects."

But it's not all doom and gloom. He says the shortage of cement should boost the construction of buildings based on "concrete-shy" materials such as wood.



UP FOR GRABS

TEXT AND PHOTOGRAPH
GIBBS DUBE

A dusty, bumpy road originating at the Great Fish River Bridge about 57 kilometres North-east of Grahamstown, snakes inland through a wasteland where the only signs of life are a few donkeys, goats and sheep.

Driving at snail's pace over the rutted road, the eye is drawn to the scrappy landscape baked hard by the sun over the years. A few kilometres drive from the river bridge leads to the Glenmore Resettlement, an area located on a dry plateau. Welcome to the human dumpsite – a homeland project of the South African apartheid regime.

Thirteen years after South Africa's first democratic elections, the 553 families dumped at this site in the 1970s still feel neglected. They are living from hand-to-mouth.

"It is a pity that 13 years later we are still staying in Glenmore," says Glenmore Community chairperson Nomngeniso Sogiyana. "We were dumped by the Settler regime here and it appears as if the African National Congress government does not even know that we are suffering on this scrappy land."

She says the families at Glenmore are waiting for the government to assist them in finding better land where they can at least make a decent living.

Although the deadline for communities to claim land from the South African government has long passed, the Glenmore residents believe that something can still be done for them to find productive land.

"We only heard about the land claim process through the grapevine as nobody officially came here to educate us about the issue. Even if the deadline has passed, we still need land," adds Thandeka Dyubele, an ANC cadre in Glenmore's Ward Eight.

Most residents of the area say the government should allocate them fertile land and provide some agricultural inputs so that they can fully utilise it.

Norman Dyubele and Mbuyiseli Gqamani are of the view that if this is not done, families may soon forcibly grab nearby farms, a scenario the South African government has strongly discouraged during the past 13 years.

The concept of 'willing seller, willing buyer' still dominates the land redistribution debate. During the first 10 years of independence, the government embarked on a countrywide land restitution programme after receiving 79 696 land claims.



13 years later and we are still in Glenmore – Nomngeniso Sogiyana.

More than 186 860 households benefited from the programme with the Eastern Cape accounting for 42 178 beneficiaries.

The government spent R211 million in the same region after purchasing 56 686 hectares of land. But some government officials and critics are worried about the slow pace of the land redistribution exercise.

Land redistribution in South Africa, they say, may be more violent than Zimbabwe's 2000 chaotic land reforms.

Eastern Cape Agriculture MEC Gugile Nkwinti believes there is potential for extreme violence over the land issue. "The Zimbabwe scenario will look like a picnic. There are so many people in need of land in this country but we appear to be doing nothing about it."

He adds: "We should take immediate action to address this situation. The land reforms should be well-planned in order to empower people in need of smallholdings, farms and plots. Many families want this kind of arrangement."

In the Eastern Cape alone, he said, the government had redistributed only three percent of the land to the people. "I believe this is not the right way of doing things. We should do more for the landless."

A former provincial Department of Land Affairs Director, Mike Kenyon, shares this view. "We are sitting on a time bomb. If these families want to be resettled, we should act with speed to ensure that their needs are addressed. We should take into account that they were driven off their land and dumped on wastelands by the settler regime."

The government has set a target of distributing over one million hectares of land worth R21 billion within the next few years.

There are high hopes that large numbers of people in Eastern Cape homelands and resettlement areas will be allocated prime land by the year 2015.

"The government has realised the importance of land and there is a belief that we should tackle the land issue with great speed. Although some commercial farmers are dragging their feet on selling their land to the government, we hope that a solution will be found before we plunge into a crisis," says Nkwinti.

In the meantime, life goes on at Glenmore with residents waiting in vain for land, unable to make ends meet.

"We will not rest until we are given alternative land because it is impossible to have a decent life in this wasteland," says Sogiyana.

POVERTY in the land of GREAT LEADERS

TEXT GIBBS DUBE

The Eastern Cape, a stronghold of the ruling African National Congress (ANC), is one of the poorest provinces in South Africa despite having produced high-riding political figures over the years.

The Eastern Cape was home to Nelson Mandela, Govan and Thabo Mbeki, Oliver Tambo, Walter Sisulu, Chris Hani, Griffiths Mxenge, Steve Biko and several other luminaries who waged a protracted war of liberation against the apartheid regime.

Winnie Mandela and Albertina Sisulu also came from the EC.

Yet the province is one of the poorest in the country and poverty has reached unprecedented levels.

Eastern Cape Economic Affairs, Environment and Tourism MEC Mbulelo Sogoni, acknowledges the discrepancy.

"It is true that this province has large numbers of people who are very poor although it has produced great leaders." He says it is difficult to get private companies to invest in an area with poor infrastructure.

"They prefer other places where they can easily reap profits."

Finance MEC Billy Nel agrees. "Poverty is still an issue in this province. Unemployment is high but we are trying to reduce it. Our budget is pro-poor despite the fact that we don't have so much money being generated locally to cater for the disadvantaged."

Indications are that many of the leaders that were born and raised in the Eastern Cape are now regarded more as national figures than local heroes.

"My belief is that it is difficult for great leaders to come out with development plans specifically targeting their homelands because they are national heroes. If a leader favours his or her own province at the expense of others, that leader stands to lose his or her credibility," says Nel.

Provincial Deputy Director General in the Office of the Premier, Nceba Adonis, is of the view that poverty gripping the province emanates from the historical imbalances between the settlers and local inhabitants who were displaced during the height of apartheid.

Says Adonis: "Imagine combining (the former apartheid bantustans) Ciskei, Transkei and the Eastern Province to make one province ... The Eastern Province was more developed than the other two and over the years we have tried to initiate equal development in the three areas with marginal success. Our aim is to ensure that we reduce poverty in the EC by the year 2014.

"In terms of leaders from the EC spearheading growth, I believe that we should engage them so that they may invest here, play a mentorship role or simply promote our province. Most of them are keen to do so and this will result in reducing poverty levels here through the creation of jobs."

