

PE pair in fast lane to help activate change

Two chosen for bus trip to explore region

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A DESIRE to see change has given a Port Elizabeth pair the opportunity to put the National Development Plan into action by 2030.

Xabisa Roqo, 22, of Motherwell, and Prince Charles, 29, of Central, embarked on a bus journey from October 26 to 28 to historical sites in the province for the “Activate! Change Drivers” programme. They were joined by 34 other “activators” for the journey.

The programme gives young South Africans an opportunity to network on a bus ride as they search for ways to continue evoking change in their communities.

Individual interests landed the Port Elizabeth duo a spot

on the bus but it was their shared goal of seeing development in their communities that drove them to participate.

Roqo, who has a keen interest in the township economy and runs a brick-making business in Motherwell, said she first heard of the programme through a mentor.

“I applied for the first time in 2013, but my application was unsuccessful. I was happy when I was finally accepted as I knew that the opportunity would assist in my initiatives to end inactivity in the township,” Roqo said.

“With the number of young people that I see in the township who wake up to go to taverns every day, I have become fed up with the status quo and have decided to start dialogues where young people can discuss issues and try to find solutions.”

As part of her goal to tackle



CHANGE DRIVERS: Activators, from left, Prince Charles, Elias Sebeo, Nosiphiwe Ngqwala and Yolokazi Mfuto visit the Steve Biko Centre in Ginsberg, King William’s Town, on their journey

one social ill at a time, Roqo has set in motion her plan to promote healthy living in Motherwell and has taken over five vegetable gardens that belong to the Melisizwe Primary School.

The journey saw activators visit the East London Museum before walking in the footsteps of ancient humans at the Nahoon Point Nature Reserve.

It then took them to the Steve Biko Centre in King William’s Town where they

learnt the true meaning of black consciousness before ending their journey in Alice.

Charles, originally from Queenstown and a final year sociology student at NMMU, said the bus journey was the perfect opportunity to exchange ideas with others who shared a common goal of community development.

He said a highlight for him was visiting the Steve Biko Centre in Ginsberg.

“At a time when there are

protests and universities are shut due to the #FeesMustFall protests, it was exciting and refreshing to be reminded of people who instilled change in history and did not use any violence but instead used other ways,” Charles said.

The journey will form part of a three-part series and will be aired on national TV early next year.

The Activate! Change Drivers programme is funded by the DG Murray Trust.