

## MOVING SPORT & THE ARTS FORWARD

*MEC Norah Mahlangu-Mabena  
outlines her plans for the Department*

## How to Sing the National Anthem

*Dos and Don'ts of  
singing the National Anthem*

## LET'S PLAY SPORT, URGES MISS MP

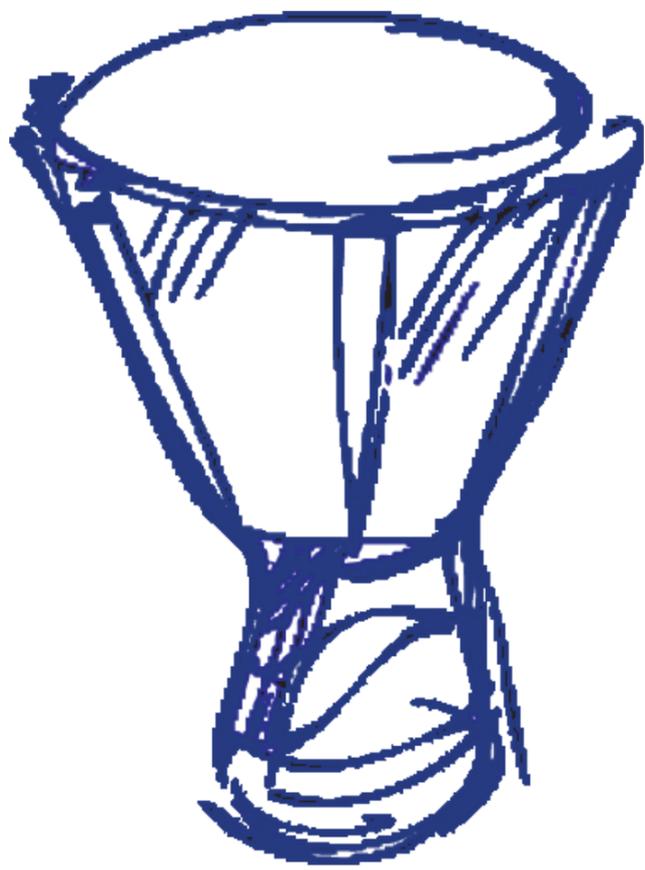
*Natasha dos Santos  
reveals her sporty side*

# *Vision*

Excel in culture, sport and information services in the province  
and the country as a whole

# *Mission*

To develop, support and promote cultural, sporting and  
information excellence  
through participation of our stakeholders



تعليم  
والتربية



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July - September 2014

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## Ed's Note

*“The masthead, layout and crisp content are hallmarks of a well-packaged magazine”*

It gives me great pleasure to welcome you to the revamped *Tibuya Emasisweni*! *Tibuya Emasisweni* had been carrying the same look for a long time - it was time to give it a facelift to make it “cool”. The magazine provides us with an opportunity to communicate the work of the department in a refreshing manner, which will appeal to S’khothanes, Generation Y, Born Frees and each and every person under the Mpumalanga sun and beyond. The revamped magazine incorporates the latest design trends in the industry. The masthead, layout and crisp content are hallmarks of a well-packaged magazine.

It has new and exciting features and they are: Know Your Country and Blast From The Past. Know Your Country teaches, educates and promotes national symbols, while Blast from the Past documents classical speeches of the last 20 years. It doesn’t end there, as we will also be publishing articles in indigenous languages. These changes are aimed at enhancing your reading pleasure and making the magazine reader friendly for the whole family from children to grandparents.

I’m also excited to announce that the department is now on social media platforms. You can tweet us at @DCSROfficial and like us on Facebook. Or if you still prefer the old communication channels, you can write a letter, send a fax or email (see sidebar for contact details). The best interactions will be published in upcoming editions. I trust you’ll enjoy reading the magazine as much as we did in compiling it. We welcome your comments, compliments and complaints on how you are finding the new-look magazine.

Here’s a parting shot to encourage you to use your talent to take South Africa forward, “Growth means change and change involves risk, stepping from the known to the unknown.”

*Sibongile Nkosi*

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# **BIG** plans for culture, sport & the arts sectors

**I**n her first 30 days in office, newly appointed Culture, Sport and Recreation MEC, Norah Mahlangu-Mabena has shown what will characterize her tenure – hardwork and service delivery.

She hit the ground running from day one, crisscrossing the length and breadth of Mpumalanga meeting with stakeholders in the culture, sport and the arts sectors with an aim of coming up with ways to improve the lives of the electorate.

It culminated with her delivering her maiden budget vote at the Mpumalanga Provincial Legislature in Mbombela on July 31. Delivering the R442 208 million budget, Mahlangu-Mabena spelt out how her department will use sports and the arts to bring about positive changes, foster social cohesion and take the country forward. She delivered a budget vote centered on people and highlighted what the department will be doing to help produce the next David Nyathi, Musa Sukwene and Josiah Thugwane; what it will be doing to promote national symbols, social cohesion and restoring the dignity of locals through the changing of offensive geographical name features.

## **CREATIVE HUB TO BE BUILT IN MPUMALANGA**

Plans to develop a Cultural Hub are gaining momentum. The Department of Public Works, Roads and Transport advertised a tender on July 27 on *City Press* for the construction of Phase One of the project. Upon completion, it will feature a theatre, exhibition centre and cinema. It will be situated in White River outside of Mbombela.

“We have identified the need to develop a Cultural Hub to boost our economy by developing the artistic excellence in Mpumalanga and creating a platform for performing artists in music development, film and video where they can develop, exhibit, market and sell their talents and skills,” explained the MEC.