Some Eastern Cape inhabitants believe that their leaders have been a great letdown as people still find themselves struggling day-in-day-out to make a decent living. Out of 7.4 million people in Eastern Cape, at least 5.2 million live below the poverty datum line.

Many believe the poverty levels are high as the leaders have turned against them, only surfacing to make empty promises during elections.

"These people have failed to get us out of poverty. We are failing to feed our families. There are many people who cannot have a decent meal per day. (President Thabo) Mbeki and his friends should think about us," says ANC grassroots member Thandeka Dyubule.

Continued on page 18



The MAKING of MEN



TEXT REBAONE ODIRILE
PHOTOGRAPHS STEWART STANBURY



It was Friday, 13 July. Despite the inauspicious date, Dyodane Mawonga, 60, was the happiest Xhosa man in the village of Qunu. His home was swarming with smiling men, women and children, who instantly turned it into a centre stage of merriment.

In one corner, a group of women assembled in a circular shape, joyfully danced and belted out Xhosa traditional songs and, just an arm-stretch away from them, men sat in a horse shoe, enjoying umqumbothi, a locally brewed beer.

In another corner, young women were busy preparing some food in an open space for all to later feast on. It was a site to behold - a window into the lighter sights and sounds of Qunu.

"Today I am a very happy man," says Mawonga. "My son has survived the initiation ceremony. He is coming back home healthy and ready to assume his responsibilities as a man."

The welcome ceremony, called *imgidi*, is held every time young men come back home from a successful initiation ceremony, Mawonga explains.

Mawonga's 23 year-old son is the third in the family to undergo the ceremony, a Xhosa ritual that young men must undergo before being considered man enough to start their own families.

Traditionally, the young men are taken to a secluded place for about three months from where they should be taught all it takes to become strong and responsible family men. The highlight of the initiation exercise is the circumcision of the young man.

Mawonga's joy resonates in the entire village because all homesteads that sent their children for the initiation are welcoming them back home. While the circumcision is considered the highlight of the initiation ceremony, it is also, ironically, the cause of many deaths.

Zakhele Voti, one of the elderly men in Qunu who has conducted the initiation ceremony, including circumcising the young men, blames the deaths that occur at some initiation schools on the tendency by some

communities to allow people who have never been for initiation, to conduct it.

"In some villages, some elderly people who have never gone for initiation have been allowed to conduct the ceremony. This should not happen," he said.

"They are ignorant of what happens there, hence the mistakes they often make that sometimes result in deaths," he added.

Voti attributes the zero death record at their initiation ceremony to two factors. Those assigned to conduct the ceremony – including the circumcision - have undergone the same initiation and, most importantly, have now embraced modern health practices.

"Before the young men leave for the initiation ceremony, they are subjected to a medical check up that is conducted by health professionals from recognised institutions," he said.

Voti regards this as a practice that all Xhosa communities should embrace.

Zibekile Mrebelele, a former graduate of the initiation exercise, is aware of the deaths that often derail this Xhosa traditional ritual.

"In this village we have been lucky because none of the young men sent for initiation lost their lives. But I am aware that in other villages people have died while being circumcised or soon afterwards," said Mrebelele.

Mrebelele insists that the ritual is a must for any Xhosa man wishing to be shown respect by his community.

"I went through the initiation ceremony in 1997 when I was 21-years-old. I went into the secluded place in June and came back home in August," he remembered.

He also remembers that while traditional medicine plays a pivotal role during the entire period of the ritual, modern medical equipment is put to good use to enhance safety of the young men.

He said the men that performed the circumcision "wore medical hand gloves and used surgical equipment." The equipment would be sterilised before being used on the next person.

"You go there with little or no idea of what it takes to be a man, but you would realise that you are a better person in the community upon your come back," said Mrebelele.

Today I am a very happy man. My son has survived the initiation ceremony. He is coming back home healthy and ready to assume his responsibilities as a man.

MAKING MEN

REBAONE ODIRILE





BORN LEADERS

Bantu (Steve) Biko (1946 to 1977)

Founder and martyr of the Black Consciousness Movement in South Africa, Biko was born in the Eastern Cape town of Tilden on December 18, 1946. He went to St Frances College at Marianhill and two years later was admitted to the Medical School of Natal University where he became active in campus politics through participation in the National Union of South African Students (NUSAS).

He broke away from NUSAS in 1969 to form the South African Students Organisation (SASO). In 1972 Steve pioneered the formation of the national Black People's Convention which was the umbrella body of all Black Consciousness formations.

In 1973 with the first major offensive against the movement, Steve and six other leaders were banned. He returned to the Eastern Cape where he formed a number of grassroots organisations based on the notion of self-reliance.

He started a community clinic, Zamimpilo, the Zimele Trust Fund (which helped support ex-political prisoners and their families), Njwaxa Leather Works Project and the Ginsberg Education Fund. He died in police custody in 1977 from head injuries.

Martin Thembisile (Chris) Hani (1942 to 1991)

Political activist, Chief-of-Staff of Umkhonto We Sizwe (MK) and Secretary-General of the South African Communist Party. Hani was born in 1942 in the former Transkei area of the Eastern Cape. In 1956 he joined the African National Congress (ANC) and in 1957 he joined the ANC Youth League (ANCYL). Hani received a Bachelor of Arts Degree in 1961 from the University of Fort Hare.

In 1961, Hani moved to Cape Town and joined the South African Communist

Party (SACP). After several arrests, Hani went into exile in Lesotho before going to the Soviet Union for military training.

He returned in 1967 to take an active role in the Revolutionary Army (ZIPRA).

In 1973, Hani transferred to Lesotho where he organised units of MK, the ANC's military arm. By 1987 he had become the Chief of Staff of MK.

After the lifting of the ban on the ANC in February 1990, he returned to South Africa and became a charismatic and popular ANC leader.

On April 10, 1993, as he returned home, near Johannesburg, Hani was assassinated by a white radical right-winger Januz Waluz.

