

**To all Media**  
**03 February 2023**

**For immediate release:**

### **ALBERTINA NONTSIKELELO SISULU SCIENCE CENTRE OPEN DAY**

The Albertina Nontsikelelo Sisulu (AN Sisulu) Science Centre will host the first Science Open Day event on **Friday 10 February 2023** at Cofimvaba in the Eastern Cape. The purpose of the event is to mark the beginning of 2023 science centre's programmes for schools in the Chris Hani District and beyond, as well as the general public. The science centre programmes include thematic interactive exhibits, science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM) curriculum support, career and general science awareness.

The AN Sisulu Science Centre belongs to the Eastern Cape Department of Education (ECDOE) as one of the educators' training centres for the teaching and learning capacity building. The science awareness space is supported by the Department of Science and Innovation (DSI) through the South African Agency for Science and Technology Advancement (NRF-SAASTA). The Centre is equipped with high-tech equipment to demonstrate the application of the fourth industrial revolution (4IR) through many scientific thematic areas such as robotics, marine science, paleo, nuclear, biotechnology, indigenous knowledge, space and astronomy, renewable energy, smart farming and weather station, just to mention a few. Its multipurpose and smart classroom are capable of broadcasting the lessons to schools and can connect with other facilities across the world.

The event will offer a unique opportunity to see some of the amazing work that the science centre is doing to develop technological innovation for water and sanitation, energy, nutrition and health. Scientists and experts from two nearby science centres, fourteen universities and science councils will be sharing their knowledge with the visitors at the Open Day. These scientists are the ones that have developed and built the exhibits that are on the floor of the Centre. The institutions include the CSIR, Necsa, ARC, SANSA, WSU, Wits University, UNIVEN, SA Weather Service, SAEON, TUT, SAASTA, NMBSTC and FOSST Discovery Centre. The Department of Higher Education and Training will conduct the Artisan Career Development.

The event will also include introductory talks by the Municipal Manager Dr BJ Mthembu and Deputy Director General of Eastern Cape Education Department Mr. R Tywakadi. There will also be tours led by scientists, technicians and science communicators, who are currently working on the exhibitions at the science centre – this will guarantee a genuine insight into what it is like to work at the science centre and provide an opportunity to ask the passionate scientist anything about their work the science centre. It is also an opportunity to explore different careers within the science space.

## THE PROGRAMME FOR THE OPEN DAY

ACTIVITY	TIME FRAME	RESPONSIBILITY
<b>Arrival and Registration</b>		
✓ Arrivals & registrations	08h30 – 09h00	Ms. Ntimbo and Ms. Mdeni
✓ Opening prayer	09h00 – 09h35	Community member
✓ Welcoming and acknowledgement of guests	09h35 - 09h45	Municipal Manager: Dr BJ Mthembu
✓ Purpose of the Day	09h45 – 09h55	DDG: Mr R. Tywakadi
✓ Grouping of learners	09h55 – 10h00	Science communicators
TEA BREAK    TEA BREAK    TEA BREAK: 10h00-10h30		TEA BREAK
✓ Group 1- Outside exhibits ✓ Group 2- Planetarium ✓ Group 3- IKS and Labs ✓ Group 4- Exhibition area	10h40 – 12h40	Exhibitors and science communicators
Vote of thanks	12h50 – 13h00	Director(A) Qtwn PTDI & ANSC Centre: Mr P. Mashalaba

## MORE ABOUT THE SCIENCE CENTRE

The **ALBERTINA NONTSIKELELO SISULU SCIENCE CENTRE** is located in Cofimvaba, Eastern Cape. It is a state-of-the-art science centre equipped with advanced green technologies.

The centre promotes science, technology and innovation through every feature of its building. It is designed and constructed as an environmentally friendly building, it has an off-grid power supply comprising four renewable energy sources – photovoltaic panels, small-scale wind turbine, hydrogen fuel cells and batteries. Eskom power is available as a back-up. In addition, the building relies on a hybrid water supply, reducing its dependence on the grid by harvesting rainwater and recycling grey water for toilet use. Built using a light steel frame and insulated concrete composite, the structure is also HVAC free, depending on solar chimneys for its heating and cooling.

The centre offers not only science awareness activities and exhibits on various themes including space science and astronomy, but also a teacher training programme. The Intsika Yethu Local Municipality donated the land on which the centre was built. For any queries, please contact Mr Livhuwani Masevhe at [Livhuwani.Masevhe@dst.gov.za](mailto:Livhuwani.Masevhe@dst.gov.za)

## ENDS

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**About the South African Agency for Science and Technology Advancement (SAASTA)** SAASTA is a business unit of the National Research Foundation (NRF) and is the national coordinator for science engagement programmes with the mandate to advance public awareness, appreciation and engagement of science, engineering and technology in South Africa. SAASTA's contribution to the NRF's vision is to grow the pool of quality learners today who will become the scientists and innovators of tomorrow. It aims to be the leading science advancement agency in the country by promoting and communicating the value and impact of science, technology and innovation in a dynamic knowledge economy. It also intends to contribute significantly towards building a science, engineering and technology (SET) human resource base. For more information on the operations and programs within the NRF, please visit [www.saasta.ac.za](http://www.saasta.ac.za)

**About the National Research Foundation (NRF):** The National Research Foundation (NRF) was established on 1 April 1999 as an independent statutory body in accordance with the National Research Foundation Act. The NRF is a key public entity responsible for supporting the development of human resources for research and innovation in all fields of science and technology. The organisation is one of the major players in educating and training a new generation of scientists able to deal with South African and African needs. The organisation encourages public awareness and appreciation of science, engineering and technology, and facilitates dialogue between science and society. Its vision is to contribute to a prosperous South Africa based on a knowledge economy. For more information on the operations and programs within the NRF please visit [www.nrf.ac.za](http://www.nrf.ac.za)

**About the Department of Science and Innovation (DSI):** The Department of Science and Innovation (DSI; formerly the Department of Science and Technology) is the South African government department responsible for scientific research, including space programmes. The current Minister is Dr Blade Nzimande. The department seeks to boost socio-economic development in South Africa through research and innovation. To achieve its goals, the Department provides leadership, an enabling environment and resources for science, technology and innovation. Much of the department's work is ultimately carried out through various quasi-independent agencies (although still usually government bodies.) For more information, please visit [www.dsi.gov.za](http://www.dsi.gov.za)