



Chronicles of Shanghai



*Variety and benefits.....Limpopo Sport, Arts and Culture MEC Joyce Mashamba (slightly forward) at the Yuyuan Garden, Chinese heritage site. With her is (from left to right) Rhulani Nkuzana, Senior Manager in the Office of the MEC, Dragon Long's Assistant Elisa Jiang, Dragon Long and Information Officer Chris Lee. **More on pages 6, 7, 8 and 9.***

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The heartland of southern Africa - development is about people!

Foreword by the MEC



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

The Province of Limpopo has been truly blessed by a second visit by our brothers and sisters from all over the globe, shortly after the 2010 FIFA World Cup.

I am referring to Limpopo's hosting of the 5th INAS-FID World Football Championships for the intellectually impaired in August and September. The event truly was staged professionally and the visiting teams had only praise for the Province, our people's friendliness and our hosting skills.

I wish to take this opportunity to thank each and every supporter and spectator of this event. You, the people of Limpopo, have once again proved your love for sport and your eagerness to see international athletes in action! Through your undying spirit of ubuntu, you have once again made the world feel welcome and want to return to South Africa again and again.

Thank you for your unconditional support for the Amaswanaswana, the National Squad who braved very strong opponents, to finally earn a place in the top 8 of the tournament. Team South Africa, you have made us proud!

September, being Heritage Month, has given us a time to once again reflect on the successes of the 2010 FIFA World Cup and to celebrate our living human treasures. These human living treasures are the people who can teach us invaluable lessons about our heritage and our culture.

We salute these men and women from all walks of life and request each and every one of us to identify these people and learn from them, for posterity.

During the month of September, we also had the opportunity to interact with people from other nations.

We have a lot to learn from our African brothers and sisters as well as from people from other nations, especially in terms of how they preserve their heritage and how their indigenous knowledge systems impact on their lives in a modern society.

There is still much to be done in future, to preserve this unity we have experienced in the past few months. We need to build on this wonderful feeling of togetherness, take hands and take this province and this country forward.

We can only do it if we join forces and work together. We know that together, we can do more to ensure a better life for each and every citizen who lives in this beautiful, unique and culturally diverse country!

In the words of former President Dr. Nelson Rolihlahla Mandela - those same words that are inscribed on the South African pavilion at the Shanghai World Expo in China:

"We must use time wisely and forever realise that time is always ripe to do right!"

From the HoD's desk



The second quarter of the 2010/11 financial year has ended with the department on a high note and hype of activities that ended the FIFA World Cup 2010 in our country and also moving on with the preparations and commissioning of the INAS-FID 5th World Championships for the Intellectually Impaired, that were held all over the province.

The INAS-FID world football championships came with the excitement and challenges that were anticipated and some not anticipated. As a province, we hosted this world cup with pride and came out to be one of the best according to the INAS-FID President of the European Region, Geoff Smedley. Team South Africa did not do so well but gave a good account of themselves.

During the month of August, the department also showcased the participation of women in Rugby. We went in partnership with the Rugby Federation in the province and hosted the Women's Rugby Tournament, which was another great success for the province. It was an eye opener to witness the passion and professionalism with which women can participate in sport dominated by men.

The month of September is a month where we are always reminded of our Heritage and the importance of teaching the nation and our children, where we as a people come from. The department held its Heritage month celebration in Lephalale municipality, Waterberg District with the theme "Celebrating 2010 FIFA Soccer World Cup Success: Our Heritage". The event took off well and was enjoyed by all residents in the province.

The province also took part in the Shanghai Expo in China, the World Expo that showcases world heritage, cultures and artistic values of various countries. The Member of the Executive Committee in the department, Mme H.J. Mashamba led a delegation to Shanghai, to explore further Cultural and Heritage partnerships and to see what other countries are

doing in this space. We have learnt a lot from other countries but have also showcased, together with other provinces our artistic abilities, cultures and heritage as a country.

In an attempt to ensure that the entire population of the province is having access to information, the department has also initiated training on Sign Language in partnership with the University of the Free State. Employees have been capacitated to understand and to further teach and use sign language in the department. The aim is to ensure that no citizen of this province is turned away from services offered by the department due to their disability. The department also participated in and facilitated the participation of community members in the Readathon exercise to ensure that the nation reads and becomes literate.

The provincial Indigenous Games were held in Bela-Bela, Waterberg district in preparation for the province to participate in the National Games. Our children did us proud and excelled in various codes to ensure that they are ready to tackle the country.

