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Premier Balindlela has revealed her BIG Surprise for the Youth

Eastern Cape Premier, Mrs Nosimo Balindlela has finally revealed the surprise that has kept the youth of the province guessing in the past few weeks. Premier Balindlela and MEC for Social Development, Mr Sam Kwelita, officially handed over a cheque of R13 million to fund youth development projects in the province. This was revealed by Premier Balindlela during the provincial Youth Day celebrations at Cala Stadium in the Chris Hani District municipality on Monday, June 16, 2008.

Speaking at the event, Premier Balindlela said by funding youth projects, the government is laying a foundation to establish the youth as role players in the socio economic activities of the province. The Premier said this was the well kept surprise she promised to give the youth of the province.

The Premier urged the youth who packed the Cala Stadium to take full advantage of the opportunities the government is availing to them, under the theme “Entrenching democracy – All youth to the polls”. This year’s Youth Day celebrations were dedicated to Bathandwa Ndondo, a former student activist who was brutally murdered by the agents of the apartheid government in 1985.

Premier Balindlela urged the youth to be at the forefront of the fight “against hostilities aimed at our fellow African brothers and sisters”. “Communities and the youth should make a stand against discrimination and xenophobia in defence of South Africa’s hard won democracy,” said Premier Balindlela.
Chairperson of the Eastern Cape Youth Commission, Prince Mlimandlela Ndamase pinpointed a number of projects like the National Youth Service, which was launched for the youth to participate in the government’s socio-economic programmes as some of the achievements of youth development.

“As the youth we need to engage ourselves on the local government structures in order to represent the interests of the youth” said Prince Mlimandlela Ndamase. He further appreciated a number of youth development programmes, particularly the Youth in Agriculture and the unemployed graduate’s programmes and labelled them as providing a beckon of hope for the youth of the province.

“These special initiatives assist to keep the youth from emigrating to other provinces in search of greener pastures,” added Ndamase.

A Joint Statement of the Eastern Cape Provincial Government and the Eastern Cape Youth Commission

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For pictures of the event visit www.ecprov.gov.za

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