## **HONOURING A STRUGGLE STALWART**

The department will build a two-metre statue of struggle stalwart, Saul Mkhize in Driefontein. Mkhize was strongly involved in the struggle against forced removals in Driefontein where he helped the community to engage lawyers through Black Sash in Johannesburg to fight against these removals. He was elected as chairperson of the Driefontein Council Board of Directors. He was killed by apartheid police forces in April 1983 during a Forced Removal Committee meeting in Driefontein. “We need to commemorate his bravery and honour him,” she said.

The MEC also announced that the community of Driefontein – through the geographic names committee - want their area to be renamed Saul Mkhizeville.

“We will officially launch this name prior to the unveiling the statue and we encourage all different sectors of society to embrace the new name,” said Mahlangu-Mabena.



*MEC Norah Mahlangu-Mabena.*

*School Sport is a priority of the Department in the current financial year.*



### **MAGNIFICENT WEDNESDAYS TO FIND THE NEXT BIG SPORT STARS**

MEC Mahlangu-Mabena announced during the budget vote that she will work together with her education counterpart, MEC Reginah Mhaule to roll out sport in schools.

According to her, giving pupils a sporting chance will afford the province to identify talent early and ensure that it does not go to waste. "The importance of school sport in developing

athletes at grass roots level could not be over emphasised and we will roll out Magnificent Wednesdays in schools together with the department of education to bring back the culture of young people participating in sport and we will rely on educators and parents to achieve this," she said.

She added, "We will provide sport attire and equipment to 200 schools to ensure their participation in sport and parallel to this, an opportunity will be unveiled for educators whereby 440 educators and 40 volunteers will implement the school sport programme in the province."

### **BUDGET ALLOCATION:**

*Adminsitration*  
R 82, 284 million

*Cultural Affairs*  
R 98, 728 million

*Library & Archive Services*  
R 161, 964 million

*Sport and Recreation*  
R 99, 232 million

**TOTAL R 442 208 million**



*The Mpumalanga Cultural Hub will provide artists like this group with a platform to showcase their talents.*

# FINDING UNITY IN BLACK, WHITE

**A**sk Mr ABC and Mr XYZ about social cohesion in South Africa and you are guaranteed to get two different responses on the matter. Mr ABC will tell you this and Mr XYZ, on the other hand, will tell you that about the subject. Not that there is anything wrong with that, but in an ideal world you would expect South Africans to sing from the same hymn sheet when it comes to matters of national unity and pride.

“South Africans have made progress since 1994 in uniting the country, yet society remains divided”

In the past 20 years, government has invested heavily in healing divisions, mistrust and hurt caused by years of racial segregation by the previous regime by prioritizing social cohesion, nation building and national identity. Evidence is found in the national celebrated days such as Human Rights Day, Freedom Day and other government programmes to mention but a few.

The National Development Plan, in Chapter 15, credits ordinary people for the progress the country has made. “South Africans have made significant progress in uniting the country since 1994. The end of Apartheid restored the dignity of all South Africans.”

What has come out clearly since 1994 is that sporting events are a great platform to bring South Africans together. It is here that people of all races meet with one purpose – to enjoy a good game and have fun. During the Absa Currie Cup Final in Soweto and 2010 Fifa World Cup, we saw how people from different racial backgrounds came together to rally behind their teams.

They sang the national anthem at the top of their lungs and shared common transport without any incidents. Yet, at times, it is the very same things that bring us together that end up tearing us apart. For example, the make up of the national rugby and football teams divides the country into them and us syndrome. There are those who feel Bafana Bafana are too black and others think the Springboks are too white. Outside of the sport arena, there are still problems hindering the progress the country has made in building one nation. What might be wrong?

The NDP provides the answer: “South Africans have made progress since 1994 in uniting the country, yet society remains divided, inequality and inequity continues. Opportunity continues to be defined by race, gender, geographic location, class and linguistic background. Inequality hardens society into class system, imprisoning people in the circumstances of their birth. Inequality corrodes trust among fellow citizens, making it seem as if the game is rigged.”

To this end, government both at national and provincial level, held summits to try come up with ideas and solutions to maintain social cohesion in the country. In Mpumalanga, the Department of Culture, Sport and Recreation, whose mandate is to foster social cohesion, is optimistic that things are looking up and it was encouraged by the discussions at the Provincial Social Cohesion Summit. “South Africa is a can-do nation and we will surely negotiate past this stumbling block,” says Sibongile Nkosi, spokesperson for the department.

Nkosi says it will take a collective effort to build a complete non-racial society. It was agreed upon the conclusion of the summit to come up with a strategy to move the country forward as far as national unity is concerned.

One can safely say that the country has made considerable strides in achieving social cohesion however there is still a lot of work to be done to ensure that all South Africans irrespective of their race, social status, geographical location and religious beliefs buy into the ideals of the founding fathers of the New South Africa – a non-racial country.



*Sandra Jacobs, Norah Mahlangu-Mabena and Irma Green talk matters of social cohesion at the sidelines of the departmental budget vote.*



*Picture of Samora Machel Museum shown.*

# WE'VE A GOOD HISTORY TO TELL

From the discovery of gold in the 1800s to the Liberation Struggle and everything in between, Mpumalanga museums have the inside story on the biggest history events that changed the future of South Africa.

Do not just take our word for it; visit Barberton, Kghodwana, Nomoya Masilela, Pilgrim's Rest and Samora Machel museums to get free educational and recreational history lessons on local cultures and liberation stalwarts.

Museums are open on Mondays to Fridays from 9:00 to 16:00 (Pilgrim's Rest & Barberton are open on weekends and public holidays).