The Black Mambazo group was amongst our community in the Bela - Bela Local Municipality celebrating their 50th year anniversary in the music industry. The province was honored to host them and to ensure that the people in Limpopo got a slice of this countrywide activity, The event was attended by a multitude of music enthusiasts and we thank the people of Bela - Bela for being such a good host and representing the province well.

In a bid to ensure that we generate and explore talent in the province, the department involved inmates at prisons and challenged them to write manuscripts in order for them to be capacitated to eventually write books and short stories. The event created hype amongst prisoners and was well attended with much enthusiasm. The department was delighted to be part of a nation that wants to ensure that inmates are rehabilitated and reintroduced to society.

As part of our Outreach programmes, we attended and participated in the Decorex Exhibition and Exco outreach as Ga- Ntata were members of the communities raised issues related to service delivery.

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

Editor's Notebook



The Department of Sport, Arts and Culture hosted a successful celebration of the Heritage Day on the 24th September 2010 at Marapong Sport Ground located in Lephalale Municipality in the Waterberg District. The celebration was guided by the theme: "Celebrating 2010 FIFA World Cup Successes, Our Heritage". This indeed was a befitting theme for the event given the sterling hosting of the world's biggest sporting extravaganza. Our country's performance in this regard confounded even the doom and gloom sayers who gave South Africa no chance of successfully hosting an event of that magnitude. The successes our country achieved regarding the 2010 FIFA Soccer World Cup are our collective pride and heritage as a nation. They will remain indelible in the annals of our history. They will remain a source of hope and inspiration to posterity to aspire and conquer even greater heights beyond their imagination. Let us preserve and protect this legacy. Let us draw inspiration from these successes as a nation to even scale what appear to be insurmountable political and socio-economic challenges of the moment.

As we wallow and bask in the afterglow of the above-mentioned successes, we must pause, ponder and pose the following questions collectively and individually.

- Are we doing enough to protect, preserve and diffuse our heritage bequeathed to us by the generations that came before us? If the answer is not in the affirmative, we must ask ourselves as to what is it that we can do both collectively and individually to protect, preserve, advance and diffuse our heritage.

- Are we through our actions and inactions building the kind of heritage that posterity will treasure and cherish or will trash and scorn? If the answer is not a positive one, what are the kind of things we must completely avoid which characterizes our current mode of behavior?
- Will posterity pay tribute to our deeds, deeds which as this article is being written are crystallizing into the kind of legacy we will bequeath to future generations? Will posterity decry the fact that we ever occupied the space and time we are currently in?
- Are there aspects of our culture which are not worthy to be preserved, protected, advanced and diffused? If such aspects exist, what are those undesirable aspects?
- Taking into account the fact that culture is dynamic and in constant motion and assumes different forms and content in the passage of time as a result of *inter alia*, disuse, internal and external contradictions, positive interfacing with other cultures, is it practical and desirable to preserve culture in its purest form? Are there aspects of other cultures that we can assimilate into our culture? If yes, what are those and why?

If you have any views on any of the above questions, please share your views with the readers of Mapungubwe News by writing to the:
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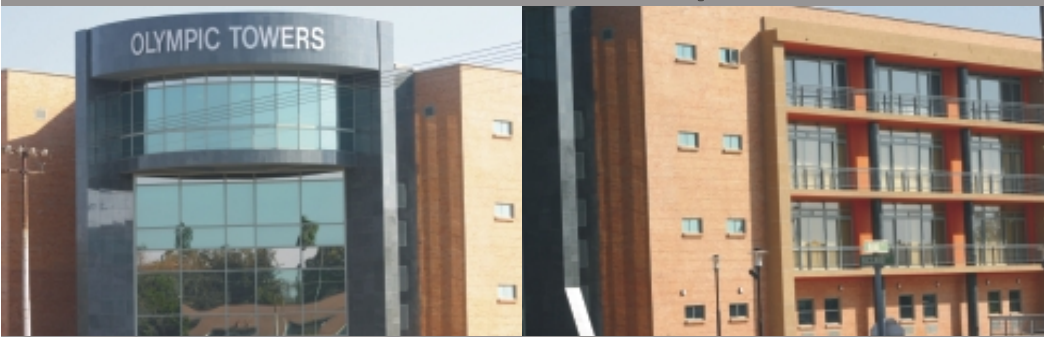
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Limpopo's Museum & Heritage Services

INTRODUCTION

The Museum and Heritage Services Directorate is a sub-branch of Cultural Affairs Branch. Its focus is on dealing with issues of Museum and Heritage Services in the Province. In order to understand the responsibilities of this Directorate, it is imperative that "museums" and "heritage" concepts be defined properly.

