



The Official Newsletter of the Department of Sport, Arts & Culture

3rd Quarter Edition 10/11

Mapungubwe - a fest for all



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Foreword by the MEC

A wonderful year has come and gone. All the excitement of 2010, as well as its trials and tribulations are now but a distant memory. It is time for us to look forward to a wonderful 2011, filled with many possibilities of what may be. This is the year in which our people will once again be making their voices heard on how their respective municipalities and districts should be administered. Indeed, our country's democratic dispensation allows for every single individual to make his or her voice heard. We encourage all our citizens to use this hard fought-for freedom, to go to the polls and make their choice on how their country should be administered. A government for the people, by the people!

While on the topic of our citizenry, there are so many highlights of 2010, but we need to single out the more recent event of the Mapungubwe Music Festival held on the 16th and 18th December 2010. Our people once again come in their thousands to support this event in which all cultures and creeds have the opportunity to celebrate together as one. Our people have once more showed us that they are eager to enjoy good local and national music in a socially cohesive environment. The festival has proven once again, that music is one of those elements that bind our people together. It was unity in diversity once again



*MEC for Sport, Arts and Culture
Ms. Joyce Mashamba*

at the Polokwane Cricket Club and from this year, onwards, the Festival will only grow bigger and better.

It was also a special moment in the lives of Limpopo residents, when we welcomed home Miss South Africa, Bokang Montjane, during this significant event. We are immensely proud of her achievement and we will be watching her progress with interest.

We also take this opportunity to congratulate Winnie Mashaba on being awarded Female Gospel Artist of the Year, at the 3rd Crown Gospel Music Awards. Also, in this past year, acclaimed author Mary Mabuza was awarded a Lifetime Achievers Award as well as the Nadine Gordimer Short Stories Award at the South African Literary Awards. The women of Limpopo are truly making their mark in society. They are continuously promoting our heritage and culture in their own special and talented ways. We wish them well in their further endeavours and commend them for their sterling work.

In closure we take this opportunity to wish each and every citizen a prosperous and peaceful 2011. Let us work together to achieve more in the coming year!

From the HoD's desk

The year has been exciting and challenging in that it was events packed including and international trip to China by the Member of the Executive Committee, MEC. H.J. Mashamba. The outlook to the trip was to tighten our relations with the East and to study more ways of benefitting from this country to country relation. Whilst with international relations, also had a fruitful relation with the Indian Consulate as we hosted one of their most sophisticated Cultural dance troupe from the Manipuri region. The event was held in Nirvana and was attended by community members at large and across the sector, who were astonished by the groups sterling performance. The troupe ended up with a workshop with the intention to integrate East and South Cultural dancing...guess what? Our dance tunes turned out the same as they were able to quickly catch up with the Sepedi rhythm.

The department also pushed most of its programmes as follows: 1) the relaunching the Batho Pele Forum and hosting the Batho Pele day, 2) Arranged an IDP Workshop that was facilitated by the Department of Local Government and Housing. The workshop was informative and we managed to develop an action plan to assist municipalities. 3) A Stress management Workshop was held through our Wellness programme to assist employees to cope and manage stress both at work and home. We believe that the workshop as highlighted critical issues related to the causal factors of stress and how employees should deal with stress to be effective in the workplace. 4) The security Unit arranged a security workshop for employees to make them more conscious of security matters in the workplace and how to deal with matters as they arise in the workplace. 5) The International translation day was held to highlight matters related to the importance of translation and we want to thank our language stakeholders for taking such keen interest in matters related to language and the use thereof. It was that time of the year when the department took care of significant projects by as follows, 1) Participated in the Geographical names

Indaba. The workshop highlighted matters related to the renaming of places and the process that goes with renaming. A clear explanation of the public participation process was engaged in and the workshop was appreciated by all stakeholders. 2) The "I can Sing" project was such a success as all districts participated by presenting 10 winners to the provincial event. It was humbling to visualize the perfect talent that the province has and 10 provincial winners were selected. The department took a stand to support disabled competitors and availed the Honorary 11th price to cater for the disabled participants, to motivate more to take part. The "I can sing" competition was followed by the "Impucuzeko" workshop, where participants were introduced to the Music Industry and its success and failures. 3) We also participated in the restoration of historic schools projects in the Elim area where we engaged, with the Presidency, in the restoration process of the Lemana High school as one of the significant schools in the province and the history of the country.

Whilst the Premier and Exco reached out to the people of the province, the department also reached out to its stakeholders on the sector of Sport, Arts, Culture and Information services. The department went to Makhibidung Village and to the Mutale municipality to hear what the people had to say about service delivery in our sector. We closed these sessions by Sod-turning ceremonies that symbolized the building of multi million libraries in these two areas. The libraries are moving on pace and will be finalized by the end of 2011.

The department closed the 2010 year with a bang by hosting a magnificent Mapungubwe Music festival with no comparison to any other. The Festival was long awaited by the community of the Limpopo province and due to demand of the Festival, we hosted it over two days with the Gospel Festival that was held on the 16th Dec 2010 and the Jazz festival that was held on the 18th - 19th Dec, with breath taking participation by the residents of the province.

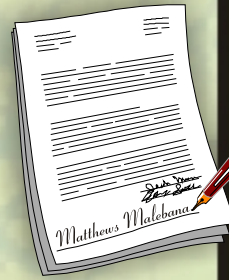
The mix of artists and popularity of the artists ensured that the event was well attended and accolades were received across the province as the festival was seen as having raised the bar to incredibly high standards!!!

We hope all residents of the Limpopo province had a blessed Christmas and will have an abundantly fulfilling 2011.



*Head of Department for Sport, Arts and Culture
Ms Desiree Thhoale*

Editor's Notebook



2010 has just petered out from its full life cycle. It is a year that can be characterized as having been eventful and colorful from the point of view of the legislative mandate of the Department of Sport, Arts and Culture. To cite a few examples in that regard, the department has within the letter and spirit of co-operative governance made its full contribution towards the successful:

- Hosting of the 2010 FIFA Soccer World Cup Matches at Peter Mokaba Stadium in Polokwane, one of the host cities.
- Hosting of the 5th INSA-FID World Football Championships in Limpopo despite the time, budgeting and other related constraints the department had to contend with.
- Hosting of a weeklong workshop for budding musicians in the province whose objectives included but not limited to empowering aspirant musicians to be able to overcome various challenges they will encounter in the music industry.
- The hosting of the talent search I Can Sing competencies which produced ten provincial winners who in turn will each be given an album recording opportunity worth R125 000
- The hosting of the two legged Mapungubwe Music Festival which attracted thousands of music lovers from far and wide who served with scintillating and exhilarating performances from various up and coming and established local and national artists.

- Last but not least in the endless list is the commencement with the building of multi million rand libraries in Rapotokwane (Waterberg District), Mutale (Vhembe district) and Makhubidung (Mopani District)

2011 has just announced its entry into our lives through the celebrations of the New Year. What can the people of Limpopo look forward to from the service delivery point of view of the mandate of the Department of Sport, Arts and Culture?

The people of Limpopo can look forward to accelerated delivery of better and quality programmes aimed at amongst of others, unearthing, nurturing and advancing of artistic, sporting and literary talents of the citizens of this province to greater heights.

They can also look forward to the building of more libraries especially in the most disadvantaged and margin-alized communities. This will add to many of the efforts aimed at ensuring that the fruits of freedom and the many opportunities that with it are equitably distributed to all citizens in a movement towards a truly egalitarian society.

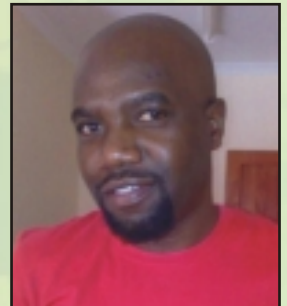
The editorial team takes this opportunity to wish all the readers of Mapungubwe News a peaceful and prosperous New Year.



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Know your Department

Limpopo Academy of Sport



LIMPOPO

ACADEMY OF SPORT

Vision:

Together committed towards nurturing excellence in sport.

Services rendered:

- Sport Science and Medical Support
- Life skills Programme
- Coaching
- Education and Training (Capacity building programme)
- Performance squads and events

Third quarter achievements:

1. Sport Science and Medical Support

Activity	Dates	Group	Impact
Medical screening	15 - 17 October 2010	Athletes and officials from Football, Basketball, Gymnastics and Volleyball federations	The participants were exposed to the scientific processes of determining the level of medical fitness of athletes which as a norm should be conducted and after participation in major events.
Fitness screening	01 – 03 December	83 Rugby athletes and coaches	Athletes were screened by the experts from the Blue Bulls Rugby Union

2. Life skills Programme

Activity	Dates	Group	Impact
Life skills workshop	15 - 17 October 2010	Football: - 18 athletes and 2 officials Basketball: - 48 athletes and 12 officials Volleyball: - 30 athletes and 6 officials Gymnastics: - 45 athletes and 5 officials	Participants improved in social and touring skills, notable the eating etiquette, communication, stress management, goal setting and learned more about substance abuse, HIV and AIDS, Media and Conflict resolution.

