

Computer literacy heads for Cwili

Business Editor

AN initiative to bring computer literacy within reach of all South Africans is to be unrolled in the Eastern Cape on Saturday when Ben Ngubane, Minister of Arts, Culture, Science and Technology, launches the "Minimally Invasive Education Project" at Cwili township near Morgans Bay.

The project, adopted from India, is a joint initiative between the CSIR and the Department of Science and Technology (DST).

According to a department

spokesman yesterday, the project was partly research into the ease of use of computer technology by poorly educated people.

"It seeks to verify results, in the South African context, of research conducted in India indicating that children possess the cognitive ability to acquire functional computer skills without formal training.

"The project entails providing a multi-media kiosk, which gives access to various applications including the Internet," said department spokesman Kgomotso Phoofolo

She said similar findings in South Africa could serve to inform policies and methodologies to introduce alternative mechanisms for computer literacy.

She said: "Working closely with the DST, the CSIR's Information and Communication Technology Unit, icomtek, believes that the Indian experience could be replicated successfully in South Africa, with due consideration to the demographic, social and cultural issues unique to South Africa, as compared with India."