Heritage is "that which we inherit". It is the sum total of wildlife and scenic parks, sites of scientific and historical importance, national monuments, historic buildings, works of art, literature and music, oral traditions and museum collections, together with their documentation "(International Council of Museums, 1980). (White Paper on Arts and Culture and Heritage and Shifting the paradigm).

Museums, is therefore not defined separately as it is integrated into "heritage" definition. For the purpose of this article and better understanding of what museums are, their functions are clearly spelt out as follows:

- Museums exist to interpret the cultural and natural world to the public.
- They are places where information and objects of interest to society are managed, interpreted and displayed so that the general public may enjoy, participate and learn.
- They will keep anything, whether natural or cultural, from documents to bugs, beadwork, or folkart to furniture.

For the purpose of this article, "museum" refers to any museum or art gallery that is a permanent institution funded by public money and not engaged in the sale of collections or artworks. The primary role of museums is to look after collections for which it has custodianship. The second major role is research by museum staff members and people who use museum collections to contribute to national and international knowledge in fields such as, *inter alia*,

material culture, archaeo-logy, botany, zoology, palaeontology, anthropology, and history.

PROVINCIAL MUSEUMS

The Department of Sport, Arts and Culture, through its Museum and Heritage Directorate manages three museums:

a) **Dzata Museum**

Dzata Museum is situated in Nzhelele under the Makhado Municipality. The museum tells the history of the Venda people and their culture. It is situated within an archaeological site which was occupied around 17AD. It mounts exhibitions on various indigenous knowledge systems.

b) **Schoemansdal Museum**

Schoemansdal Museum is situated 17km west of Makhado town on the Vivo road on a property of 600Ha.

This museum's focus is on the conflicts

between King Makhado and the Voortrekkers. It consists of an archaeological site where the ruins of the original town are visible. There is also an Open Air Museum that depicts some contemporary dwellings, gardens and out buildings of the period.

c) **Muti wa Vatsonga Open Air Museum**

The museum is within the Hans Merensky Nature Reserve in the ATKV Eiland Spa. It is on the R71 Road from Tzaneen to Ba-Phalaborwa. The museum has collection on Tsonga material culture. It also reflects extensively, the Tsonga history. This is the place where festival of the first fruit (Ku Luma Vukanyi) and the African New Year which starts with the planting and ploughing season (Ku Dzima Xikomu) are celebrated annually.



Know Your Department

HERITAGE SERVICES

**"A nation without a past
is a lost nation.
And a people without a past
is a people without a soul".**

Sir Seretse Khama, first President of Botswana

Most countries preserve their heritage through permanent collections of various kinds- in museums, and through restoration and care of sites having religious, political, cultural, scientific, archaeological or environmental significance. In so doing, they declare what has value for them, what they seek to preserve as evidence of their own as well as other's development and achievement.

Attention to living heritage- "mfuwo, mvelele or setšho" is of paramount importance for the reconstruction and development process in Limpopo and South Africa in general. Means must be found to enable song, dance, story-telling and oral history to be permanently recorded and conserved in the formal heritage structure.

STATUTORY BODIES LINKED TO THE SUB-DIRECTORATE

The Museums and Heritage Services Directorate supports the following Statutory Bodies:

- a) Limpopo Heritage Resources Authority (LIHRA).

LIHRA is established in terms of clause 4 [4] (d) of the National Heritage Resources Act 25 of 1999. The functions of LIHRA include amongst others, the following:

- Advise the MEC on the implementation of the Act or relevant provincial or municipal legislation.
- Annually submit a report to the MEC regarding its activities during the year.
- Promote the systematic identification, recording and assessment of heritage resources and heritage objects which form part of the national estate in the province.
- Protect and manage heritage resources in the province which fulfill the heritage assessment criteria prescribed under section 7 (1) for grade 11 status (can be considered to have special qualities which make them significant within the context of a province or a region).
- Notify SAHRA of the presence of any heritage resource in the province.
- Assist local Authorities to manage heritage resources in their areas of jurisdiction.
- Co-ordinate and monitor performance of Local Authorities in the implementation of their responsibilities in terms of the Act and

Provincial Heritage Legislation

- Determine the competence of Local Authorities to manage heritage resources in accordance with the national system for the heritage grading of Local Authorities.
- Establish policy, objectives and strategic plans for heritage resources management in the province.
- Maintain databases on heritage resources in accordance with national standards and at regular intervals furnish SAHRA with such data.