Nelson Rolihlahla Mandela

Internationally revered hero, South Africa's greatest moral and political leader, Nobel Peace Prize winner and former President of South Africa.

Fondly known as 'Madiba' by South Africans, Nelson Rolihlahla Mandela was born in the former Transkei area in July 18, 1918. Mandela himself was educated at the University College of Fort Hare and the University of Witwatersrand and qualified in law in 1942. He joined the African National Congress in 1944 and became engaged in resistance against the ruling National Party's apartheid policies.

He went on trial for treason in 1956-1961 and was acquitted in 1961. After the banning of the ANC in 1960, Nelson Mandela argued for the setting up of a military wing within the ANC. In June 1961, the ANC considered his proposal on the use of violent tactics and agreed that those members who wished to involve themselves in Mandela's campaign would not be stopped from doing so by the ANC. This led to the formation of the ANC's military wing Umkhonto we Sizwe (MK).

In 1963, Mandela stood trial for plotting to overthrow the government by violence. He narrowly escaped the death sentence and was sentenced instead to

life imprisonment. From 1964 to 1982, he was incarcerated at Robben Island Prison, off Cape Town.

Thereafter, he was sent to Pollsmoor Prison on the mainland. He consistently refused to compromise his political position to obtain his freedom.

Mandela was released from prison on February 18, 1990. In 1991, he was elected President of the ANC and on May 10, 1994 inaugurated as the first democratically elected State President of South Africa and served his country as such until June 1999.

Winnie Mandela

ANC Women's League stalwart and former wife of Nelson Mandela. Winnie was born in 1934 at Bizana in Pondoland, Transkei, Eastern Cape.

She received a social work diploma and thereafter a Bachelor of Arts Degree in Political Science with an International Relations major at the University of the Witwatersrand, Johannesburg.

In 1957, during the Defiance Campaign, she met Nelson Mandela, then a leader of the campaign who later became her husband. Together they had two children.

In 1962, Winnie was banned under the Suppression of Communism Act and was restricted to the Orlando township in Soweto. By 1969, she was detained under the Terrorism Act and was placed in solitary confinement for 17 months and in 1970 she was placed under house arrest.

She returned to her home in 1986 and resumed her ANC activities, which led to further detentions.

Winnie's opposition to PW Botha's regime earned her the title of "Mother of the Nation". In 1991 after the unbanning of the ANC and other political organisations, she was elected onto the ANC's National Executive Committee.

She was also elected president of the ANC's Women's League.

Thabo Mbeki

Mbeki, current President of South Africa, was born in 1942 in the former Transkei, Eastern Cape. Both his parents were political activists and his father, Govan Mbeki, was a leading figure in the

Some of South Africa's most prominent liberation struggle leaders have emerged from the Eastern Cape

activities of the African National Congress in the Eastern Cape.

He joined the ANC Youth League (ANCYL) at the age of 14 and became active in student politics. He moved to Johannesburg where he came under the influence of Walter Sisulu and Duma Nokwe and was elected secretary of the African Students' Association (ASA).

In 1962, Mbeki left South Africa for Tanzania under orders from the ANC.

From Tanzania, he moved to Britain where he completed a Masters Degree in Economics at Sussex University in 1966. Remaining active in student politics, he played a prominent role in building the youth and student sections of the ANC in exile.

He worked at the ANC's London office with the late Oliver Tambo before being sent to the Soviet Union for military training in 1970. Through the 1970s Mbeki served as an ANC representative in several African countries, including Botswana, Swaziland and Nigeria before becoming political secretary in the office of Oliver Tambo and then director of information at the ANC headquarters in Lusaka, Zambia.

During the 1980s, Mbeki rose to head the Department of Information and Publicity and coordinated diplomatic campaigns to involve more white South Africans in anti-apartheid activities.

In 1989 Mbeki headed the ANC's Department of International Affairs and was involved in the ANC's negotiations with the former government. After South Africa's first democratic election in April 1994, Nelson Mandela chose Mbeki to be the first deputy president in the new Government of National Unity.

The National Party withdrew from the Government of National Unity in June 1996 and Mbeki then became the sole deputy president. At the ANC's 50th national conference in December 1997, Mbeki was elected ANC president.

Walter Sisulu
(1912 to 2003)

African National Congress Youth League (ANCYL) and Umkhonto Wesizwe (MK) leader. Sisulu was born in the eNgcobo area of Transkei in 1912. Sisulu's father

was a visiting white foreman supervising a black road-gang and his mother was a local Xhosa woman.

He attended the local Anglican Missionary Institute but dropped out at age 15 to find work at a Johannesburg dairy to help support his family. During the 1930s, he had several different jobs – gold miner, domestic worker, factory hand, kitchen worker, and baker's assistant.

He was an active Trade Unionist and in 1940, Sisulu joined the African National Congress (ANC) in which he allied with those pressing for black African nationalism. In the early 1940s, he was awarded with an executive post in the Transvaal division of the ANC.

During this time, Sisulu along with his wife, Albertina, and friends, Oliver Tambo and Nelson Mandela, formed the ANC Youth League (ANCYL). He was elected treasurer and by the end of 1949 he was elected secretary-general, a position he retained until 1954.

As one of the organisers of the 1952 Defiance Campaign, in collaboration with the South African Indian Congress and the South African Communist Party, Sisulu was arrested under the Suppression of Communism Act and was sentenced to nine months hard labour suspended for two years. His increasingly active role in the anti-apartheid struggle led to his repeated banning under the Suppression of Communism Act.

In 1954, no longer able to attend public meetings, he resigned as secretary-general and was forced to work in secret. In 1960 Sisulu, Mandela and several others formed Umkonto we Sizwe (MK, the Spear of the Nation) – the military wing of the ANC.

In July 1963, he was among those arrested at Lilieslief Farm, the secret headquarters of the ANC in Rivonia and was sentenced to life imprisonment for planning acts of sabotage.

In October 1989, he was finally released after serving 25 years. He was elected deputy president in 1991 and given the task of re-structuring the ANC in South Africa.