3. Coaching

Activity	Dates	Group	Impact
Technology in Sport workshop	6 – 7 November	5 coaches 1 Instructor 1 Biokineticist	The coaches will start using modern technology in sport to accurately detect the needs, weaknesses and strengths of athletes to inform the provision of training solutions to the advantage of the coaches and athletes
Rowing camp	08 – 19 November	2 LPSA II athletes in preparation for International championships held Portugal	Ishmael Legodi obtained bronze medal in the 4 x 1000m relay race Given Ratsoma obtained gold medal in the 4 x 500m relay, silver medals in the 500m and 1000m and bronze medal in the 4 x 1000m relay
Football camp	02 – 06 December	18 athletes and 2 officials in preparation for the National under 17 Football championships held in Gauteng	The team won one match, lost two and drew one Six players from Team Limpopo were selected to development teams of Mamelodi Sundowns, Orland Pirates, Supersport United and Ajax Cape Town
Softball camp	03 – 05 December	40 athletes and 10 officials in preparation for the under 19 National championships held in Durban	Team Limpopo Boys obtained a silver medal overall Team Limpopo Girls obtained position 4 overall 5 girls were selected into the SA National shadow team to prepare for the World Championships in 2011
Basketball camp	10 – 12 December	30 athletes and 4 officials in preparation for the National Senior championships held in Cape Town	Team Limpopo Men obtained bronze medal overall Team Limpopo Women obtained silver medal 5 men were selected into the National team 4 women were selected into the National team

4. Education and Training

Activity	Dates	Group	Impact
Coaching Science, Fitness and Sport Management courses	09 – 10 October 23 – 24 October 06 – 07 November 20 – 21 November	Coaches from Priority federations Fitness Instructors from Priority federations Administrators from Priority federations Satellite Academies managers	There is a noticeable improvement in approaches from the Coaches, Instructors, Administrators and Managers who are attending these courses

Short corner to Parliament



Huza John Nkhwashi : Parliamentary Officer

During the last legislative sitting in December 2010, honourable members of the House moved that the Limpopo Archives and Records Amendment Bill be held in abeyance. Chairperson of Portfolio Committee on Sport, Arts and Culture, Honourable NP Mhlarhi put it to the house that the Bill as documented does not expose its intended purpose for the masses to understand its significance. She also pointed out that the bill should have been tabled during the last financial year, to date the environment under which it should have been tabled has changed drastically, and therefore the department needs to rework the document to embrace all societal changes.

During the Portfolio Committee's oversight visit to Giyani Archives Centre and the Library, serious misgivings about our people's inability to have information about services that the archives centres provide and their accessibility to the masses of our people, were raised. The Department remains committed to the ideal of breaking the vicious cycle of illiteracy in our communities and to ensure that Government succeeds. Thus, we have taken heed of the advice by the members of the Portfolio Committee to popularise our libraries and archives centres in every public participation event.

We have also heeded the clarion call that our libraries should be a beacon of our liberation struggle history. Books about our liberation struggle heroes and heroines shall be a centre of attraction to visitors of our libraries, it is indeed a fact that will motivate us to spare no effort to achieve. Having noted that the members of the Portfolio Committee do not pull punches on issues of illiteracy as evidenced in their recommendations that the Department must put incentives for librarians to ensure that we do not lose them and that even though we have cabled some of these infrastructure, it will remain a pipe dream if the qualified personnel do not take charge of this arena. The Honourable members of the Portfolio Committee advised the Department that, officials in charge of libraries should inspire confidence in users, by being constantly trained and kept up to date through workshops.

We value the support of the Portfolio Committee on these matters as well as the advice that we provide water in all our facilities. We are confident that the service level agreements put in place with the various municipalities will enable us to jointly provide this much sought-after life-giving commodity. It will go a long way in inspiring communities to utilise libraries thus aid in our motto that "A reading nation is a winning nation".

It is the Department's firm resolve to ensure that the implementation of Government Policy on Sport, Arts and Culture far much outweighs boardroom navigation of theories that do not resonate in practice. The Mapungubwe Festival remains the vehicle thought which the Government of Limpopo

“Festival is Limpopo's identity” - Premier

By Sam Makondo

Polokwane - Limpopo Premier Cassel Mathale says the Mapungubwe Arts festival, a project organized and hosted by the provincial Department of Sport, Arts and Culture should be hailed as the province's identity aimed at fostering social cohesion and nation building. Mathale made a short appearance on stage at this annual festivity and told thousands of music fans to take pride in the festival as the event seeks to bring entertainment of the highest degree and in the process remind every Limpopo citizen who they are.

It was in that spirit that he called on people to support the festival every year for it to become a number one festival in the country every December when it is hosted. He thanked the organizers and the leadership of the department for a job well done. "We thank the MEC for Sport, Arts and Culture, Joyce Mashamba for reminding us who we are through the festival," appreciated Mathale who appeared on stage with Mayor of Polokwane Freddy Greaver and the hosting MEC for Sport, Arts and Culture Joyce Mashamba, Dep. Minister of Arts & Culture Dr. Joe Phahla and MEC for Economic Development Pitsi Moloto.

Dance master.....a fan hard at it during the festival. Pic: Sam Makondo.



Let us support.....Limpopo Premier Cassel Mathale calling for people to support Mapungubwe Music Festival. Pic: Sam Makondo.

intensifies its endeavours to ensure that Limpopo becomes a socially cohesive Province and that Nation-building finds its true meaning in practise. The debate by Parliamentarians, that preceded this Festival, was characterised by a wish to ensure that the Festival is culturally diversified; that the people on the periphery of our rural Province can lay a claim of ownership and that all artists from Limpopo have an equal opportunity to be marketed and thereby derive the benefit associated with the Festival. The Festival has left a legacy for the Department to live within its means and available resources successfully while still delivering a product that makes the Province proud.

During the last sitting of Parliament in 2010, The MEC Joyce Mashamba extended an invitation to all

the members of the legislature to grace the festival. She outlined that the festival remains the glue that binds the SADC region economically and socio-politically in pursuit of a socio-cohesive region.

The 2010 FIFA World Cup has come and gone. However, what has remained a question to be answered even in the Legislature is the revitalisation of school sport in our schools, to ensure that these institutions nurture talent as they used to do.

The Department of Sport, Arts and Culture welcomes the swearing-in of Ministers Fikile Mbalula and Paul Mashatile for Portfolios, Sport and Recreation and Arts and Culture respectively. We are confident that these two cadres will add more vibrancy to our department for the benefit of people of Limpopo.

Mapungubwe fest

By Sam Makondo

Polokwane - It was Jazz, Kwaito, R&B and House Music of South Africa's finest talented stars. Polokwane Cricket Club was abuzz and was easily transformed into an entertainment village with many leading musicians entertaining the crowds at the recent Mapungubwe Music festival, a flagship project of the Limpopo department of

Sport, Arts and Culture. Music fans who always wanted to see top artists finally had a chance to watch their favourite artists perform a stone throw from the dance floor onto the stage.

The great awakening happened at the highly anticipated annual event - Mapungubwe Music Festival - at Polokwane Cricket Club recently. Danny K wearing shades at night dazzled the charged up audience with one tune after another. Ringo is another star that stepped and capitalized on the existing energy and got everybody singing along as he churned out a performance of high quality and professionalism.

It was easy for Ringo to elicit sing-alongs as he



*The Kiba man.....
Sello Galane performing during the
Mapungubwe festival.
Pic: Sam Makondo*

- a celebration of all music genres

belted out his well known hits. His best trait was interacting with the audience more especially when he performed a song that was about holding hands and loving each other. Colbert Mukwevho, the local reggae sensation got everybody going ninety degrees to his popular reggae hits.

The Eskhaleni star, Dj Cleo sent the crowd into frenzy and his performance was legendary with the music-starved audience. Theo Kgosinkwe continued in that excitable atmosphere, cementing his solo career in Polokwane by bringing electrifying choreography and popular songs. Rainy weather could not dampen the spirit, mood and enthusiasm of fans as revellers danced through rain, wind and sunshine. The concert featured other artists such as Sello Galane, Rythmic Elements, HHP, Simphiwe Dana ad many more.

*Still going strong.....Jonas Gwangwa proved his mettle at the festival.
Pic: Sam Makondo.*



*Flexibility.....Malaika sending the crowd into a state of ecstasy.
Pic:Sam Makondo*



SA and Limpopo's fairest grace festival

By Sam Makondo



Beautiful in every sense..... A ray of sunshine in the morning, Miss South Africa Bokang Montjane

Cool, cool..... Limpopo MEC for Sport, Arts and Culture Joyce Mashamba surrounded by bevy of beauties at the festival. From left to right, Miss Limpopo Teen, Miss South Africa and Miss Limpopo.