Other general functions can be found in the National Heritage Resources Act Act 25 of 1999.

- b) Limpopo Provincial Geographic Names Committee (LPGNC)

The LPGNC, was established in terms of the South African Geographical Names Act 118 of 1998 [S2] 2 (a).

The functions of the Committee includes amongst others, the following:

- Advising Local Authorities and working with them in ensuring that they apply principles of the South African Geographical Names Committee to the names under their jurisdiction.
- Responsible for seeing that local communities and other stakeholders are adequately consulted before local authorities via the Provincial Geographic Names Committee to the South African Geographic Names Committee submits any name.
- Does preparatory work for submission to SANGC.

Museums and Heritage Services Directorate ensures that for both LPGNC and LIHRA to operate smoothly, administrative and financial support are available at all times.

EVENTS

The importance of intangible heritage cannot be undermined as it is part of the transformation of the South African Cultural Heritage landscape. In this case, Museum and Heritage Services manages the following events:

- Kuluma Vukanyi (festival of the first fruit)
- Kudzima Xikomu (African New Year which starts with the planting and ploughing season)
- Annual Provincial Heritage Day Celebrations (24 September)
- International Museum Day (18 May)

LINKS WITH NATIONAL STATUTORY BODIES

- a) **South African Heritage Resources Agency (SAHRA)**

The South African Heritage Resources Agency is a statutory body which replaced the old National Monuments Council. It is established in terms of the South African Heritage Resources Act 25 of 1999. At least 9 but not more than 15 members are appointed by the Minister in the prescribed manner, of which nine members must respectively represent each of the representatives

of South Africa. Limpopo is represented by the Chairperson of the Limpopo Heritage Resources Authority (LIHRA).

- b) **National Geographic Names Committee**

The National Geographic Names Committee (NGNC) is an advisory body which advises the Minister and the Department on the naming of places in South Africa, on the gradual correction of the spelling of geographical names, on changes to place names and on the compilation of dictionaries of geographical names. The members of the National Geographical Names Committee are appointed by the Minister. Provinces are represented by Provincial Chairpersons.

- c) **The National Heritage Council (NHC)**

Given the range of tasks required to transform support for heritage, and in accordance with the principles of access, redress and participation, the National Heritage Council (NHC) as a statutory body was established according to the National Council Act of 1999. The NHC advises on policies for research, collections management, curation, exhibitions and education, and establish such panels as may be needed to promote its mandate. The Council will also play a co-ordinating and consultative role in advising on national cultural symbols. The National Heritage Council consists of at least 5 members appointed by the Minister and representatives of each province nominated by the MEC concerned. Limpopo is represented in the NHC.

CONCLUSION

The Directorate is faced with the challenges of balancing the promotion of intangible heritage (which was marginalized during the apartheid era). The advent of democracy in South Africa has given birth to identification, assessment and development of sites like Thulamela in the Kruger National Park, Mapungubwe World Heritage Site, Tjate Heritage Site, (Baleni) Soutini Heritage Site and Dzata Heritage Sites.

Without fear, South African communities are able to practice their living traditions and oral histories that carry valuable messages from the past. Limpopo Province has a rich oral tradition which has been neglected by the written word. Story-tellers, praise poets are the keepers of language, the thinkers and the prophets. Among our traditional possessions there are myths and legends, tales about ordinary folk, animal stories, proverbs, songs and praise poems. These stories expand people's imagination; make them more aware of the wider world around them. There is a greater need to restore living heritage to its rightful place in our heritage management processes.

South African society has been undergoing fundamental transformation over the last 15 years. In accordance with the principles of justice, democracy, non-racism and non-sexism, every sector of our society is facing change. South Africa is indeed on the brink of experiencing a cultural renaissance. The museums and heritage cannot be an exception in this transformation process, since they too were overtly affected by the misdistribution of skills, resources and infrastructure during the apartheid era.

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ACTAG: Shifting the paradigm document of 1997

White Paper on Arts, Culture and Heritage

*Tshimangadzo Nemaheni: Senior Manager
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- Chinese Tea - Health benefits in your daily cup

By Sam Makondo

Shanghai, China - Dragon Long, one of China's renowned harvesters and sellers of varieties of green tea, said more than 90 percent of China's population is prescribed a variant of green tea for various ailments. When given a choice, he said, between western medicines and traditional medicine, most have chosen herbal or green tea.

