

MINISTRY OF DEFENCE AND MILITARY VETERANS
Republic of South Africa

MEDIA ADVISORY

Date: 21 January 2015

Embargo: None

Subject: HON. NOSIVIWE MAPISA-NQAKULA VISITS SCHOOLS IN MDANTSANE, EAST LONDON

The Minister of Defence and Military Veterans, Nosiviwe Mapisa-Nqakula will be visiting Mzomhle and Wongalethu High Schools both in Mdantsane, East London on the 21st of January 2015. In line with her Constituency obligations as a Member of Parliament and member of the leadership of national government, Hon. Nosiviwe Mapisa-Nqakula - MP, adopted five schools nationally and Mzomhle is one of the five schools she adopted. However, Wongalethu's dismal pass rate prompted the minister to initiate a longstanding partnership with the school.

The main objective of the visit is to encourage and motivate learners from these schools to pursue their studies seriously, encourage teachers to provide a positive environment for learning where every learner feels supported and get first-hand information from teachers and learners alike about some of the challenges faced by the schools. Moreover, in an effort to curb school dropouts, Minister Mapisa-Nqakula will discuss with teachers strategies to curtail the dropout crisis.

The high schools are situated in poverty-stricken areas notorious for high levels of crime, child-headed homes, and pervasive societal challenges not conducive to learning. In light of this, Minister Mapisa-Nqakula seeks to provide support in looking into long-term approaches to provide financial support to poor and academically deserving learners, encourage learners to consider careers in the defence force and in partnership with SASSETA; award bursaries for 2015/16.

Minister Mapisa-Nqakula will be accompanied by career counsellors and representatives from the provincial legislature.

Media is invited as follows:

08h00: Mzomhle High School, NU 1, Mdantsane, East London (Minister Mapisa-Nqakula will give a keynote address)

10h00: Wongalethu High school, NU 2, Mdantsane, East London

ENDS.

Issued by: Ministry of Defence and Military Veterans

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