Polokwane - South Africa's number one beauty queen Bokang Montjane made an unexpected appearance at the annual Mapungubwe Arts festival in Polokwane to the thrill of revellers who were in attendance. Montjane, who comes from Limpopo, was crowned Miss SA recently at a glittering ceremony held at the Superbowl in Sun City, North West. The first princess is Deisha Jam and Bianca Coutinho is Montjane's second princess.

Just as music lovers at the festival were minding their dance floors, Montjane walked onto the stage accompanied by Limpopo Premier Cassel Mathale, Sport, Arts and Culture Mec Joyce Mashamba, Mec for Economic Development Pitsi Moloto and Deputy Minister of Arts and Culture Dr Joe Phahla. Miss SA was also in the company of her mother and some family members. In introducing Miss SA, Limpopo premier Cassel Mathale congratulated Montjane for having won the pageant and having put the province

on the map. He also thanked her mother for the role she played in letting her follow her dreams in an industry not for the faint hearted. He went further in his introductory remarks to call on the people of Limpopo to give her all the support during her tenure as the queen of South Africa.

Addressing thousands of music revelers, Montjane, who is only 24, thanked the people for receiving her in a warm fashion and promised to execute all the duties that lie ahead to the best of her abilities as reigning queen of the country. She called on the youth to be responsible citizens who should autograph whatever is set for them with excellence. "You got to believe in yourself. The sky is the limit if you believe you can do it also. Stay away from things that will land you in trouble. Seize every opportunity," said the reigning queen during her short appearance at the festival.



Grand walk.....(From left to right) Miss Limpopo Teen, MEC Joyce Mashamba, Miss South Africa, Premier Cassel Mathale, Miss Limpopo at the Mapungubwe Music festival at Polokwane cricket club . Pic: Sam Makondo

Power-audience “woos” artists

By Sam Makondo

Polokwane - It was a case of come rain or sunshine we are going to the Mapungubwe Music festival to dance like it is the last day on earth.

Rainy weather could not even dampen their mood and spirit and artist after artist described the audience who packed Polokwane Cricket Club as the most amazing.

Artists who spoke to Mapungubwe News said the charged up audience helped them up their game in delivering best performances giving fans value for their money.

Danny K told Mapungubwe News that he did not know what to expect from the Limpopo fans as he was performing at the festival for the first time. "I cannot say one negative thing about the crowd, they were just amazing," said Danny K.

I wished I was allocated more time. With this diverse line-up, the crowd is going love every moment, "said Danny K still trying to catch his breath.

Ringo echoed Danny K's sentiments and said: "the crowd literally took over. It shows that they really know our music" Candy who performed with Malatjie on the day said: "The crowd was brilliant. It was great having them singing along and that makes you as an artist to give your best".

English and Afrikaans rock star Karen Zoid also praised the manner in which fans received her. She said: "Limpopo crowd rocks. They are crazy about music. They were such a lovely crowd".

People's favorite.....
Ringo performing during the
Mapungubwe Festival in Polokwane.
Pic: Sam Makondo.



Performer.....
Danny K giving his very best during
the Festival. Pic: Sam Makondo.



Lovely fans.....
Candy performing with Malatjie
loved the fans.
Pic: Sam Makondo



Gospel and Traditional music invades Polokwane

By Sam Makondo

Polokwane - Music lovers and holidaymakers were treated to the music extravaganza at the Polokwane cricket club courtesy of the provincial department of Sport, Arts and Culture.

This was during the unique one-day concert of gospel and traditional music festival that boasted

an exciting line-up of music greats in the South African Industry. It was a fun-filled event of great sounds of musicians that catered for the spiritual needs as well as the cultural side of things through the music that was on offer. Revellers who

came to the festival with some somewhat flickering faith were at the right place as gospel greats such as Deborah Fraser, Winnie Mashaba, Benjamin Dube revived and strengthened such a faith through their music.

On the other hand, those who wanted to be in touch with the traditional and cultural side of things were also not starved as they were entertained to the maximum. The highly cultured crowd was sent into a state of frenzy by musicians such as the likes of Thomas

Jump, jump.....General Muzka doing his thing to the thrill of fans during the Mapungubwe Festival. Pic: Sam Makondo.

Worshippers.....Worship House in their fifth element to the thrill of thousands in attendance during the festival. Pic: Sam Makondo



*Appealing to the heavens.....These fans could not help it but give themselves up.
Pic: Sam Makondo*

Chauke, Penny Penny, General Muzka and other traditional sensations. The concert also provided an opportunity to artists who were unearthed recently through the Department of Sport, Arts and Culture's I Can Sing competition. These included Ronny Mashigo and Makgkwe Madilkolonga.

*Legendary performance.....
As usual, Rebecca did not disappoint her fans.
Pic: Sam Makondo*



*Angels.....Debora Fraser
elivering a heaven sent performance
during the Mapungubwe
festival.
Pic: Sam Makondo*

Limpopo Hosts Acclaimed Manipuri Dance Troupe

By Charles Modiba

Polokwane - The Department of Sport, Arts and Culture hosted the Manipuri Dance Troupe from India in Polokwane recently. The initiative emanates from the cultural exchange programme that exists between the South African and Indian governments.

The aims of this exchange programme are to promote and strengthen international relations and goodwill between the two countries and also to develop a culture which will accommodate cultural diversity and heterogeneity which are central in the cultivation of an understanding and tolerance of cultural differences.

Such understanding and tolerance are fundamental in the prevention and reduction of conflict and strife between states, nations, regions and communities. It will also assist in sharing and distribution of universal human values.

Giving her welcome message, MEC for Sport, Arts and Culture, Joyce Mashamba said that Limpopo Province has a multitude of cultures and this place great emphasis on the importance of exploring and understanding each other's cultural practices and beliefs. "We therefore welcome each and every opportunity to also learn more about our brothers and sisters from countries beyond the borders of South Africa; to broaden our understanding of the global village and its various cultures.

We therefore thank you for affording us this unique opportunity to view this marvellous spectacular of the Manipuri Dance Troup in action" said Mashamba urging the visitors to feel at home.

Expressing his appreciation, the Consular General of India, Vikram Doraiswami said that he is delighted to be part of the development in South Africa as India had experienced the same challenge that South Africa experienced in the past. "We would like to familiarise India with South Africa and the people in offering the country a partnership by providing books for libraries and assist in sport infrastructure as we have interest in how sport is doing in South Africa.



Spear headers of culture in India and Limpopo. Pic: Charles Modiba



Limpopo MEC for Sport, Arts and Culture Joyce Mashamba, the Consular General of India Vikram Doraiswami and HoD Desiree Tlhoale with the Indian Manipuri Dance at Nirvana Hall. Pic: Charles Modiba.



Cultural exchange on show as some cultural groups took interest in learning each other dances and drums. Pic: Charles Modiba

Artist on cloud nine after being honoured



Special talent.....Makgakwe Madikolonga performing at the "I Can Sing" competition final at Landmark Lodge. Pic: Sam Makondo



Special honor.....MEC For Sport, Arts and Culture Joyce Mashamba (Right) congratulating Makgakwe Madikolonga(Left) with Head of Department Desiree Tlhoale looking on. Pic: Sam Makondo

By Sam Makondo

Polokwane - Differentially gifted artist Makgakwe Madikolonga says the special honour bestowed on him by the MEC for Sport, Arts and Culture Joyce Mashamba only tells him that he is on top of all the winners and has brought so much joy in his life. This comes after MEC Mashamba gave a special honour to Madikolonga, who is blind, for his sterling

performance at the second season of the "I Can Sing" grand finale guaranteeing the artist a top ten position and a recording contract to the tune of R125 000. The finals were at held at Landmark Lodge outside Polokwane where fifty contestants from the five district of Limpopo province - Waterberg, Mopani, Sekhukhune, Vhembe and Capricorn fought it out hoping to walk away with the promise of stardom.



Talented.....the group that represented Capricorn district at the "I Can Sing" competition final. Pic:Sam Makondo

Mapungubwe News caught up with Madikolonga clad in his dark shades and a white shirt looking like star already following the news that he has made it to the top ten. "I would like to tell the MEC that she is an angel. I can finally see light at the end of the tunnel," said the excited Madikolonga when asked to give his impressions. Madikolonga says he has been trying his luck in music since 1995 without any headway and believes he finally has a break that will shape his musical career. He represented Capricorn, Lepelle Nkumpi local municipality at this competition and said he dedicated his achievement to his late mother who passed on in 2003. "She supported me musically. Overall she helped me overcome my disability. She did not hide me behind the door but she released me to attend school," pointed out Madikolonga who now has a diploma in Local Government Management from Tshwane University of Technology and currently employed by the Greater Tubatse Municipality in Sekhukhune District.

He called on other people with disabilities to also take opportunities presented by government seriously such as the singing competition as presented by the department of Sport, Arts and Culture annually. "We are not disabled, but we are people with disabilities," appealed the artist who is married with three children.