## **RESERVATION NUMBERS:**

Barberton	013 712 4208
Kgodwana	083 673 8955
Nomoya Masilela	084 698 7607
Pilgrim's Rest	013 768 1471
Samora Machel	072 253 6682



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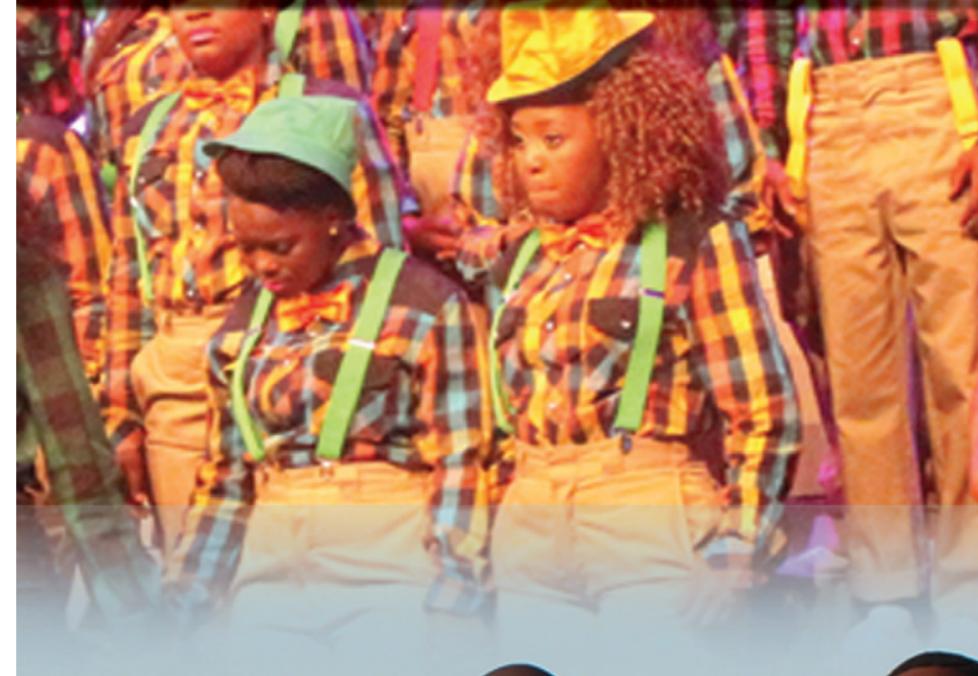
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- 1 - Innibos
- 2 - Youth Day
- 3 - Sandra Jacobs & MEC Norah Mahlangu-Mabena at Innibos Art Exhibition
- 4 - MEC Norah Mahlangu-Mabena opening Innibos Art Exhibition
- 5 - Clash of the Choirs finale
- 6 - Departmental stall at Innibos
- 7 - Dundee July



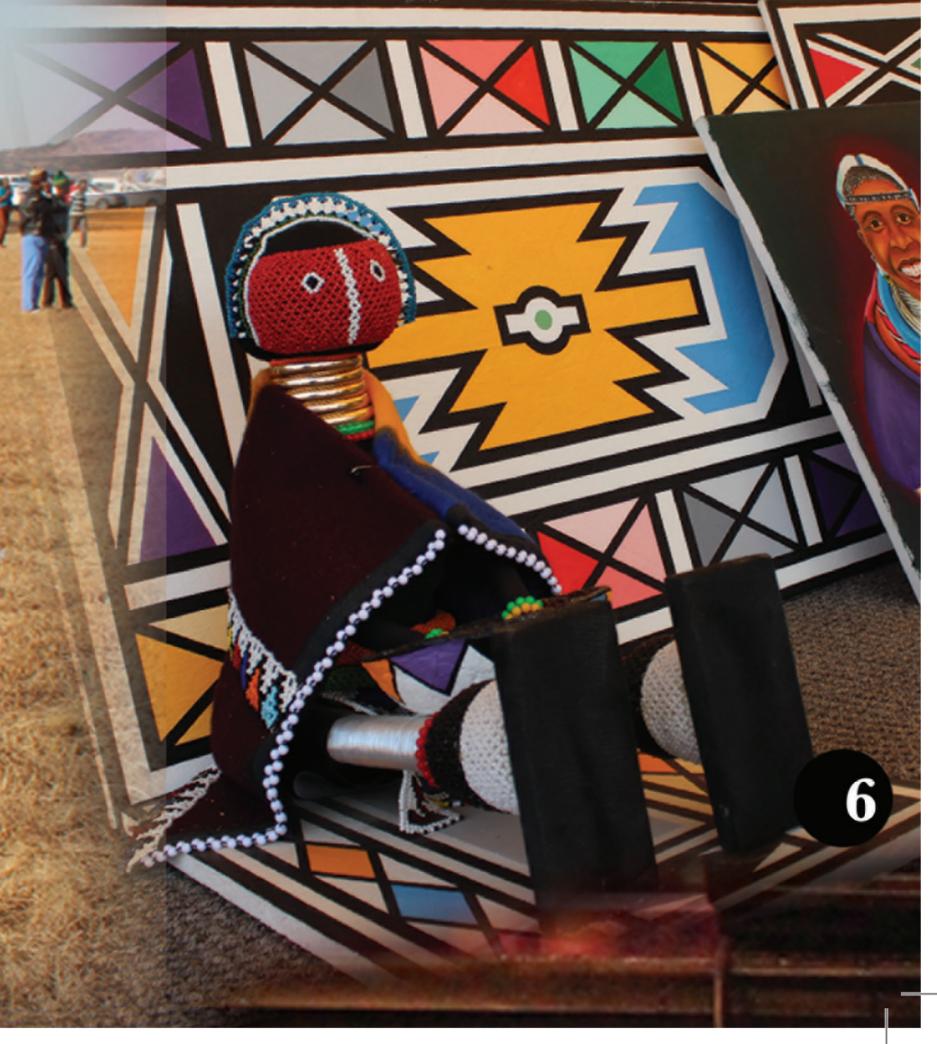
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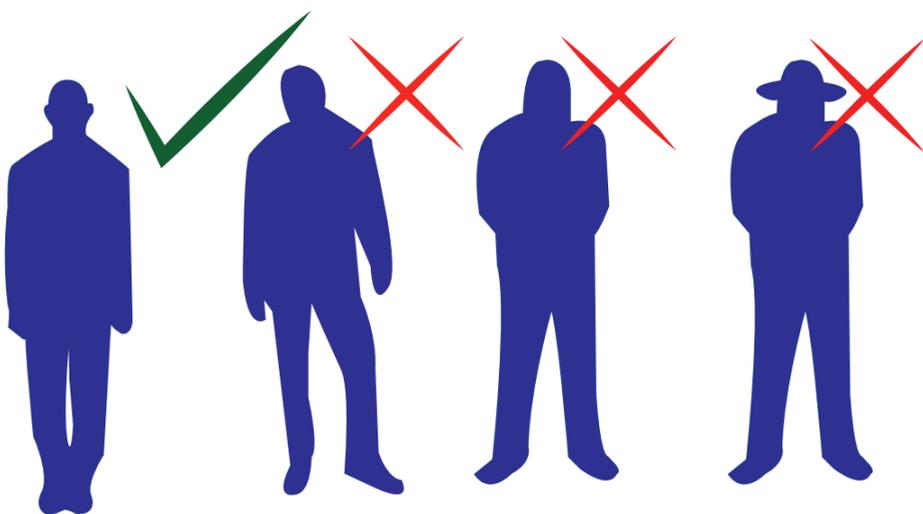
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# HOW TO SING THE NATIONAL ANTHEM