Sisulu finally retired on the eve of South Africa's first multi-racial elections in 1994 still living in the same Soweto

house that his family had occupied in the 1940s. On May 5, 2003, he died only 13 days short of his 91st birthday.

Oliver Reginald Tambo
(1917 to 1993)

African National Congress Youth League (ANCYL) and former ANC president. Tambo spent most of his life serving in the struggle against apartheid.

OR, as he was popularly known by his peers, was born in 1917 in the rural town of Mbizana in Pondoland, Eastern Cape.

Tambo attended the University of Fort Hare where he obtained his Bachelor of Science Degree in 1941. It was at Fort Hare that he first became involved in the politics of the national liberation movement. He was among the founding members of the ANC Youth League (ANCYL) and became its first national secretary. He was elected President of the Transvaal ANCYL in 1948 and national vice-president in 1949.

In the ANCYL, Tambo teamed up with Walter Sisulu, Nelson Mandela, Dr William Nkomo and others to bring a bold, new spirit of militancy into the post-war ANC. Around the same time, Tambo set up a legal partnership with Nelson Mandela in Johannesburg. The firm soon became known as a champion of the poor, victims of apartheid laws with little or no money to pay their legal costs.

In 1954, Oliver Tambo was appointed secretary-general of the ANC when Walter Sisulu was forced to resign. In 1958, he left the post to become the Deputy President of the ANC.

In 1985, Tambo was re-elected ANC President and also served as the Head of the Politico-Military Council (PMC) of the ANC and as Commander in Chief of Umkhonto we Sizwe (MK).

In 1989, he suffered a stroke and underwent extensive medical treatment. He returned to South Africa in 1991 after over three decades in exile and was elected National Chairperson of the ANC in July of that year.

He died on April 24, 1993.

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He cuts a lone figure in the 63-member Eastern Cape Provincial Legislature where his party is outnumbered by a landslide.

But Zingisa Mkabile, the Pan African Congress (PAC) representative since 1999, is no lightweight and is not just making up the numbers.

He takes parliamentary oversight seriously and sits in four of the 14 Eastern Cape legislature standing committees, including the vital Finance and Public Accounts committees, and somehow manages to keep tabs on the rest.

"I try to have an impact in all the committees by engaging with issues at portfolio committee level," he says.

While he admits to being frustrated by the knowledge that it may take another generation for his party to govern, Mkabile seems to know just how to take the PAC forward, and is very realistic about it.

"We know exactly where the wheels fell off, and have learnt from our major mistake to refuse to join the Government of National Unity when we were invited by former president Nelson Mandela to partake. The position the PAC finds itself in today owes largely to mistakes of the past, and to some extent to the fact that we have no source of funding, unlike the ANC and Democratic Alliance (DA), both of whom have benefited much from corporate South Africa."

He says the party failed to read the signs of the times and were unable to plan for the realities of 1994. "We have a very proud history and will be celebrating 50 years in 2009. Until 1994, we had fought side-by-side with the ANC during the struggle for liberation, and from hindsight I believe we should have made better choices," he states.

Currently, with only five PAC members in the nine legislatures countrywide, and only three of these holding seats in the national parliament, the PAC is convinced that by 2012 it will be a force to reckon with. He believes the PAC would have made an impact much earlier than anticipated had it not, in part, been for what he claims as "illegitimate and undemocratic practices" by the ruling party during elections. These include incidents where he alleges opposition agents were intimidated at polling stations, largely manned by teachers he says were members of the ANC.

At the young age of 46, Mkabile has enormous political experience, having cut his teeth in politics in 1979 at the University of Fort Hare -- much like political veterans such as the late Oliver Tambo. It would appear that Mkabile's political make-up owes much to his mentoring as a

TEXT WILTON MAMBA
PHOTOGRAPH FRANK WINDECK

The party failed to read the signs of the times and was unable to plan for the realities of 1994

freedom fighter during, and after, his stay as a student at Fort Hare, which lasted two years longer than it was supposed to.

"I was involved in a number of strikes at Fort Hare, which saw me being discontinued on two occasions. That should explain why a three-year degree took me five years to complete. The strikes were part of the struggle against the apartheid government."

Mkabile would drop out to teach temporarily and return to university when things quietened down. During this period, Mkabile was already a member of the PAC.

He studied for an Honours Degree in Philosophy at the University of South Africa, after which he enrolled at Rhodes University for a Masters Degree.

"But this was during the same year parties were unbanned in South Africa and, when duty called, I left the university to take part in the restructuring of the party," he says.

While Mkabile is reluctant to engage in the debate around the succession battle in the ANC, and the proposed third term for president Thabo Mbeki as ANC party leader -- which would effectively create two centres of power -- he believes such an arrangement could create problems.

LONE VOICE

"This is an ANC matter that I do not wish to say much about. Yes, this arrangement has been implemented in such countries as Namibia, though it's got its problems. With this arrangement, turn around time tends to be poor. It takes longer for decisions to be taken, and also leads to in-fighting which would cause government to fail to function."

Mkabile looks into the future with optimism.

"We have just elected a new president, which should put us in good stead as an opposition party in 2012. We think the country would be better and stronger with a stronger PAC," says Mkabile.

While he admits that a PAC government may only happen in the very distant future, Mkabile believes it would do better than the ANC, especially where the Eastern Cape is concerned.

He says the ANC has neglected the Eastern Cape resulting in it lagging behind in development. He blames the situation on an "incompetent public service" and a generally poor infrastructure. He says the Education Department has repeatedly had a vote of no confidence in its competence. "There are serious shortages of health professionals, unfilled vacancies in the provincial government because the education policy is misdirected. It fails to identify areas that need particular skills and to fill those positions. Officers, especially teachers, who resign or leave public service are not replaced for long periods on end. There exists a disjuncture in the economy and what is offered at schools," says Mkabile.

He argues that the ANC has failed to come up with pro-poor policies, and where it has, such policies do not work.

While he concedes that the Industrial Development Zones (IDZs) could create a conducive environment for economic growth, he does not believe they are being implemented prudently.