He called on the department to continue to unearth other music talent through the "I Can Sing" competition. "The department is on the right track. They must keep it up," signed off Madikolonga who thrilled the crowd with his rendition of "Give me your love"

Vastly indebted to the department - say winners

By Sam Makondo

Polokwane - Top ten winners of the second edition of the "I can Sing Project" say they will forever be indebted to the department of Sport, Arts and Culture for giving them what they described as once in a lifetime opportunity. This follows the successful hosting of the grand finale at Landmark Lodge where ten contestants were crowned and walked away with a promise of stardom. At stake was a R125 000 to record and market their respective albums. This group that comes from the five district of Limpopo has been consistent throughout the competition from the local auditions to the finals and only makes sense that they have made it to the top. Up close and personal, Mapungubwe News spoke to some of them following what most described as a dream come true.



*Elias Mashabela belting out at the finals.
Pic: Sam Makondo*

21 year old Nokulunga Mashaba who sang a gospel song entitled "In Moments like these" said she still cannot believe it happened and so thankful to the department for an opportunity to have taken part in the singing competition. "If it was not for the department, I will still be finding it hard to find the kind of exposure like this and do the kind of things I love doing which is singing," said Mashaba. She also acknowledged the whole competition was not a walk in park. "It was a nerve wrecking journey. It is almost unreal. There is serious talent out there and it is God's



Winners of the I can Sing competition with MEC for Sport, Arts and Culture Joyce Mashamba (Gold suit) and HoD Desiree Tlhoale (Centre, Pink Top) Pic: Sam Makondo

grace to be in the top ten" expressed Mashaba who added that it was her father who heard about the competition on radio and encouraged her to enter. Mashaba, from Phalaborwa and represented Mopani District in the competition also described the moment when results were being announced as the most terrifying. "I have been shaking. You hold your heart with your own hands not knowing what will happen. I surprised myself," said the part time student at Mopani FET.

and can only say God is indeed great," said the over the moon Moraba adding that she dedicates the win to her parents and her little brother. Moving forward Moraba said she intends forming group as she still needs learn more musically. She also thanked the department for the opportunity that has now put her on the road to stardom.

Nicknamed Afroman at the finals by fellow contestants was Ronny Mashigo who had the



Ronny Mashigo rocking the audience with his performance. Pic: Sam Makondo



*Nokulunga Mashaba competing at the Finals.
Pic: Sam Makondo*

Equally excited about her win was Goodness Moraba who melted the hearts of the tough as nails judges with her rendition of "Humble yourself" said the competition was very tough as people gave their very best. "It is great feeling to have won. It is so amazing

audience eating from the palm of his hand. A song that made him one of the top ten finalists was called "Praise the Lord" and said he surely praises the Lord for his victory. "It an overwhelming experience. I did not expect to be a winner and now that it happened, I give all the praise to God," said Mashigo describing the win as a humbling experience. He said his choice of song made him very doubtful that he was going to win and it was also clear that the competition was very tough. "There is a lot of talent. There are singers better than me," acknowledged the Afroman mentioning the American group William Brothers as the group that inspires him musically. He added that words are not sufficient enough to describe the good job the department has done in this competition. "The department should continue to unearth and develop music talent in the province. Talent will be taken care of right here at home. We commend the department for digging deep financially for the project to run and meet its intended objectives," appreciated Mashigo who studied music in Australia.

Itumeleng Koma said she wants to make the most of her win given her undying passion for music. She sang at the finals an R&B song unlike most

Outstanding ten selected after tough competition



Judges of the I Can Sing competition final hard at work at Landmark Lodge in Polokwane, (from left to right) Makhaya Lebopa, Victor Duba and Candy Nwayingwana. Pic Sam Makondo.



Ashley Mphahlele singing his way to the Top Ten at the finals. Pic: Sam Makondo

Candy pointed out what judges were looking for in each contestant. She said other than extras which each contestant might surprisingly bring; they did not compromise on voice projection, originality, voice quality and control, stage presence, message and dress code. "An ability to control a voice before you could even record an album was amazing in this competition," acknowledged the musician. She said she was also impressed by the way the band blended with each and every contestant. "The band was amazing. It was as if they have been together for a very long time," said Candy.



Simon Chauke convincing the judges at the finals. Pic: Sam Makondo

By Sam Makondo

Polokwane - Musician Candy, who was one of the judges who presided over the grand finale of the "I Can Sing" competition, has described the crowned finalists as outstanding and exceptional talent she has seen in a long time. Candy was one of the three judges tasked to sift through fifty contestants who came from Limpopo's five districts and come up with the very best ten to be groomed to become the province music stars. Speaking to Mapungubwe News after the announcements of the results by the MEC for Sport, Arts and Culture Joyce Mashamba, she said the competition was very tough but very confident that the judges took everything into consideration before arriving at their final verdict. She added that every single person that made it deserved the victory with every inch of their lives. "They have powerful voices and it shows that the judges at both local and district level properly selected each contestant on merit, it was an amazing show. Limpopo has got talent," Candy said.

Her word of advice to the winners is that they individually need reputable artists who are already established to guide and help them release their albums. Also important for these aspiring artists is that they need the necessary expertise with regard to marketing themselves and their products in the dog-eat-dog music industry. "Making it in the dog-eat-dog industry needs proper planning. They must understand that it is natural for a child to learn to crawl before he or she can walk," advised the music star

contestants who sang gospel songs and managed to convince the judges that there is also talent in this genre. Describing her joy Koma said: "I am very happy. I never believed it. It was a tough competition and proud to have made it". Like other winners she also expressed words of appreciation to the department. "We want departments that put people first in all government projects. This is a people oriented project that makes direct impact on the lives of all that are involved in it. It is greatly appreciated and it should not end with us," appreciated the 25 year old Koma who dedicated the win to her ancestors.

Top ten winners are Makgakwe Madikolonga (Special Honor) Cyril Molaba, Maria Matlare, Simon Chauke, Ashley Mhahlele, Zacharia Debelia, Goodness Moraba, Itumeleng Koma, Nokulunga Mashaba, Elias Mashabela and Ronny Mashigo.

Itumeleng Koma at her best during the finals. Pic: Sam Makondo



Zacharia Debelia deliberating his winning rendition at the finals. Pic: Sam Makondo

Music workshop an eye opener for upcoming artists

By Sam Makondo

Polokwane - Limpopo's upcoming and future artists have hailed the indigenous music workshop as a step in the right direction and one they most needed to understand the dynamics of launching a music career. This comes after they attended a successful informative four day workshop organized by IMPUCUZEKO SKILLS & TRAINING DEVELOPMENT in collaboration with the Limpopo provincial department of Sport, Arts and Culture



*Know your story.....Music producer Tshilidzi Bobodi opening eyes of future artists about the music industry.
Pic: Sam Makondo*



Future artists.....aspiring artists attending the Indigenous music workshop at Saint Marco Hall, Polokwane. Pic: Sam Makondo.

recently. IMPUCUZEKO is a Non Government Organisation Funded by National Lottery Distribution Trust Fund. Held at Saint Marco Hall in Polokwane, the workshop saw about hundred upcoming artists with a desire to be superstars turn up at the workshop which seeks to empower artists who want put indigenous music on the map. Each district of Limpopo, Mopani, Vhembe, Waterberg, Sekhukhune and Capricorn identified twenty future artists for the workshop that was facilitated by influential and experienced people in the music industry. Facilitators ranged from radio personalities, producers to recording companies.

The four day music workshop saw artists navigated through the music industry itself and the recording of music. Tshilidzi Bobodi, a producer told artists that are downsides in this dog-eat-dog industry. "The professionals you work with are friendly and could be trustworthy, however with industry and job pressure, they may become exploitative and untrustworthy," he warned. On recording music, Bobodi advised artists to always remember to find a studio that is familiar with their music, find experienced producers, know the costs and budget and prepare before going to studio.

Another facilitator Jonny Dimba educated artists on music publishing and intellectual property. "People anywhere in the world can do what they please with

your work of art without your knowledge. Hence legally protecting your music is important," pointed out Dimba emphasizing that copyright will always have one's music legally protected. Other important presentations impeccably delivered at the workshop to the benefit of these aspiring artists music distribution, dealing with the media and the final one being performing one's music.



*Be very careful.....Jonny Dimba navigating artists on intellectual property.
Pic: Sam Makondo*

Department promotes a healthy lifestyle



What do you see.....Stanley Shirinda having his eyes checked. Pic: Charles Modiba

Charles Modiba

Polokwane - Limpopo Department of Sport, Arts and Culture takes the health of its employees seriously. Following this vow, a wellness tests on HIV, Cholesterol, Sugar level, Blood pressure level was facilitated by the Office of Health and Wellness in the department. This was one day session, aimed at assisting employees to become aware about their health risks.