**W**e all hung our heads in shame when Ras Dumisani botched the national anthem during a Springboks/France match in 2009.

Not only was Dumisani off-key, but also he didn't know the words of Nkosi sikelel' iAfrica, which made it even more painful to watch him bastardize it. Sadly, there are thousands of Ras Dumisanes in South Africa, who don't know the words of the national anthem. The magazine brings you, Know Your Country, a feature aimed at educating the public about national symbols. In this edition, we will teach you how to sing the national anthem and the posture one must assume when singing it.

- ✓ Stand up straight with your hands on your sides
- ✓ Male persons should take off their hats and no lifting of fists should be done
- ✓ Only the president of the country can put his right hand on his left side of the chest and no one else is allowed to do that



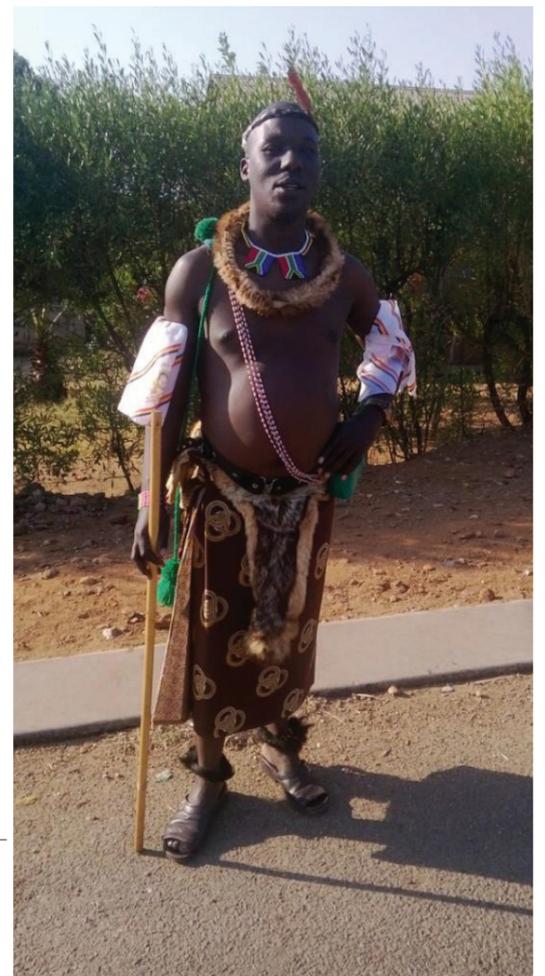
## BLAST FROM THE PAST

*Tibongo TaJacob Gedleyihlekisa Zuma*

Indumamandumane leyadvuma etiveni  
Yatsi iyabahlekisa kantsi iyabalutsa  
Gedleyihlekisa kubakaNxamalala  
Zinyane laGcinamazwi kubakaMsholoz  
Nkhunzi leyagweba yagadvula iselitfole  
Bakhuta bababata babona imihlolo  
Kantsi abakabuti elangeni  
Tintsaba teNkandla tiyamsibekela  
Ingani liguca laNokubhekisisa liphikelele embili  
Lapho liyohola sive senkhosi