"Take Coega for example. It managed to create short-term jobs, but the crunch will come when its developers must attract new tenants. Instead of attracting new tenants, companies seem to be relocating from other industrial areas to Coega."

He believes the money that has been invested in the project could have been injected into other programmes that would encourage economic growth across the length and breadth of the Eastern Cape.

Mkabile is not worried about the

back-to-back victories of the ANC in national elections. He says this should not suggest that the opposition is weak. He points out that most liberation parties across Africa tend to stay longer in power, while the opposition matures to be more effective in future.



SUNDAY IN THE



It's a typical Sunday morning in Grahamstown and the streets are deserted. Most shops, which form the hub of this small university town in the Eastern Cape province of South Africa, are closed for the weekend. The vendors who normally crowd the streets with their wares are nowhere to be seen. Even Mandla, the young beggar who pesters passers-by near the Protea Hotel in High Street is not around. The corner of Somerset and High streets, usually occupied by an old man who plays a guitar for donations, is silent and empty.

Occasionally a lone figure wanders out of a local supermarket – one of the few shops open – armed with their Sunday groceries.

Grahamstown seems to have come to a standstill. But further downtown, the puzzle of the city's emptiness is solved. The people are busy at prayer.

With a huge Cathedral and more than 50 churches, it is little wonder that Grahamstown is known as the City of Saints.

It is often said that, for the English, everything stops for tea. On Sunday in Grahamstown, everything seems to stop for church.

An Anglican Cathedral dominates one end of the city's main street. Built in 1824, the Cathedral of St Michael and St George has an imposing facade. It's only 9am but the Anglicans are already almost done for day. Their first mass starts at 7:30 am; not a good wake-up time for a journalist struggling with Saturday's hangover. The parishioners are already streaming out of church for home. Its members are predominantly white.

A stone's-throw away from the Cathedral are two other churches, the Commemoration Methodist Church built in the late 18th century, and the Baptist Church built in 1843. The service of the Methodist Church is also finished. All that remains are a few worshippers chatting over a cup of tea.

There is, however, still some action at the Baptist Church. It was the first Baptist Church to be established in Africa, according to the Reverend Dirk Coetzee. Inscriptions engraved on its walls and windows tell the church's rich history. Each window has been dedicated to a former member of the church. A message on one of the windows reads: 'This window is dedicated to the memory of Mr and Mrs F. Jardine for 50 years members of the church'.

"Today the church was not full because the University (Rhodes) is on holiday," says Coetzee. Most members of the Baptist Church are Rhodes University students. "The students come very far from home to learn and they are looking for a family life and this church provides just that," he says. But the church has another role. It's a sanctuary for students who have problems and seek counselling. Over the years the church has

CITY OF



SAINT AND SINNER



become a comfort zone for students especially those who come from Zimbabwe. "We have a lot of students from Zimbabwe who are worried and stressed about the situation back home. We have to help them through these troubled times," says Coetzee. A few weeks ago the church held a prayer session for Zimbabwe. Today Coetzee again proffered a prayer asking God to guide "the people of Zimbabwe through these troubled times".

One of the church's members is Zimbabwean Kundai Sit-hole, who is a final year Pharmacy student at Rhodes.

He, like other Zimbabweans, comes to the church for spiritual guidance and to pray for his country.

"The church has really helped because I have experienced the power of God," he says. "For instance this year things were so hard that I didn't think I would come back for the fourth year but God intervened and I am here."



TEXT SHAKEMAN MUGARI
PHOTOGRAPHS FRANK WINDECK

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When the sermon finishes, the worshippers retreat to a room next door where they chat about almost everything from flowers to the situation in Zimbabwe over a quick cup of tea.

Further away, in Grahamstown's Fingo Village, a sermon is just starting. Here worship is conducted differently. On this Sunday afternoon the members of the Israel of Zion Church have decided to congregate at a small house in a dusty street belonging to one of their senior members, Nompumelelo Ngcebu. Inside the house the 21 worshippers are crammed in a room measuring about four square-metres. On the wooden cabinet in the corner, seven candles have been lit. These represent the "seven Angels of God" say the congregants. The room is stuffy but the people don't seem to mind as their voices fuse in worship assisted by clapping hands, a tambourine and a massive drum in the centre of the room.

A woman in a white gown leads in song and also does the drumming. Unlike the Baptists in town, who have hymn books and a band, the 'Israelites', as they call themselves, make do with popular choruses.

When the tempo goes up, the women dance rhythmically in circles. "We don't train for the dances; we just follow the rhythm," says Ngcebu, who is also the director for women's affairs in the church.

The Israelites don't have a long tradition like the Baptists, having started only in 1984, but they take pride in their congregation. "Our uniform is our form of identity," she says. The women wear blue skirts, white blouses and a 'doek' on their heads. The blouse is decorated with a lace material designed like a wave around the shoulders.

"That shape symbolises that we are the waves of the sea that wash away the dirt. No one should put on the uniform unless they are clean." The uniforms don't come cheap. A full uniform costs R150 and this figure leaps to R900 if the gown is included.

The leaders of the church wear a blue gown which symbolises the water in the sea.

"People come here for different reasons. There are those who want God to help them get jobs, some have family problems while others just want to praise the lord," says Ngcebu.

The inconveniences that come with fellowshiping in the house are apparent. During the session the mother of the

house had to push through the small crowd to take her sleeping baby into the main bedroom. The altar is right next to the bedroom door.

A pot topples in the kitchen disturbing the worshippers. A small girl, perhaps bored by the endless session, keeps opening the door to the toilet. It's not by choice that the Israelites pray in the house but they can't afford to build their own church. "Our membership is poor," says Ngcebu.

Ngcebu's neighbours do not seem bothered by the noise blasting from the house.

But, while the 'saints' worship, the 'sinners' are indulging in a different sort of Sunday nearby. A drunken man staggers along the street near the worshipping Israelites. He is so drunk that he can't even remember his name.