This interaction with Dragon Lee was also part of the MEC for the Department of Sport, Arts and Culture Joyce Mashamba's efforts to learn more about the indigenous knowledge systems of the Chinese people, its efficacy in their



Mixing.....Dragon Long (standing) preparing green tea for MEC Mashamba's delegation. Pic: Sam Makondo.

communities and the possible benefits it holds for South Africans.

Dragon Lee explained to the MEC some of the health benefits of prescribing green tea to a patient. He pointed out that the good thing about green tea is that you can drink it anytime you feel like - more especially for pleasure, whilst protecting yourself from opportunistic diseases and curing some of them. He further provided the MEC with a list of the teas as well as some samples. The MEC, in turn, told Long that, while South Africa is rich in its own indigenous knowledge, it is only to our benefit to explore new ways of practicing indigenous knowledge and that the sampling of this tea was invaluable information.

The MEC also pointed out that this exchange of ideas and practices will go well beyond only this specific visit.

He jokingly added that there is a miracle in a cup of green tea as he

was preparing the MEC some of the magic beverage to illustrate his point. Long said the Chinese have recognized the medicinal benefits of green tea since the ancient times, using it to treat everything from headaches to depression. Green tea, as Long explained, come in various types. He named and presented to the MEC ten types, such as Gan Piece, Golden Lotus, Ganodermalucidum, Tobacco mosaic, Sweet tea, Liu liu, Dai Dai, Huang Xian, Hey Yu and Huang Luo.

Described as longevity preservation tea, it can help prevent and heal among others: obesity, liver disease, cancer, diabetes, skin disease, neuro-sthenia, constipation, hypertension, weariness, menopause and consolidating immunity.

Since the beverage is also for relaxation and enjoyment, one cannot resist this interesting tea with its unique aroma. To know that it is good for you at the same time, only adds to the benefits. Pour yourself a generous cup!



Oh, Okay.....So, you are from "Nan Fei" (Chinese for South Africa). Pic: Sam Makondo

Magic in the cup.....Sport, Arts and Culture MEC Joyce Mashamba sampling some indigenous Chinese tea. Pic: Sam Makondo.

MEC experiences Chinese heritage at YUYUAN GARDEN



*This is heritage..... MEC Joyce Mashamba during her tour at China's Yuyuan garden.
Pic: Sam Makondo.*

By Sam Makondo

Shanghai, China - Part of the Limpopo MEC for Sport Arts and Culture Joyce Mashamba's recent trip to China was to learn and understand how provinces in other countries preserve and promote historical buildings. It is the mandate of the Department of Sport, Arts and Culture to ensure that such tangible heritage is preserved for posterity and be made accessible for tourist attraction and education purposes. During her visit to Shanghai, China, MEC Mashamba visited one such historic site, which is impeccably steeped in Chinese heritage - the Yuyuan Garden.

Limpopo has such historic and tourist sites such as Pietersburg Old Market building, Tshipiwe Muopfhe house, the Hugh Exton Museum, Irish House Museum, Dzata Museum and many more. Navigating the MEC through the garden was Chris Lee, an Information Officer attached to the South African Mission in China. The Yuyuan garden is located in the centre of Shanghai's old city, "Anren jie", and is believed to date back to the 16th century when Zhang Nanyang, an architect, was commissioned by the Pan family of the Ming Court to build the garden.

It has been built in traditional Chinese style with numerous rock and tree garden areas, ponds, dragon-lined walls, numerous doorways and zigzagging bridges, separating the various garden areas and pavilions. The garden occupies an area of 20,000 square meters with six main scenic attractions: Sansui Hall, Yuhua Hall, Wanhua Chamber, Dianchun Hall, Huijing Hall, Yuhua Hall and the inner garden. Upon entering the garden, you encounter a rockery, which is called the Great Rockery and struck by the sheer beauty of the landscaping.

Visiting the various Halls gave the MEC the opportunity to inspect the carefully preserved, approximately 400 year-old furniture and folk collections that were contributed by private individuals. Most of the furniture and artifacts were almost as if in mint condition. These collections were also a perfect example of how individuals can contribute in preserving heritage. One of the halls also contained a herbal tea experience, led by Mr. Dragon Long. There is more about this experience elsewhere in this edition.