Wamemeta Khongolose kwevakala  
Ingani boMabhida babaludvondvolo  
Ludvondvolo lelaweta lowaMsholoz  
Inkhunzi yakitsi lemidvwayidvwa eNingizimu Afrika  
Lekwasa tiyibovula teMabhunu  
Jamludi logweba asiphalate  
Ingani wayincoba iRobben Island  
Watsi galo yephuka eSwatini kulaMswati  
Nawe Mashele wayiva lenkhunzi yakitsi  
Imemeta wayikhoselisa  
Nawe Lusaka awumncinyane  
Ingani umfana waTambo wamvulela emasango  
Nemambala wakhula Umkhonto Wesive  
Malandzela luhala lwenyamatane  
Litsi liyoshona ube ushone nayo  
Ingani neMarashiya ativela buhlakani bakho  
Phunyuka bamphetse etandleni  
Malwabindzile njengendlala  
Mabhecwa emafutsa inyama ungakayidli  
Tintsantsandze nebafelokati bavuma wena  
Talukati nemakhehla batsi Msholoz wetfu  
Batsi bayakunyundzela bashaya phansi kwabhunya lutfuli  
Batsi bakufela umona kantsi bakugcobisa emafutsa  
Wamanyatela Msholoz wadlondlobala e-Union Building  
Wachochobala uhola Khongolose  
Waba yimvu yemhlatjelo watinikela  
Watsi Simakadze utakuphendvulela

Nemambala umhlaba  
ubabata wena  
Nxamalala  
Yindze lendlela  
lesiyihambako  
Sebangangawe  
Msholoz  
Sebalingane wena  
Nxamalala  
Bangangawe  
Mpangazitha  
Balindzele wena  
Matomela kaLugaju  
\* Lena yinkondlo lehleliwe  
lehaywe ngu Eric Lubisi  
ngelilanga Lekwetfulwa  
Kwenkhulumo Yesimo  
Sesive nguMengameli  
weNingizimu Afrika Jacob  
Zuma Emhlanganweni  
Loyinhlanganisela  
Wesishayamtsetfo mhla ti –  
I 7 Inhlaba. Lubisi yimbongi  
lehlala eSchulzendal  
ngaphandle kweMalalane.



## Mpumalanga is a **FERTILE** ground for singers

**F**or a second year running, the sons and daughters of Mpumalanga have flown the provincial flag high at a national singing competition.

Team Mpumalanga, which was made up of singers from the province, took second place in this year's Clash of the Choirs show on DSTV. The result was a feather in the cap of the province's singing talent. Last year, the province also finished second in the competition. In another singing show, Idols the province enjoyed double success when Musa won the competition.

Once again this year, Team Mpumalanga showcased the immense talent in the province and made many music lovers proud. As they say, third time's a charm, then it is safe to say that the Clash of the Choirs' trophy will be coming to the province in 2015.

"It fills our hearts with great joy and pride to see locals making strides in the industry. As a department, we will always support and develop local talent," says departmental spokesperson, Sibongile Nkosi, whose department threw its weight behind the choristers. She encourages the youth to use platforms such as Clash of the Choirs and Idols to hone their skills. This year, Team Mpumalanga, under the guidance of Moneoa represented us with distinction. During the finale, the team pulled all the stops to win the competition, but unfortunately came second. The grand finale, which was themed, "Celebrating 20 Years of Democracy," saw the team doing renditions of Brenda Fassie's Too Late For Mama and Bongo Muffin's The Way Kungakhona.

Clash of the Choirs is a music reality show on DSTV in which singers perform an acapella version of a song of their choice and the seven choirmasters will then select their choirs. Eventually, the seven choirs will be whittled down to three for the finale. The winning choir receives R750 000 with R250 000 donated to a charity of its choice.

*Clash of the Choirs presenter, Bonang Matheba shares a light moment with Team Mpumalanga choir master, Moneoa and the team on stage.*

# Three Mpumalanga young designers’ FUTURE SEWED UP IN FASHION

**M**ention Mpumalanga and it immediately conjures up images of the rising sun, the Big Five, cosmos decorating the N4, cultural diversity, citrus orchards in the Lowveld and power stations in the Highveld.



*A model in a Nobuhle Zulu creation.*

The province, up until now, has been synonymous with its fauna and flora, as the power hub of South Africa and its rich tapestries of Swazi, Ndebele and Tsonga cultures. Enter three fashion designers - Nobuhle Zulu, Nkosinathi Shongwe and Silindile Dube – who through their craft are adding another dimension to the unofficial coat of arms of the province – fashion.

The trio is responsible for fresh designs inspired by the natural resources of the land and its people. It is something that has not been seen on the fashion ramps, as most designers tend to lean towards Eurocentric styles.

**“They received raving reviews from the audience and fashion aficionados”**

Not these newbies, they are embracing their cultures and it reflects on the clothes they make such as colourful and trendy waistcoats, shirts and dresses for all occasions using mainly African prints, hard fabrics and it has won them many followers. Do not for a minute take them as one trick pony.

They are versatile and can create just about anything you can think of. To rip off what rock music critic Jon Landau once said about Bruce Springsteen: I have seen the future of fashion and it is Zulu (28), Shongwe (27) and Dube (25). Landau’s prediction was spot on as Springsteen went on to become a rock god. In the coming years, the young designers will secure their places in the pantheon of fashion.

In Youth Month, they made headlines at Art Meets Fashion, an event that brings together fashion designers, artists and crafters from all over the country under one roof for two-days of networking and it culminates with a fashion show at the Constitutional Hill. “It was a great experience for our budding careers to be part of this year’s lineup,” they say in unison. They were discovered by the Extended Public Works Programme (EPWP) in the Department of Culture, Sport and Recreation.

Of all the designers present at the show, they received raving reviews from the audience and fashion aficionados particularly for one of their showstoppers - a dress made out of plastic. It’s a creation that came to existence to create awareness about rhino poaching in the country. In fact, everything that they displayed on the show was a hit.