"My name is Ngwema, oh no it's Superwhite. No, Superwhite is the nickname," he says. Asked why people call him Superwhite his face goes blank. "I don't know," he slurs. After some hesitation he asks for a cigarette but when handed a box to take one, he helps himself to two. The stereo in the house across the street is booming with Brenda Fassie's hit song Nomangani (loosely translated to mean 'against all odds').

He is not the only one who won't be going to church today. Corporal Loyiso Gugwefana of the SA National Defence Force runs a shebeen and Sunday is a good day to increase his beer sales. His house resembles a bar. In one corner, a man and woman are sharing an intimate moment. Some revellers are dancing to a Mbhaqanga song coming from the jukebox. There is no free pleasure here though. If you want a song you pay R1. Patrons bring their own glasses. Beer is sold in large quart bottles. If journalists want to talk to them and take pictures they have to buy a beer first. "I run this shebeen because my salary from the government is not enough. Me and my four children will starve if I don't do this," says Gugwefana.

He is not sure how much money he makes from the shebeen but he says it's enough to help him get-by. Today his merchandise seems to have taken its toll on one of his patrons, a chubby Xhosa woman who looks like she's in her late forties.

Judging by the slur in her speech, she seems to have imbibed too much of the merry waters.

"Today is a special Sunday because I am drinking beer," she shouts in my face.

She has been in the shebeen since mid-morning. "Last week I was at church but this Sunday is for me to drink beer," she says as she chugs down her Castle Lager.

TEXT CASWELL TLALI
PHOTOGRAPH JORC NAVARRO

Having access to a basic education is supposed to facilitate a successful working life but many unemployed people in the Eastern Cape feel the 12 years spent at school were a waste of time.

Dan Mseleku, 26, is one of those who believe basic education added very little value to his daily life.

"I have even forgotten that I wrote and passed matric because I cannot find a job.

I think I only learned how to read and write at school not how to make a living"

In the Eastern Cape, where the unemployment rate is conservatively estimated to be above 30%, self-employment becomes particularly relevant.

Having been raised in Amathole district in the Eastern Cape, Mseleku now walks the streets of Grahamstown in search of jobs. He believes that those who passed matric but were unable to enrol for tertiary education were "to remain jobseekers forever".

Corroborating Mseleku's remarks, Grahamstown resident Phakamile Hoffman (30) who is married and supporting aged parents says he survives by getting temporary jobs in supermarkets. He does not have a matric certificate although he attended school up to Grade 11.

"I cannot find any meaningful job because I do not have the required skills for available job offers around here," he said. "Our high schools do not impart the students with skills relevant to a day-to-day life. If one does not have tertiary education he may end up a beggar or criminal."

Professor of Education at Rhodes University, George Euvrard, says it often depended on which school people attended. Some schools, he said, have a way of teaching that helped students gain insight into adult life and prepared pupils for "responsible civic life".

Curriculum development, he acknowledged, is a national problem but this did not mean that the current national curriculum was inadequate. "Those who are in well-functioning schools have lessons beyond academic ones. They have extra-mural programmes that expose them to many opportunities outside the academic curriculum."

All the schools in South Africa, he said, had the choice to apply such programmes in their curriculum.

But Director of the Centre for Entrepreneurship at Rhodes University, Jos Welman, said most schools tended to teach students to pass examinations rather than to make a living from their knowledge.



IS ACCESS TO EDUCATION ENOUGH?

"There is still a lot of spoon-feeding in the classrooms. Our kids are not learning to solve problems but rather to ask for solutions to their problems," said Welman. "They are not trained to think critically to overcome life's challenges."

He said schools tended to produce people who could pass examinations rather than entrepreneurs.

"These graduates," he said, "are relying on their certificates to get a job and they always have a hope that they will make it one day. But remarkably, the dropouts who do not rely on any school certificate become entrepreneurs because they know that behind them there is no wall to lean on."

One of those young entrepreneurs without a school certificate is Retshedisitswe Mabula (21), a street vendor in Grahamstown.

"I have many problems but at least I manage to give food to my baby every day," she said. "As a single parent, I used to think that I would not cope but I have learned that hard work bears fruits. One may not be rich but being able to have the necessary things is alright with me."

A DESERT MAN'S VISIT TO THE SEA

TEXT BAME PIET
PHOTOGRAPH NUNO ROCHA

Friday the 13th is supposed to be unlucky. Many of my friends believe that you have to be very careful what you do on this day because of the bad things that can come to pass. But I will never forget the morning of Friday the 13th of July 2007. I woke up knowing that something special was about to happen – I was scheduled to travel to Port Elizabeth with my colleagues where I would have my first ever opportunity to touch sea water.

Being from a land-locked country, Botswana, home to the Kgalagadi Desert, I had heard about the mysteries of the sea and seawater. I had heard how one could be healed from many diseases or conditions by just going to the sea. I had heard stories about how salty the seawater is and, sometimes, how the sea can get angry.

Biblical stories of Moses leading Israelites through the Red Sea made me dream of one day going to the ocean. The 2005 stories of how tsunamis ravaged some countries in Asia did not scare me - my only dream was about seeing myself at a beach, watching water as it swelled and splashed into the coastline.

Mid-morning of Friday 13th we headed to Port Elizabeth. I was a bit sceptical about our safety since we were very late and, our driver had no option but to step hard on the accelerator. As we arrived in Port Elizabeth, my eyes were glued to the beautiful blue colour of the sea. I could see island-like objects a few kilometres out, and realised they were ships. "That thing is big," said one of my colleagues about one ship.

Upon arrival at the Port of Coega's offices, we were taken on a tour of what is going to be South Africa's biggest deep water port. I felt almost as if they were wasting our time since my interest was more about seeing myself at the 'beach' than anything else. I got more excited when we drove to the exact place where the port is being built, but my dreams were threatened when our guide announced that there was no way we could go down to the actual construction site at the waters' edge. The guide explained how nice it is to travel on a ship. "You can't see anything apart from water."

Soon we were being hurried to our shuttle to



take us back to Grahamstown. "So I am not going to realise my dream," I said to myself.

