

Madiba in good health, says President Zuma

Former President Nelson Mandela, who turns 94 next week, is in good health. The world icon, whose last public appearance was in 2010 during the World Cup closing ceremony, had lunch with President Jacob Zuma in his rural home in Qunu on Wednesday.

"It was a delight to see him as always. I was particularly happy that I had an opportunity to give him good wishes for his upcoming birthday. I also informed him that as usual, all South Africans are waiting for the 18th, preparing to wish him a happy birthday in every possible way," Zuma said.

The President also briefed Madiba on the Nelson Mandela Legacy Bridge. Zuma on Wednesday officially signalled the construction of the bridge in Ludondolo village near Mthatha. Once completed, the bridge and the new tarred road will link Mvezo village to the N2 highway.

Zuma also conveyed condolences to Madiba following the passing of his cousin Sitshekhetshe Morris Mandela, 83.

Next week the nation will celebrate Mandela's birthday, which is observed around the world as Nelson Mandela International Day. The day will start with millions of learners across the country singing the Mandela Birthday Song at 8am.

South Africans have also been called to play their part by taking part in the 94+ Projects for Madiba campaign, which places emphasis on the renovation of school buildings in the country.