*A model and Silindile Dube.*



*Nobuhle Zulu, Nkosinathi Shongwe & Silindile Dube.*

Prior to the Art Meets Fashion event, they had a stall at the Rand Show and once again they were well received. "Business was good and we recorded high sales," comes the response when asked about the two-week long show in Johannesburg.

For now, they are still recovering from the hectic schedule of the first half of the year and will soon hit the road again. Wherever Mpumalanga Creations takes them, they will dazzle and dazzle audience with their products.

Asked how they ended up in fashion, the answer is an unanimous one and you would think they rehearsed it. (1) They went into fashion while fiddling with clothes and hit them that there is a future in fashion and (2) they were not happy at what was available at the market so they decided to make clothes for themselves.

Before they had a foothold in the industry they were working in silos in Barberton, Matsulu and eMkhondo (formerly Piet Retief) respectively. So when was the turning point? According to them, things started happening when they met Jabu Dlamini, an assistant manager for EPWP in the department. Dlamini took them under her wings and they have been growing in leaps and bounds ever since. At the department, they are part of Mpumalanga Creations, an umbrella body for young artists in the province.

If their meteoric rise is anything to go by, then it won't be long before people talk about Mpumalanga and the trio in the same breath.



# Ingwenya Wireworks

EST. 1994



Ngwenya Wire Works is the industry leader in wire art in South Africa and offers a wide variety of products from accessories, furnisher items and toys and its clientele portfolio includes businesses and individuals located around the globe.

Products available are but not limited to:

- Chairs
- Sofa
- Coffee tables
- Book shelf
- Miniature cars, trucks, tricycles
- Bar Stools
- Vases
- Candle holders
- Flower designs



**For an obligation free quote, please contact Enock Ngwenya on 082 736 9271.**

# How to make a **Library** work for you

**W**hether you want to read on the adventures of Harry Potter, prepare for a school assignment or trawl the net for the job of your dreams, the library is the place to go to.

It doesn't matter what your question is, the answer lies somewhere inside a library. All you've to do is visit a library near you and get the information you need. Says Shobi Mdaka, a librarian in the Department of Culture, Sport and Recreation, "A library is a room that contains an organized collection of sources of information and similar resources, made accessible to a defined community for reference and borrowing, it provides physical and digital access to material."

According to Mdaka, a library has more to offer than most people think. She says it is not only a place to study and gather information, but also offers amazing services such as photocopying, books and audio books (CDs and DVDs), media room, activity room, self-help electronic desk, play area, magazines and newspapers area, computer room, service to the blind and partially sighted.

## USE A LIBRARY TO SCORE GOOD GRADES

If you are a student and you have assignments to write, you don't know where to start writing or you don't understand the assignment, you can always make use of the library. This won't be difficult to do as Mpumalanga has 110 libraries. "Our libraries consist of various information that can help students through their assignments. They offer self-help electronic desks where one can ask exactly what he or she is looking for and they will be directed to the type of information they require and librarians are always around to assist where necessary," explains Mdaka.

It is also a great place to study for examinations as they provide secluded study areas away from the noise at home and work. "Libraries offer quiet study rooms where you can study



(1) Librarians, Iris Sikhondze and Phumzile Mathebula greet users with a smile.  
(2), (3) & (4) Mpumalanga libraries offer users a comprehensive magazine, newspapers and book sections.

without being interrupted or disturbed," she says, adding that there are activity rooms for discussions, poetry sessions and meetings. The study and activity rooms are available to use during operating times, which is 9:00 to 16:30 on weekdays.

## A GATEWAY TO THE WORLD

With 105 of the 110 libraries connected to the Internet, it has never been this easy to access the Net. Libraries now have computer rooms connected to the Internet, which allows users trawl the World Wide Web for all kinds of information from school to vocational. Registered library users are allowed to borrow books/audio books (CDs and DVDs) and magazines.

## AN INFORMATION HUB FOR EVERYONE

Mpumalanga libraries are open for anyone who is interested in using them, they work for everyone and you are allowed to ask any available librarian for assistance if you don't find what you are looking for. There's something that even children will find interesting and it will pique their reading interests. "Libraries also have play area for children, which comes with toys and storybooks suitable for their age," concludes Mdaka.

“Our libraries consist of various information that can help students through their assignments”

# STORYBOOK PROMOTES LOCAL LANGUAGES

**O**ne of the highlights of this year's Innibos was undoubtedly the launch of a children's storybook, which was written and illustrated by school pupils.