However, along the way we agreed to find a way to the sea and our driver was very cooperative. He stopped at a junction and we drove straight down to the seaside. There we found a group of people apparently performing a ritual. Some of them had painted their faces white and had a goat with them, which we suspected was going to be slaughtered. We didn't waste time though and walked to the sea.

The atmosphere was unique – a cool breeze and the sweet sound of waves. I walked straight to the waters' edge. I whispered to myself: "Here I am, at the seaside." I pinched my thigh to check I was not dreaming.

I ran back to our car where I collected two empty bottles to fill with seawater – for myself and a colleague from Lesotho who also wanted seawater to take back to her mountainous home. Since time was not on our side, I could not remove my shoes to walk into the sea to collect water. But our cooperative driver once again offered assistance. He requested a man who was swimming nearby to do it for us.

Now, each morning I take a look at the bottle in my room and hug and kiss it. I can't wait for the day I arrive home with seawater. I am in a dilemma as to whether I should give the water to a special person in my life or just keep it and label the bottle "Friday 13th, July 2007".



AGAINST

She was born on 10 June 1969, the same year that there was a most unusual earthquake in the Western Cape region and also, more significantly, the year when Neil Armstrong made it to the moon. She is the daughter of a “working class family” and so, without royal pedigree. She is the introverted little girl who studied to be a teacher, but changed her mind.

Today, Phylcia Oppelt is the face of the new establishment, in a country where journalism remains largely the purview of macho men, and where

**TEXT MANUEL MUCARI
PHOTOGRAPH BAME PIET**

ALL ODDS

being smart often outranks being tough. Oppelt, one of the few women journalists of this country who have made it into such a high position, is the editor of one of the flagship newspapers in the Eastern Cape – the *Daily Dispatch*.

She's described by close friends and colleagues as a person who is passionate about her work, who puts her heart and extra effort into everything she does.

The product of a new and democratic South Africa, Oppelt evolved into prominence in journalism in the country due to what her colleague, Andrews Trench, describes as her "contemporary pragmatism" which earned her respect among many colleagues. "She's an extremely passionate and very dedicated professional. She has very strong vision of things, normally wants the job to go forward and so sets high standards in the job she does. She's very demanding and hates laziness," he says.

He adds that she "plays a very critical role in laying out the agenda of the paper. She's very hands-on and involved in the daily life of the paper".

The *Daily Dispatch's* Editor is steadfast in her approach. Trench recalls that she was once threatened after the newspaper exposed corruption among suppliers to the province's School Nutrition

Programme. A delegation led by the chairman of one of the co-operatives demonstrated outside the *Daily Dispatch*.

"She handled the situation with self respect.

Basically she listened to their complaints and told them to sod off," said Trench.

Q&A WITH PHYLCIA

What about the business of being a Journalist. Did you display any early talent?

It was by chance. I was going to become a teacher, but after doing my practical stints in my final year at university (Cape Town), I realised that I did not want to teach. I ended up working as a secretary at a magazine and realised that I was not cut out to be an administrator. Instead, I fell in love with the process of putting stories together. That, in 1993, gave me the curiosity and impetus to apply to the *Mail & Guardian* newspaper's cadet journalism programme. I was accepted into the programme in 1994 and that's how I became a journalist. After my cadetship ended, I was sent to the *Sunday Times* newspaper as an intern reporter. At the end of 1994, I was offered a job as a junior reporter in Johannesburg.

Can you tell me about some of the challenges you faced through your career, especially during your early days.

Being taken seriously as a young woman reporter. Issues of sexual harassment, both from male colleagues and people whom I interviewed were a problem at times. Also, I am a second language English speaker and I was constantly aware that I had to try harder than, particularly my white colleagues, in terms of the quality of stories that I produced.

Was the environment so hostile when you started to work, especially being a woman?

I was not a political animal, did not want to do political reporting. Editors are traditionally from that stock so I had to prove that I could also be a "serious" journalist. Most South African newspapers have been run by white men. For both black men and women it was a particularly challenging time where we were constantly evaluated on how good we were or whether we were just window dressing to make workplaces more representative.

Can you describe your career since the early days?

I started working for an Afrikaans magazine in 1991. I joined the *Mail & Guardian's* cadet programme in 1994. I joined the *Sunday Times* as a junior reporter in 1995. I became its junior foreign correspondent in 1996 – 1997 in England. In 1999 I became Features Editor of the *Sunday Times*, in 2001, the deputy Insight and Opinion editor, in 2002, the Insight and Opinion editor, in 2003 a deputy managing editor and 2005 the *Daily Dispatch* editor.

What is your vision of the press amidst all the turmoil in the world?

I think that we have immense challenges. On the one hand, we always have new competition from other news outlets. Like elsewhere, we have problems of juniorisation, but I do not think it is an impossible problem. I'd like to see a situation unfold where we do not have to do the numbers game – so many women editors, so many black women editors, so many black editors. Rather, that it will get to a stage where I am not an anomaly but rather the rule. There are many talented women in journalism who would make impressive editors. But we are not allowing those women to come through.

What's your impression about the fact that the Eastern Cape is being neglected?

It angers me because I do not think it has to be like this. I believe that there is not enough political will to see through programmes and changes. I also believe that people are not held accountable for not delivering to the poorest of the poor.

PARTICIPANTS



Mbongeni Mbingo
Editor (Times SUNDAY), Swaziland
 In order to define the Eastern Cape we simply have to look at two places; Mvezo where Nelson Mandela was born, and Qunu where he grew up. These two places tell the story of abject poverty and neglect in a land that has so much rich history and potential. Donkeys ferrying water from drying rivers are a common sight while, back in the towns, the contrast couldn't be more visible. No wonder then that this is the second poorest province in South Africa. Which is a shame, because this place has such beautiful tranquillity, it epitomises the spirit of Madiba himself.