It was highlighted during the campaign that people contact various infections without being aware of it. Employees were encouraged not to take health issues for granted. Health practitioners emphasised that their health comes first since they are important assets in the public service. On the other hand government is considered the largest employer in Limpopo and the entire country and cannot afford a high number of absenteeism due to illness that can be prevented.

Health practitioners also encouraged a health life style including the correct diet and protected sexual acts. Employees were further reminded that it is their responsibility to always check their health conditions and their HIV status.



Here we go!.....School Sport Senior manager Freddy Rasebotsa having his blood pressure checked. Pic: Charles Modiba



It wont hurt Nthabiseng Moloto taking partPic: Charles Modiba

Recording contracts for music groups

By Sam Makondo

Polokwane - Two indigenous music groups have walked away with recording contracts after winning a music competition conducted to get the best indigenous dance group in the province. The two groups Sebo Sa Mmino and Ndevhe ya Tsini took part in the auditions organized by IMPUCUZEXO SKILLS & TRAINING DEVELOPMENT in collaboration with the Department of Sport, Arts and Culture. The auditions were run in the name of the Arts and Culture Revitalization Project which seeks to identify talent yet never recorded artists in the indigenous music and dance genre. The winning groups will be mentored and be assisted to record compact discs by reputable recording companies. Sebo Sa Mmino got position one with Ndevhe ya Tsini settled for second position. They outclassed eight other groups who also gave their best performances but only to fall short of the set standard.

Congratulating the winning groups was the Head of Department Desiree Tlhoale who said the winning groups are a perfect example of what can be achieved if people combine their talents. "The win shows hard



*Winners.....Sebo Sa Mmino walked away with a recording contract at the Indigenous Music competition.
Pic: Sam Makondo.*



*Winners.....Ndevhe ya Tsini performing at the Indigenous Music competition at Saint Marco Hall in Polokwane.
Pic: Sam Makondo*

work, passion and dedication. It also shows that you love what you are doing and most importantly enjoy music. You are good individually and better collectively," said the HoD adding that the winners should not forget where they come from when they become famous music stars.

She also thanked the IMPUCUZEXO for adding on what the department is already doing, citing a project like "I Can Sing" that recently awarded recording deals to ten winners. She called on them to invest more in unearthing talent that is lying in the five districts of Limpopo. "You must explore possibilities of empowering ten future artists per district," appealed the HoD. She also comforted those that did not make the cut not to be hard on themselves moving forward. "We are hoping that as a department you will take forward what you have learned here. There will be other opportunities in the future," said Tlhoale.



*Impressed..... (from left to right) Phalafala Aphane, John Sithole, Thabang Mthembu and Head of Sport, Arts and Culture Desiree Tlhoale during the Indigenous Music competition.
Pic: Sam Makondo*

Department breaks the backbone of illiteracy

By Sam Makondo

Mutale - "Access to information on every subject will soon be the order of the day for the Mutale community and all its surrounding areas". These words were said by the MEC for the provincial Department of Sport, Arts and Culture during the recent sod turning ceremony held at a site where the new library will be constructed. The library will be build 500 metres from the Mutale local municipality offices. Speaking at the ceremony, MEC Mashamba said her department is happy to be bringing to the community a facility that will enrich minds of every community member, whether young or old. She added that this long overdue library that will boast modern technology in all forms will provide a rare opportunity for the Mutale community to amass as much knowledge as possible for personal and community development. "Libraries should go to the people and be put to good use by everyone," said the MEC appealing to the community to look after the facility and its equipment upon completion. "It will



*Cultural and leadership ensemble.....gracing the site where the library will be built.
Pic: Sam Makondo*

be a community facility. Guard against vandalism of the property and safeguard every single equipment," said the MEC.

Representing Mutale local municipality at the sod turning ceremony was Councillor Lieba N.A who thanked the department for the initiative that will empower the community for many years to come. The obvious people to benefit out of this project when it is finalized, said the Lieba, are all the surrounding schools. "We aim at 100% results in all grades once the library is in full operation," promised Lieba. He added that the officials from the municipality also stand to benefit as the library will be just a stone throw from their offices. "We will first look for information before we make decisions at council meetings," said Lieba acknowledging to the MEC that the library will make a serious impact in the municipality.



Speaking on behalf of the Vhembe District municipality was Councillor Mashimbye who said the department is on the right track and building a library in that area will not be a wasted exercise given the need that exists in the community. Mashimbye promised the department that all will be done to ensure that the facility is looked after.

On the spade.....MEC for Sport, Arts and Culture Joyce Mashamba at the sod turning ceremony in Mutale. Pic: Sam Makondo

Manage your stress for

By Sam Makondo

Polokwane - Officials of the Limpopo Department of Sport, Arts and Culture have been advised to take charge of their lives both at work and at home, a foundation of stress management. This was emphasized during the stress management workshop

held at Polokwane Guest Manor recently. Conducted by Danuta Puzilewicz of Mentors Training and Consulting, the workshop was aimed at navigating the officials of the department on how to reduce, prevent and cope with stress. This all important workshop was attended by officials from the department's headquarters and district offices and emphasized among other things taking charge of your

thoughts, your schedule, your environment and the way officials should deal with problems.

The ultimate goal for this kind of a workshop is for officials to have a balanced life, with time for work, relationships, relaxation, and fun not to mention the resilience to hold up under pressure and the ability to meet challenges head on. Workshop facilitator



Avoid Stress.....Damuta Puzilewicz of Mentors Training and Consulting facilitating the stress management workshop at Polokwane Guest Manor. Pic: Sam Makondo.



No to Stress.....from left to right, Victor Tebeila, Patrick Masemola and Phyllis Mathonsi at the stress management workshop in Polokwane. Pic: Sam Makondo

Officials heap praises on stress management practicum

By Sam Makondo

Polokwane - Officials of the Department of Sport, Arts and Culture who attended the stress management workshop smiled from ear to ear following what they described as a very relevant and successful workshop. Speaking to Mapungubwe News after the workshop that took place at Polokwane's Guest Manor, speaker after speaker seemed to have finally found the formula for stress management at their workstations.

Heritage practitioner Victor Tebeila who is attached to Muti-wa-Vatsonga Museum could hide his



Group work.....officials of the department doing some exercises during the workshop. Pic: Sam Makondo.



You can beat stress.....some officials getting the necessary tips on how to put stress at bay. Pic: Sam Makondo.

satisfaction and expressed: "I have figured out that poor time management can cause a lot of stress. When you are stretched too thin and running behind, it's hard to stay calm and focused. But if you plan ahead and make sure you don't overextend yourself, you can alter the amount of stress you're under," said Tebeila.

Mpho Tshikosi, a Human Scientist practitioner echoed Tebeila 'sentiments and added that she can now analyze her schedule of work, responsibilities and daily tasks. "If you've got too much on your plate, distinguish between the "should" and the "musts". Drop tasks that are not truly necessary to the bottom of the list or eliminate them entirely" indicated Tshikosi who was quick to point out the importance

of dealing with problems head on, doing your best to anticipate them and prevent them.

Disability desk Manager Braam Clegg also attended the workshop and had the rights to brag given what he described as a very informative workshop. He said the workshop highlighted the importance of expressing one's feelings instead of bottling them up. "If something is bothering you, communicate your concerns in an open and respectful way. If you don't voice your feelings, resentment will build and the situation will likely remain the same," said Clegg.

Officials were challenged at the workshop to be proactive and learn healthier ways to manage stress.

an effective workstation

Danuta Puzilewicz indicated that stress management starts with identifying the sources of stress in your life . "This is not easy at it sounds. Your true sources of stress are not always obvious, and it is all too easy to overlook your own stress-inducing thoughts, feelings and behaviour," said the facilitator tipping officials to always look closely at their habits, attitudes and excuses as potential sources of stress.

The workshop was not dull in nature as it exercises and coaching formed a huge part of the proceedings and officials actively participated in practical assessment of their individual stress levels. Areas of concern included social, me time, family, spiritual, physical, financial, professional work and mental. These areas were looked at in terms of how much time people allocate on the various segments of life using a wheel of life. Those whose wheels were strangely shaped showed that they do not live balanced lives.

Time management was identified as an important factor that can if not carefully managed can lead to serious stress. She stressed three important factors to time management as understanding one's preferences, placing value on one's time and taking control of the

environment as key to avoiding unnecessary pressures. Officials were advised to guard against habits that will steal time meant for important things in a person's life. It was pointed also as a way of encouraging the workforce that people who manage

their time effectively value their time immensely. To drive this point home, officials were given work related case studies to ascertain if they understand time management.



Laughing it off.....Some of the officials who attended the stress management workshop. Pic: Sam Makondo.

Premier puts Limpopo people first

By Charles Modiba

Madimbo - The Limpopo government is serious about "Putting People's First". This follows the successful Batho Pele day celebration which has given the Limpopo government a chance to report back the services rendered to the community and to give citizens an opportunity to raise their complaints about service delivery.

The Batho Pele day celebration was recently held in Madimbo village, Musina Municipality in Vhembe District and it has proven to be an achievement indeed for Limpopo government following the attendance by thousands of people.