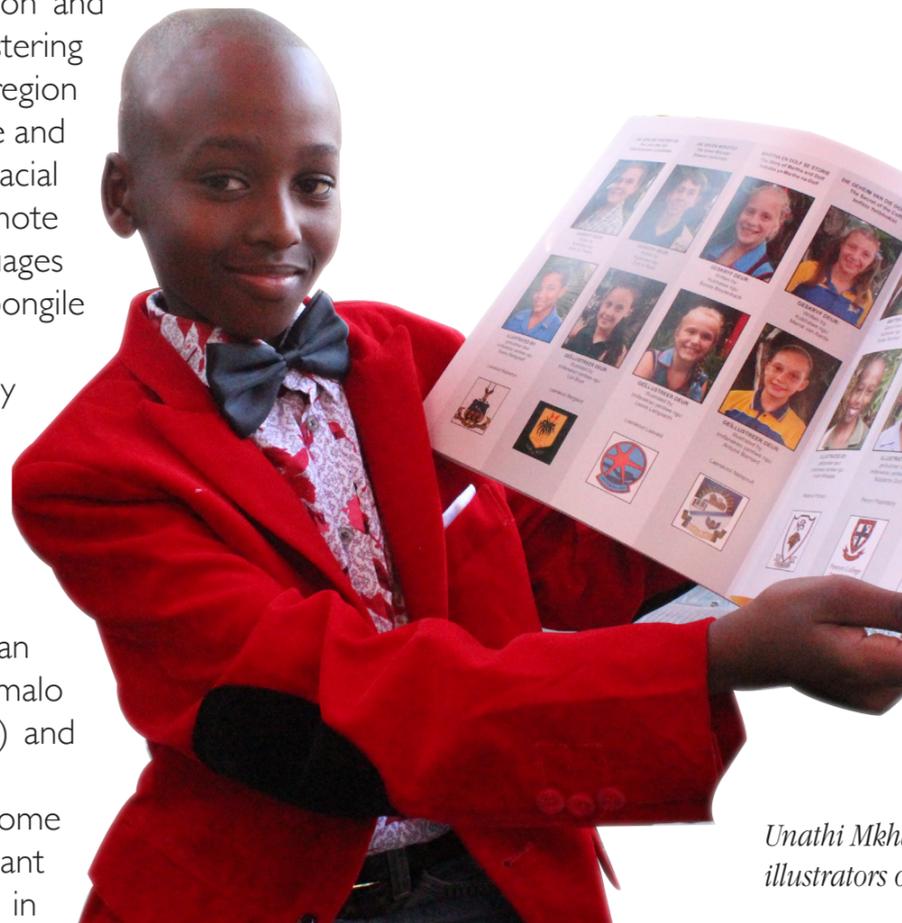
Titled Stories Innibos, the book is the project of the Department of Culture, Sport and Recreation and Innibos Kunstefees. It is aimed at promoting and fostering social cohesion of different cultural groups of the region through literature. "The Stories Innibos is our initiative and we are confident it will help us in building a non-racial and cohesive society. We also want to use it to promote literacy and give prominence to other official languages of the country," says departmental spokesperson, Sibongile Nkosi.

The book consists of seven stories written by pupils from Laerskool Barberton, Laerskool Bergland, Laerskool Laeveld, Laerskool Nelspruit, Nelspruit Primary, Penryn Preparatory and Laerskool White River. The authors are Jomic du Plessis (Die Verlore Dogterjie), Zach le Roux (Die Groen Monster), Bessie Breytenbach (Martha en Dolf se Storie), Marne van Aarde (Die Geheim van die Doodskins), Tinyiko Nxumalo (The Lost Puppy), Shelby Guerin (The Invisible Me) and Natasha Dzado (Why Birds Sing).

The stories were written in the authors' home language and then translated into two dominant languages in the region. This means a story written in

Afrikaans was translated into English and SiSwati and vice versa. This was a way of encouraging children to learn other languages and ultimately promoting social cohesion and cultural tolerance.

Each of the participating schools received 200 copies of the book.



*Unathi Mkhabela, one of the illustrators of the book.*

## Riding The Crest Of A Wave At Dundee July

**M**pumalanga jockeys continue to make their presence felt at the Dundee July with another strong showing at the traditional horseracing event, including a third place finish.

16-year-old December Hlatshwayo, who was riding Khuluma, is one of the jockeys who put the province on the map when he finished third in a grade two race. The teenager was one of six jockeys from the province who participated in the race. The others were Muhle Hlatshwayo (17), Lindeni Hlatshwayo (21), Siphamandla Nkosi (23), Nkululeko Lukhele (17) and Mbekeni Mbuli (20). Their efforts did not go unnoticed. Imizamo Yabagibeli secretary, Mandlangempisi Shabalala was impressed by the performances of the local jockeys and believes it won't be long before the province makes a clean sweep at the event.

According to him, the jockeys will get better with more practice. Shabalala is also encouraged by the support the

association receives from the Department of Culture, Sport and Recreation. Traditional horseracing is relatively a new sport in the province and its hotbeds are Mkhondo, Dr Pixley Ka Isaka Seme, Msukaligwa and Chief Albert Luthuli municipalities. Currently, the department assists Imizamo Yabagibeli with transport, attire, registration fees and accommodation to the event.

uMzinyathi District Mayor, Cllr JM Mthethwa commended the contribution the province has made in the growth of the Dundee July in the past 10 years. "Mpumalanga was there when we started the Dundee July and they have been with us ever since," Mthethwa said. One person who was there when the race started is Mucu Hlatshwayo and he finished third. He's currently the chairman of Imizamo Yabagibeli.

Altogether, the Dundee July has seven races and apart from the horses, the fashion show is an important part of the event, which also features a street parade.



(1) December Hlatshwayo with his horse Khuluma (2) HOD Sindi Xulu and Cllr JM Mthethwa during a prize giving gig (3) Models getting ready for the fashion show.



## NETBALL PLAYER MAKES BIG LEAGUE

**H**er dream has always been to play netball at the highest level and watched by a big crowd. That's a dream Thembisile Mdluli (*pictured*) has had her entire life.

For a while, it looked like her dream might not come true as nothing was happening to raise the profile of the sport. However, she did not lose hope and she continued to play on in KaBokweni and wherever the sport took her. Things changed on May 10 when her dream became a reality with the launch of the Brutal Fruit Netball Premier League (NPL) consisting of 10 teams in two divisions. "It was a great feeling to be part of the players who made history by launching the first-ever netball league in South Africa," Mdluli, who plays goal defense, says excitedly.

The 28 year old is an alumni of the department's School Sport Mass Participation Programme (SSMPP), which gives pupils a sporting chance in athletics, basketball, chess, football, gymnastic, jukskei, kgathi, khokho, morabaraba, rugby, swimming, table tennis, tennis and volleyball, including netball. When Mdluli and her peers started playing the sport, it was unheard of for netball players to follow a career in the sport.