Shakeman Mugari
Business Editor
(Zimbabwe Independent)
 To me the story of the Eastern Cape is one of a people who gave their sons and daughters to the country's struggle for liberation but got nothing in return. The Eastern Cape willingly gave Walter Sisulu, Nelson Mandela, Thabo Mbeki, Oliver Tambo, Chris Hani and Steve Biko among many other icons of the liberation struggle. Is it not ironic that despite being the cradle of the struggle against oppression the Eastern Cape is still the second poorest province in South Africa?



Rebaone Odirle
Senior Reporter, (Botswana Guardian)
 The Eastern Cape province has struck me as a place of extremes; home to the extreme haves and the extreme have-nots. In Grahamstown, women have time to do their hair while in Mvezo, the birthplace of the world's standard bearer of peace and reconciliation, Nelson Mandela, they spend time at the wells doing family laundry and drawing water and then balancing buckets on their heads to take home for domestic use. And this is South Africa, a country that fancies itself as a benchmark to other African countries on how best to govern!



Eleuterio Guevane
(Radio Mozambique)
 Eastern Cape? Brrrrrrrr... despite the cold weather, the land of Madiba was a vibrant experience for me. I was in contact with a different face of South Africa affected by poverty. The good thing is that big efforts are being made to overcome the problems through the active role of NGOs and, definitely, the pool of development at Rhodes University. I appreciate the quality of the infrastructure and the engagement work involving students with the communities in order to promote socio-economic development.

Gibbs Dube
Lecturer (National University of Science and Technology) Zimbabwe
 The Eastern Cape has extremes. The poorest of the poor and the 'stinking' rich. Poverty is visible in homelands and townships. It appears as if the EC retains the scars of apartheid. It has deep rooted poverty, suffering among the marginalised and happiness for the rich. Two worlds in one, is all I can say.



Breschneff Katjaimo
Producer (NBC radio, Otjiherero), Namibia
 The Eastern Cape is big and the people friendly. It is however, difficult for foreigners to get stories here as people prefer you to speak their language.



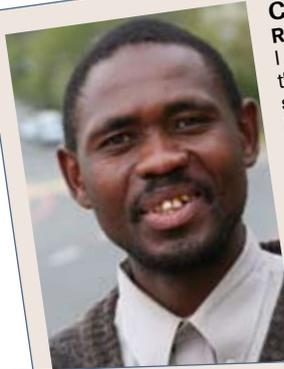
Nyambe Muyumbana
Radio Lyambai and freelancer (The Post) Zambia
 I found it shocking and strange to learn that the Eastern Cape is the stronghold of South Africa's ruling ANC yet it is the province with the highest poverty figures. I say so because African leaders have a tendency of not forgetting the places where they get more votes in terms of developing them. Whatever the case, I feel the province needs leaders with a vision and passion to turn it around especially with the forthcoming 2010 FIFA football world cup.



Wilton Mamba
Assistant Editor (The Times) Swaziland
 I arrived to be greeted by a small Victorian town, whose every street kept whispering: 'you are in London'. A week later I stood at the mountain top where the shanty Hlalani and Fingo villages are perched, overlooking Grahamstown, and the dusty streets bellowed so loud, I could not believe the reality of the situation: 'Wake up, you are in South Africa'. When the reverie is over, I have to admit that the Eastern Cape suffers from the same syndrome across South Africa, where wealth seems to feast on poverty.



Bame Piet
Reporter (Mmegi newspaper) Botswana
 The Eastern Cape is a beautiful place with plenty of unused land. I have realised that it seems there are more white people in Grahamstown and the place isn't vibrant/alive. It must be boring to live in the area especially when you are a black man who enjoys going out. However, for students this should be the best place. In general, the area seems peaceful with a low crime rate.



Caswell Tlali
Reporter (Family Mirror) Lesotho
 I am a Mosotho from toe to head. I find the Eastern Cape, especially Grahamstown, where I have spent two weeks, a beautiful place. It is called a small town but according to Lesotho's standards it is a big town. In fact, it is bigger than Maseru but not as exciting.



Wezzie Nkhoma
Somba Joy FM radio, Malawi
 I feel the Eastern Cape is a good place where one can get educated and learn more skills, especially considering that it has many universities.

Phanuel Shuma
General reporter (SABC Radio News)
 I'm currently attached to the SABC Radio News as a general reporter. My first impressions of the Eastern Cape was that the people here just love their culture. The initiates who graduated recently bore testimony to that. And also the manner in which they still live in the rural villages, with men drinking the "umqomboti", women carrying water buckets on their heads also serves as evidence of this.



Samuel Makaka



Manuel Mucari
Sub-editor (Meianoite) Mozambique
 I've been a Journalist for 10 years. I've always found it hard to believe that we, the media, with our "innate" or "created" bias towards critical issues perpetuate the suffering of our people. We shouldn't be working to please the elites or minorities, we should really assist the voiceless. I'm profoundly shocked to learn that, even having brought grand leaders to the country, the Eastern Cape region still lags behind when compared with the rest of South Africa. For me it shows the humbleness of Madiba and the others leaders born here who look to the broader country, and not only where they come from. They are not narcissists nor showcase their alter-ego. In a nutshell, I can say I haven't seen such joy and pain in equal measures before; joy for having bred such magnificent souls and pain for suffering from poverty.



Janet Dambula
News Producer, Malawi Television
 I think Grahamstown in the Eastern Cape is a good place to be especially for those who like going to church. There are lots of churches around. The place is also quiet. But, fun lovers and trouble-makers might find the place boring.



Mathabiso Ralengau
The Ultimate Radio, Lesotho
 Before coming to Grahamstown, I was so excited. I'm proud to announce that Grahamstown is a true land of Saints. It is very quiet, and without any Tsotsis. However, it was too quite for me, as I come from the fast city of Maseru, Lesotho's capital, where anything is possible. The Eastern Cape is the wonderful birth place of Mandela.



EASTERN CAPE LAND OF MANDELA

REPORTING AFRICA
WORKSHOP
GRAHAMSTOWN
EASTERN CAPE
SOUTH AFRICA



Konrad
Adenauer
Stiftung