Giving his report back address, Limpopo Premier Cassel Mathale said that he felt privileged to report back to the people of Limpopo on the progress registered in improving the living conditions of the people through the provision of government services.



Sharing a moment.....Premier Cassel Mathale with Local Government & Housing MEC Soviet Lekganyane at the Batho-Pele day celebration. Pic: Charles Modiba



Time to play.....Kids playing during the recent Batho-Pele Day at Madimbo. Pic: Charles Modiba

"This platform offers before us a golden and rare opportunity to update the people of our province about issues of service delivery within the context of the Batho Pele principles and also to remind ourselves about our commitment to accordingly uphold and respect the rights of women, children and all vulnerable members of the society" reported Mathale adding that the year 2010, the Limpopo government is reporting back to the people in the "Citizen's Report" on the achievements attained during the delivery of services under the theme: "Together, we can speed up service delivery to the communities".

He further indicated that the province has adopted a new approach of rendering quality services to the people in a smarter and faster manner as part of the efforts to make a meaningful change in the lives of the people. "The process of including municipalities and other stakeholders in the delivery of services to the people is producing positive results and it must be enhanced to lead us to new stages in actualizing our resolve to improve the living conditions of the communities," said Mathale.

"We have espoused the eight Batho Pele principles that serve as a benchmark in gauging the types of services we are giving to the people, which include the manner and the quality of services we are offering. The actual objective of these principles is to guide us in our individual and collective interaction with people in our respective operations as public servants.

The treatment of the principles as a mere policy position of government which has no intention or objectives is wrong and people who pursue such thinking must be exposed and disciplined", outlined Mathale.

Mathale concluded by saying that public servants must be honest and represent an advanced brigade that offers solutions to communities both within the framework of employment and outside.

Meaning that servants of the people must be available at all times to assist people with information that is needed and offer advices when requested.



Exhibition time.....official of the department explaining to the people visiting the stall. Pic: Charles Modiba



Information material.....Maria Sejaphala from the Department of Sport, Arts and Culutre supplying information about the services were supplied at the celebration. Pic:Charles Modiba.

Heritage Protection - Everyones's Priority

By Charles Modiba

Thohoyandou - Museums and Heritage Manager Khathutshelo Lithole says every member of the community remains fully committed to the protection of heritage resources. Speaking at the heritage indaba in Thohoyandou, University of Venda recently; Lithole said the indaba seeks to highlight the roles and responsibilities of every citizen of the country in protecting heritage. He said that the indaba will reinforce the significance of a shared vision in identifying and protecting heritage.

He pointed out Limpopo as a province with a rich heritage that have a lasting value, non-renewable, irreplaceable and they must be carefully managed to ensure their survival. He indicated that as a heritage resource forms an important part of history and beliefs, it must be managed in a way that acknowledges the right of the affected communities to be consulted and to participate in their management.

"Heritage resources contribute significantly to education, and tourism in our country, they must be



*It starts with us.....Some of the lovers of heritage attending the Indaba.
Pic: Charles Modiba*

developed and presented for those purposes in a way that ensures dignity and respected cultural values, citing examples of Mapungubwe heritage site which attracts many tourists from around the world.

Heritage resources represents economic opportunities for local communities" explained Lithole adding that care must be taken to ensure that economic and cultural exploitation of our natural,

cultural and historic heritage is undertaken in a society and environmentally sustainable way.

He further said that heritage contribute to the national identity. The indaba was aimed at debating issues surrounding identification, protection and promotion of heritage and also provides the department an opportunity to work closely other relevant stakeholders. Another purpose was to create an awareness programme that will continue to roll out in different institutions and places in shaping heritage in the province and the country.

Committed.....Khathutshelo Lithole presenting at the heritage indaba at the university of venda. Pic: Charles Modiba

Information workshop for assistants

By Sam Makondo

Polokwane - A lack of understanding on how to handle and deal with confidential information, information with economic value and government document is now a thing of the past for Sport, Arts and Culture personal assistants. This after the department took a step to empower personal assistants and other strategic officials who work closely with senior managers in information protection and counter-intelligence.

Understanding that information is the lifeblood of any institution, the department organized a two day information protection workshop aimed at helping its personnel to combat the threat of information, loss and theft. Presented by Corporate Business Insight & Awareness, the workshop took place at Polokwane's Masana Lodge and navigated officials through cardinal aspects to be taken into account when protecting departmental information on a daily basis. The objectives of the practicum included among others, helping employees recognize that the information they handle is valuable and that they are vulnerable; helping officials to increase their security awareness of the threats against information and to inform personal assistants of their roles and responsibilities when handling government information based on the SA government's Minimum Information Security Standards (MISS) policy. As part of ensuring that attendees understand, practical group work formed part of the workshop to identify main information security breaches that can occur in

both the office and out of office environments. To further provide deep and rich comprehension, case studies and films were used to analyze the implications of events. Discussed also at these

sessions were issues such as safe document handling, classification of information, telephone requests, foreign travel and how to protect the information while out of the office.



Information protection.....Officials of the department after successfully completing a workshop on Counterintelligence and Information Protection Awareness. Pic: Sam Makondo

Lemana, an educational site of historical and heritage significance

By Sam Makondo

Elim - Executive Director of Historic Schools Restoration Project (HSRP) Njongonkulu Ndungane says Lemana High School in Elim has produced leaders of substance and impeccable caliber over the years as a disadvantaged and under-resourced rural school. Ndungane was speaking at the recent historic schools restoration project at Elim outside Makhado. He said Lemana is one of the nine schools, founded in the 19th century that was once ranked among the leading black schools in the country that will be re-empowered to achieve high level of excellence in teaching and learning. He said this will be done as part of Historic Schools Restoration Project that seeks to restore South African secondary schools with historical and heritage significance. Lemana is the only school in the province included in the first phase of the project. "This school contributed richly to the education of black South Africans prior to the negative impact of Bantu Education,"

Ndungane called on the community to always view education as a treasure no thief can steal and a key to the future and nation building. "If you want to plan for hundred years, you educate, educate, educate and educate," said Ndungane quoting the Chinese expression. The restoration project has been endorsed by the government and also seeks to reclaim the memory and heritage of the historic sites that include the original school buildings.

He also highlighted some of the objectives of the project and they include among others, to foster excellence in teaching and learning, to encourage ownership of the project by the school communities, alumni and founders of the school, to promote African culture and to ensure schools develop sound institutional leadership. "For this to be achieved, all stakeholders must be active, open and willing



Important project.....(from left to right) Limpopo Premier Cassel Mathale, Minister of Performance, Monitoring and Evaluation Collins Chabane and Executive Director, HSRP Njongonkulu Ndungane during the School Restoration Project at Lemana High School. Pic: Sam Makondo.

participants in the school transformation process. This requires a costly commitment by everyone involved. The potential outcomes could provide a firm foundation for renaissance in Africa," he said. Delivering an appreciation speech, Vukosi Maluleke said he is inspired by the hard work of the students who paved a complex road to make it easier for them

as the beneficiaries. "It should also be an inspiration to not only the learners, but to all of us as individuals to set goals and to work hard towards making that achievement. Let us not disgrace our learner-descendants and educators by letting their hard work go to waste. Let us keep the spirit alive," appealed Maluleke.



Future Lemana Alumni.....15 year old Vukosi Maluleke delivering his speech at the Historic Schools Restoration Project event at Lemana High School in Elim. Pic: Sam Makondo.

Look after your Finances

Charles Modiba

Polokwane - The Department of Sport, Arts and Culture remains fully committed to the protection of its employees finances. This follows a one day workshop on Debt and financial management organized by the department through the Office of Employee Health and Wellness. The workshop was held recently in Polokwane. This was a one day session aimed at assisting employees of the department to manage their finances wisely.

The workshop highlighted to employees that they should learn to draw a budget to ensure that they live within their means and also to cut down on luxuries when spending their finances. It is important that this is taken seriously, as it can lead to employees being bankrupt.

The workshop was conducted by Absa bank's Lousha Langa who advised employees to manage their finances since lack of financial management can lead



Taking interest.....some staff members at the workshop. Pic: Charles Modiba.



Stay out of it.....Lousha Langa giving handy tips on managing finances. Pic: Charles Modiba



Attentive.....staff members attending the workshop. Pic: Charles Modiba

to stress, high blood and other conditions. She said that employees should review their finances to check if they are not over indebted as this will help them to reduce unnecessary expenditures. "When you are over indebted, pay your smallest outstanding balance

first, then work your way towards your highest debt as this will help reduce interests", said Langa adding that employees should learn to save even if it can be as little as fifty rands per month.

MEC asks for collective planning

By Sam Makondo

Polokwane - MEC for Sport, Arts and Culture Joyce Mashamba says municipalities in the province and her department should stop working in silos and start taking part in each other' strategic planning sessions in order to strengthen service delivery. This, she says will help these two spheres of government to produce better project plans that are aligned and aimed at delivering better services to the people of Limpopo. The MEC also believes these two arms of government will be able to make use of the limited resources that continue to hinder service delivery in the province.