**"The Brutal Fruit NPL will give youngsters a big pool of role models to look up to with 10 teams."**

Netball has always been the poor cousin of football, rugby, tennis and cricket. While aspiring footballers had someone to look up to and teams to aim for such as Doctor Khumalo, Shane McGregor, Zane Moosa, Deshi Bhaktawer, Teko Modise, Itumeleng Khune, Kaizer Chiefs, Orlando Pirates, Mpumalanga Black Aces, Bidvest Wits, Manchester United, Barcelona, Bayern Munich, Africa Cup of Nations, UEFA Champions League and the Fifa World Cup, while

Mdhluli and Co had their coaches to motivate them to stay in the sport.

The Brutal Fruit NPL will give youngsters a big pool of role models to look up to with 10 teams. The league is made up of Division One: Eastern Aloes (Eastern Cape), Free State Crinums, Golden Fireballs (Gauteng South), Jaguars (Gauteng North) and North West Flames and Division Two: The Diamonds (Northern Cape), Kingdom Stars (Kwa-Zulu Natal), Limpopo Boababs, Sunbirds (Mpumalanga) and Southern Stings (Western Cape).



## Reflections of a Coach

**SUNBIRDS' COACH, JULIE OOSTHUIZEN (PICTURED) TALKS TO US ABOUT THE SEASON THAT WAS:**

*The experience of participating in the Brutal Fruit Netball Cup was absolutely amazing.*

*Challenging yes, there is no disputing this fact, yet this is a superbly well organized and presented tournament. Not only were we afforded the wonderful opportunity of playing against the country's best, but we were also part of history in the making in hosting of the very first semi-professional netball league in South Africa. Great camaraderie persisted among players and teams and there was a very positive vibe weekend in and out.*

*As the weeks of the Cup progressed so too did our performance improve and confidence grow. Although we never managed to pull off a win, the team gave the oppositions a run for their money. Two of our players walked away with the player of the match awards. Sibongile Mashiyane, goal attack/shooter, who hails from Breyten excelled against the Diamonds and Thabisile Mphuthi on wing attack/centre from Kinross followed in Sibongile's footsteps in our second match against the Kingdom Stars.*

*The Sunbirds appreciate all the support they have received and without doubt are determined to excel at next year's competition. Keep on supporting the Sunbirds and watch them soar in 2015.*

## Playing sport on Wednesdays is a magnificent idea

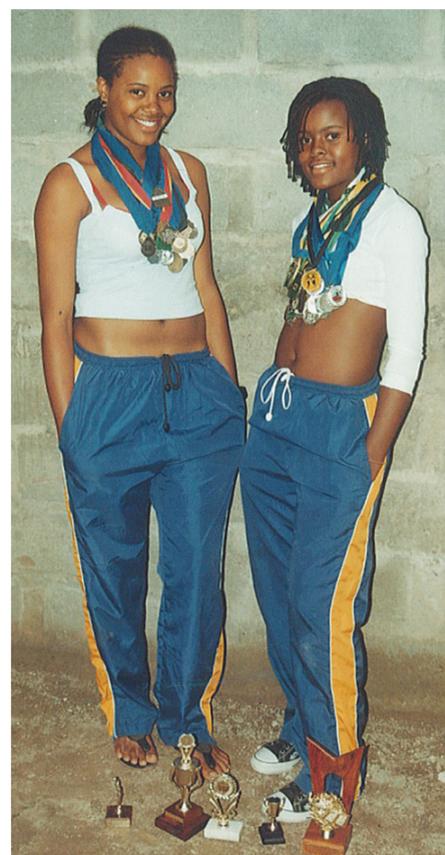
**R**eigning Miss Mpumalanga, Natasha dos Santos has come out in support of Magnificent Wednesdays Campaign in schools.

Magnificent Wednesdays is a campaign by government, which encourages school pupils to participate in sport at school and live a healthy lifestyle. Culture, Sport and Recreation MEC, Norah Mahlangu-Mabena announced during the policy and budget speech of the department that government will bring back the culture of young people participating in sport at school level. According to Mahlangu-Mabena, school sport is important in the developing future athletes.

Dos Santos, who was crowned Miss Mpumalanga earlier this year, has thrown her weight behind the campaign. She says school sport is good because it keeps pupils fit. "School sport is good at installing discipline and there are other hosts of benefits that come with playing sport," says the beauty queen, who was an avid sport participant in her

school career. She excelled in cross-country, long distance running, high jump, long jump, netball and basketball and has medals to show for it. She says the support she had from her family pushed her to do better. "It was fun when I had a strong support base cheering me on from the stand."

Asked if she's still involved in sport, she said she slowed down due to health reasons although she plays basketball every now and then. "Keeping fit is important, especially for the young people and I encourage the youth to take part in sport," she concludes.



*Natasha and her sister, Nichola displaying silverware they won in school.*

# SOUTH AFRICAN NATIONAL ANTHEM

Nkosi sikelel' iAfrika  
Maluphakanyisw' uphondo lwayo,  
Yizwa imithandazo yethu,  
Nkosi sikelela, thina lusapho lwayo.

Morena boloka setjhaba sa heso,  
O fedise dintwa la matshwenyeho,  
O se boloke, O se boloke setjhaba sa heso,  
Setjhaba sa South Afrika - South Afrika.

Uit die blou van onse hemel,  
Uit die diepte van ons see,  
Oor ons ewige gebergtes,  
Waar die kranse antwoord gee,

Sounds the call to come together,  
And united we shall stand,  
Let us live and strive for freedom,  
In South Africa our land.