Mashamba expressed these views at a two day IDP workshop aimed at navigating deputy managers, managers and senior managers on better ways of planning with municipalities. Stressed at this workshop was the importance of consistency of representation in planning forums and identification of strategic projects that seek to foster social cohesion and nation building.

Those who attended the workshop hailed it as an eye opener. One such person is Sekhukhune district head Kodikodi Mabotha who said he now has a better understanding of the important aspects that will enable him to make a meaningful contribution during planning sessions.

Sport development senior manager Junior Ramusi echoed the same sentiments when he said: "the workshop has empowered us in a manner that will take our planning to the next level"

Head of department Desiree Tlhoale in her closing remarks emphasized the importance of planning



Getting the lowdown.....Some of the managers at the IDP workshop. Pic: Sam Makondo.

together and in good time at that. "We need to add value to IDP processes and assist one another to deliver services to the people. We need to think what is it that we must continue to do to empower our communities. We need to emphasize service delivery every day," said Tlhoale. The workshop was facilitated by Local Government & Housing senior manager for IDP Nyiko Mashamba.



Plan together.....Sport, Arts and Culture MEC Joyce Mashamba stressing the importance of planning with municipalities during the IDP workshop, with her is Head of Department Desiree Tlhoale. Pic: Sam Makondo.

Driver..... Nyiko Mashamba (standing) facilitating the IDP workshop at Col John. Pic: Sam Makondo.



Name change - our responsibility



*It is our responsibility.....
Thembi Nkadimeng making a presentation
during the Mabitso Conference.
Pic: Charles Modiba*

By Charles Modiba

Polokwane - The Limpopo Geographical Names Committee (LGNC), a statutory body under the Department of Sport, Arts and Culture has called on all communities in Limpopo to help in the renaming process around Limpopo. LGNC says everybody in the province has a role, responsibility to ensure the standardization of geographical names, to correct wrongly spelt names and recognize the role of oral history in the naming process, promote archival and heritage research.

Spokesperson for LGNC, Peter Muruthane said that Mabitso conference aims to bring together

communities and stakeholders such as religious organizations, municipalities, political parties, traditional leaders, etc to ensure the smooth process of name change. He indicated that the conference resolves to encourage municipalities across the province to establish district geographical names committees to bridge the gap between the municipalities and the provincial committee. "This will enable the district committees to be the mediator between the communities, local municipalities and the provincial committee," said Muruthane.

Giving the words of support, Kgoshi Makgeru acknowledged the invitation by saying that the invitation shows the process of name change is in the right direction. "This will enhance the relationship between the Provincial Geographical Names committee and the Traditional leaders. Chiefs should

have a permanent representation at Provincial level to assist in coordination of naming process as Chiefs knows their area very well. Geographical Names are the heritage of our people and have history and meaning" said Makgeru adding that since inception the process focused on towns and cities and ignored the rest of the majority of names in the rural communities.

Makgeru concluded by urging all stakeholders to start playing their part in all their respective levels and praised the organizers of the conferences as it had opened an opportunity to take the naming process forward.

Community members attended the conference in large numbers to ensure that they form part of naming process in their areas.



Taking interest in name change should be part and parcel of our daily living. Pic: Charles Modiba



*The people.....these citizens were
at the Exco Meets the people at Muswodi,
Mutale municipality in the Vhembe district.
Pic: Sam Makondo*

By Sam Makondo

Muswodi - Limpopo premier Cassel Mathale says citizens of the province are rightfully placed to ask his cabinet any question that relates to service delivery. Speaking at the recent Exco meets the people Mathale encouraged community members to ask any kind of questions and raise service delivery concerns as and when they are experienced in their communities. Mathale and his cabinet were again at Muswodi in the Mutale municipality, Vhembe district, to take stock of service delivery issues in an effort to enhance impact and arrest shortfalls associated with implementation. Concerns that were directed to Sport, Arts and

You ask the q we listen -

Culture included unavailability of sport facilities and the moral decay that seem to plague the community.

In her response the MEC for Sport, Arts and Culture Joyce Mashamba said the department will join hands with the municipality to address the issue of sport facilities since it is the competency of the municipality. With regard to the fast disappearing

ubuntu from the face of the community, MEC Mashamba said the department has a Moral Regeneration Movement that deals with issues of reviving moral values in communities and that the concern will be taken to chairperson of the movement for speedy processing.

Concerns came from all sides and ranged from health,



*We are all here to listen.....leadership at traditional, local, district and provincial level during
the Exco Meets the People at Muswodi. Pic: Sam Makondo*

Cabinet hears Vlakfontein Community's concerns

By Sam Makondo

Vlakfontein - The community of Vlakfontein in the Elias Motsoaledi Local Municipality, Sekhukhune district, have made a passionate plea of pleas to the MEC for Sport, Arts and Culture Joyce Mashamba for a place to read and play. This was heard at the recent EXCO MEETS THE PEOPLE held at the Try Again Sport Ground of the Vlakfontein village. The venue was abuzz as thousands of people flocked to the venue to interact with the Executive Council of the Limpopo Government on service delivery related issues. A plethora of issues meant to raise the

awareness of the leadership and at the end ensure efficient service delivery were major items on the agenda at this gathering. Issues directed to Sport, Arts and Culture department included a call by the community for a library, a football club for elderly women, accessibility of sporting facilities and strengthening of moral regeneration structures.

MEC Mashamba in her response to all the issues raised said her department will work harder with the local municipality to improve existing relations in order to deliver on the community requests. She said although building of sport facilities is the competency



Highly cultured.....calling for an arts and culture centre in the Vlakfontein area. Pic: Sam Makondo



We want a club.....Elderly women of the Vlakfontein community requested the MEC for Sport, Arts and Culture Joyce Mashamba to help them establish a football club during the Imbizo. Pic: Sam Makondo

of the municipality the department will work together with the municipality in ensuring that top class sport facilities are built and accessible to all the people. With regard to the library, the MEC indicated that she would like to see a reading Vlakfontein community and said funds will be made available in the next financial for a community library. "The department will build a library and it is responsibility of the municipality to run with issues of maintenance, furniture and hiring of employees to work in the library," said Mashamba. She went further in her response to assure the community that a team from the department will visit the area to provide expert advice on the formation of club for elderly women.

Mashamba heaped praise on the community for taking a lead on issues of moral regeneration. This was after a community member encouraged members of the public to be always true to their roots and identity, revive respect for the elderly and most importantly work harmoniously with traditional leadership, churches and youth formation to achieve strong moral values. "I am impressed that people take moral regeneration issues seriously. It is very much part of nation building and social cohesion," MEC Mashamba said to the applause of thousands in attendance.

In summarizing the day proceedings, Limpopo Premier Cassel Mathale who led his Executive Council to Vlakfontein village encouraged community members to tell the leadership what they want to see happening in their communities. "The power is in your hands. We serve you. We are in our respective offices on your behalf. Speak without fear about anything," emphasized Mathale.



Raising his concerns.....Vlakfontein community member telling the leadership of the province his service delivery concerns during the recent Exco Meets the People. Pic: Sam Makondo

roads and housing. Crystal clear and encouraging was the manner in which the leadership of the province listened with interest to all the issues raised at this gathering. All MEC's were hard at work taking notes and preparing for appropriate responses. Limpopo government continues to be driven by strong

principles of interactive governance and the resolve to take government to the people. In summarizing the day's proceedings Mathale encouraged his cabinet to craft programmes that are aimed at uplifting the lives of the people.



Inspection.....Sport, Arts and Culture Joyce Mashamba, officials of the department and municipality at one of the sport fields in the Muswodi community. Pic: Sam Makondo

Questions and premier

Support rallied for the hearing impaired

By Sam Makondo

Bungeni - Free State University Senior Lecturer and Sign Language expert Dr Philemon Akach has called on communities in Limpopo to continue supporting the department of Sport, Arts and Culture's vision of reaching out to deaf people. Akach was speaking at the International Translation Day Celebration held in Bungeni village outside Elim.

Addressing translators, interpreters, terminologists, language practitioners and members of the community, Akach revealed the harsh reality of deaf people being oppressed and discriminated against right at their respective homes. He said in his address that it was the responsibility of the community to ensure that the deaf community is treated with dignity and respect that they rightfully deserve. "Deaf people listen to the world by looking at hands. Let us



Embrace.....Sign language expert Dr Philemon Akach addressing at International Translation Day at Bungeni. Pic: Sam Makondo

embrace and take sign language seriously," appealed Akach while commending the department for having taken some officials to sign language training in order to reach each and every member of the community equally, deaf or not.

He emphasized language professionals in the fields of translations, interpreting and terminology as indispensable mediators in interlingual and cultural contexts and also as people who have a special responsibility to help promote sign language and smooth interaction among all languages. "Deaf people are a linguistic minority and need you to join them. Do not demand that they hear you. Even if you do not have a relative who is deaf, raise your hand and sign," indicated the sign language expert. Akach was speaking on International Translation Day and asked



Cultural group, Manhloa wa Seola entertaining at Bungeni during the international translation day celebration. Pic: Sam Makondo

everyone in attendance what the day means to them given the plight of the deaf community in Limpopo. To translators and interpreters, he drew their attention to translation and interpretation quality in their work which supported the 2010 theme: "Translation Quality for a Variety of Voices".

He went on to say that translation, which, is one of the oldest profession, now sees increasing complexity in its environment to which he challenged and said: "Translators do not simply need to have a mastery of the language out of which and into which they translate. They need narrower and deeper specializations, balanced with broad general knowledge and cultural understanding" He added that translators must also have a good grasp of the subject matter they are translating and need to be competent in the latest information technologies. International Translation Day is celebrated every year on 30 September and offers an opportunity to draw attention to the importance of translators and interpreters in the world. These language practitioners work makes a huge contribution to communication and interaction in all sorts of spheres, particularly in today's globalised world



Celebrating International Day, (from left to right) Language Services Senior Manager Dr Agnes Mawela, Makhado Municipality Chief Whip Joseph Rikhotso, Sport, Arts and Culture HoD Desiree Tlhoale and Sign Language Expert Dr Philemon Akach at the recent Translation Day Celebration at Bungeni. Pic: Sam Makondo

Department promotes literacy

By Charles Modiba

Makhwibidung - The Limpopo Department of Sport, Arts and Culture intensified its public outreach programme to ensure that each and every citizen, young and old, had a chance to play part during the sod turning ceremony of building a new library. The outreach program was part of several initiatives aimed at bringing the departmental services closer to the people. The event was recently held in Makhwibidung Sports field.

The MEC said that the department is prepared to work harder and more efficiently to ensure that every South

African citizen has access to library facilities. MEC called upon each and every citizen to support the department's initiative and to share this message with fellow citizens. She said that the building of library will create more job opportunities for people of Makhwibidung. She added by saying that she will propose that the library be named after the community.

The MEC has encouraged the community to work with government towards effective, transparent and cooperative government that is inclusive and that ensures efficient service delivery.



Age is no limit.....Vakhegula Vakhegula playing during the sod turning ceremony. Pic: Charles Modiba



On site.....Sport, Arts and Culture MEC Joyce Mashamba during the sod turning ceremony. Pic: Charles Modiba



Better move.....Pic: Charles Modiba

Multi-million Library for Rapotokwane

By Jermina Kaka and Charles Modiba

Rapotokwane - The Rapotokwane community in the southern part of the Waterberg District braved the hot weather to witness the historic moment the Department of Sport, Arts and Culture created recently. This was demonstrated as hundreds of people gathered at Litho Sports Field to witness what the MEC for Sport, Arts and Culture, Joyce Mashamba had to offer since her last visit to the area in 2008. The outreach programme was held recently in Rapotokwane village, Bela - Bela municipality.

Sharing the moment of celebration with the community, the MEC for Sport, Arts and Culture Joyce Mashamba said: "We have just witnessed a very historic moment in the lives of the people of Rapotokwane, which signals the symbolic start of a new era in the lives of the local community. Soon, people of all ages wishing to enrich their lives, further



It is time to build.....Sport, Arts and Culture MEC Joyce Mashamba at the site where a library will be constructed, looking on is Leila Ebrahim, Cultural Affairs General Manager. Pic: Charles Modiba.



Reaching out.....Some officials of the department during the recent outreach programme at Rapotokwane. Pic: Charles Modiba.

their education or spend quiet reflection time, will be able to do so in the community library they had requested. However, this will be more than just a building. It will be a symbol of the restoration of the dignity of our people - something with which we are tasked- and a task which we will pursue endlessly, until our people have all the services they deserve and until every citizen of this Province is active and healthy" said Mashamba adding that It will still be some time until this dream comes to fruition, but while all things start small, we know that they become

bigger as we work together to reach our goals.

She went further by saying that since the birth of democracy in South Africa, the people had undertaken to dedicate their lives to this cause to reverse the damaging effects of a South Africa that was focused on only a select group of people and we therefore shall not rest until we have succeeded.

During the sod turning ceremony, the MEC for Sport, Arts and Culture said that the erection of a multi-million library in the Rapotokwane is part of government's service delivery programme which is aimed at improving the lives of the people and that of the coming generation. "The world class library that will be built here will be full of books that will need children and adults to read them", said Mashamba.

Giving his words of appreciation, Tribal Authority representative, John Mahlangu said: "We are pleased to see the MEC for Sport, Arts and Culture, Mme Mashamba visiting our area for the third time. This is a clear sign that the MEC cares, especially now that she is bringing a multi-million library project which is going to benefit us all and even generations to come"

The school principal of Litho High School, Andrew Masango said they welcome the idea of building a library in their area but said government must tar the road to prevent dust and also to perfect the project. "This is a huge relief to the learners as they regularly travel to Pretoria to access libraries and internet facilities for school projects" explained Masango.

The same sentiments were also shared by Vinolia Masyambo, a grade 11 of Litho High School who excitedly said that the library will help them to study without any disturbance and the matric pass rate will improve dramatically.

Boys passionate about table tennis

By Sam Makondo

Seshego - When people have sheer passion for what they do, just like Khamamba Sikhalele and Gift Mabasa, the sky can only be the limit. The two boys who come from Chavani village, outside Elim, in the Vhembe district, are so fanatical and ardent about table tennis that they wish they could only go to school just to learn about the sport that has been nicknamed ping-pong.



Selected.....Table tennis Boys under 16 (from left to right, Back Row) Ipfu Munakisi, Stanle Mugwena and Mabasa Gift, (front row, left to right) Khamamba Sikhalele, Webster Kubayi and Ntshunxeko Shirinda. Pic: Sam Makondo.



Gifted.....Gift Mabasa (left) returning a serve from his opponent during the Provincial Summer Games selection in Seshego. Pic: Sam Makondo.

Those who have witnessed them in action will attest to the fact that they are young budding athletes who handle the sport with ease. Mapungubwe News caught up with the boys during the recent provincial summer games selection in Seshego where they were in their fifth element as they outplayed opponent after opponent.

They told Mapungubwe News that they are friends who attend school at Masiza High School doing grade 10. "We are friends and spend a lot of time together developing strategies to plot downfall of opponents," said Mabasa. Khamamba Sikhalele says he loves the ping-pong sport and will not trade his racket for anything. "Everyone in the village goes for football .what about table tennis? I love doing something different. I do not want to be common," explained the

15year old Sikhalele.

He added that he takes his game seriously and practices six days a week to get important aspects of the game right. Looping which is top spin attacking and chopping, a table tennis move which focuses on backspin defense are at the moment his priority during practice sessions. On the other hand his friend, Mabasa says his area of concern that he needs to get right is flipping, a move that aims at attacking short balls. "I also want to work hard on my forehand and backhand drives. I also should not be complacent on grip and racket control not withstanding spin and racket angles," pointed out Mabasa who is also 15 years old. Table tennis, also known as ping-pong is a sport in which two or four players hit a lightweight, hollow ball back and forth using table tennis racket.

MEC puts people first

By Jermina Kaka and Charles Modiba

Rapotokwane - Driven by strong principles of interactive governance and the resolve to take government to the people, the MEC for Sport, Arts and Culture Joyce Mashamba left the comfort of her office to engage in an intensive programme to interact with different communities of the Rapotokwane area recently. This democratic event served as a platform for the community to voice their needs and challenges. It is through these kinds of events where people are undeniably put first.

During the Imbizo; the MEC said she is in Rapotokwane to listen and give feedback to community concerns. She further said that the Imbizo provides an opportunity for government to communicate its Programme of Action and the progress being made and also promotes participation of the public in the programmes to improve their lives. She added by saying that the Imbizo highlights people's concerns, grievances and advice about government's work.

Government officials from the department had an



Who is stronger.....Tug of war formed part and parcel of the activities at the Rapotokwane Imbizo. Pic: Charles Modiba



Departmental netball team playing the local team during the Imbizo. Pic: Charles Modiba

opportunity to interact with local community by playing sport against Rapotokwane community. The sporting codes that were played during the day were Soccer, Netball, Volleyball, Ncuva and Tug of War.

Lucas Mashaba, a community member said that it was exciting to engage in sport with public servants.

"This will enable us to know and understand them better. It will also give us an opportunity to raise our concerns while playing sport" said Mashaba pleading with the MEC to bring more activities in the Rapotokwane area. The attendees were entertained by the local cultural groups and the departmental choir.



Silky skills.....football was also enjoyed by those who have passion for it as seen here. Pic:Charles Modiba



Departmental choir entertaining the Rapotokwane community at the Imbizo. Pic: Charles Modiba