*Music everywhere..... MEC Mashamba joined in to complete the ensemble.
Pic: Sam Makondo*

*Preserved.....
Some of the woodwork preserved for over 400 years.
Pic: Sam Makondo*



RSA PAVILION

Attracts thousands at World Expo



The Republic of South Africa pavilion was an everyday hive of activity during the Shanghai Expo. Pic: Sam Makondo.

By Sam Makondo

Shanghai, China - Sounds of Chinese people saying "I am going to the Nan Fei pavilion" echoed supreme at the 2010 Shanghai Expo. "Nan Fei" is the Chinese for "South Africa" and people visiting the "Nan Fei" pavilion did not mind standing in long meandering queues to visit the building that will teach them more about this magnificent country. The blistering heat and humidity that was experienced in the aforementioned queues was no deterrent and the wait was well worth the effort, because inside the pavilion was a truly South African experience!

People's curiosity about "Nan Fei" has been sharpened by the fact that this country is the first on the African continent to have successfully hosted the FIFA World Cup. The South African pavilion was one not to be easily missed, as it was well and boldly branded by the iconic face of the first democratically elected President Nelson Mandela. Once inside the pavilion, it proved to be a hive of activity with people viewing various exhibitions, unique to South Africa.

The Shanghai World Expo is the largest World Expo ever held with nearly 300 pavilions covering an area



Patently queuing..... people braving the heat to visit the pavilion. Pic: Sam Makondo

of 5.28 square kilometers and is expected to attract over 700 million visitors. Visitors at the South African pavilion are taken on a journey which is truly South African with experiences that range from traditional artifacts, to world-class wine and modern urban living solutions. The pavilion adopts a simple design aimed at creating a peaceful and quiet atmosphere. The arch door looks like a huge canopy, while the interior is decorated with textures in various colors, which signifies the diversity of South African culture and its confidence for creating a better life for all.

The pavilion exudes three highlights, the first highlight is the national features meaning each iconic image of South Africa is framed and emphasized with halos. Zebra patterns on chair pads remind visitors of the natural scenery in South. The second highlight is the full color display screen and these are installed at the exterior core zones to emphasize original South African cultures with images and sounds. The third highlight is the characteristic patio found inside the pavilion with round pads made of ostrich leather on top. Around the body of the patio are timbers for decoration, which resemble a traditional village and fences of South Africa and symbolize the core of its culture, which is humanity.

The Shanghai Expo's theme of "Better City, Better Life" is embodied in South Africa's stunning pavilion with a design inspired by a traditional Southern African "Rondavel" or round house, interpreted in a modern way, fusing traditional designs with modern materials.

A stone's throw from the South African pavilion stood another important attraction, the African Union Pavilion. The African countries of Egypt, Algeria, Nigeria, Tunisia and South Africa were the only ones to have separate and individual pavilions. At the African Union Pavilion, however, it was a sea of local and foreign visitors feasting their eyes on various African creations that were on show, from countries

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Loved by all..... even kids visited the South African pavilion. Pic: Adel van der Linde

such as Chad, Botswana, Rwanda, Zimbabwe, Zambia, Ghana and Cameroon, to name but a few. At the entrance of the pavilion, stood a gigantic African primitive sculpture with words on it reacting towards a glimmering globe, symbolizing the important role

which Africa plays in environmental protection and coordination of world affairs. Entering the pavilion and walking along the curving corridor, visitors get to learn about development of African countries, cultural prosperity and tourist attractions in Africa.

It surely was a proud moment to visit the South African pavilion, interact with the people of China and to be assured once more of the prosperous relations between the host and visiting countries.

Huge attraction.....Africa showcasing to the world. Pic: Sam Makondo



Impressed..... (Clockwise) Rhulani Nkuzani, Adel van der Linde, Jenny Tom and MEC Joyce Mashamba of Sport, Arts and Culture. Pic: Sam Makondo.

By Sam Makondo

Shanghai, China - Limpopo MEC for Sport, Arts and Culture Joyce Mashamba was so highly impressed by the professional work of Chinese designer Jenny Tom that she intends to start a process of inviting her to Limpopo, to impart some of her skills to local designers and seamstresses. Her meeting with Jenny was during her visit to the 2010 Shanghai World Expo in China, where she had the opportunity of meeting various experts in their crafts. She said inviting this young and talented female designer to Limpopo will serve as part of honouring the agreement of cooperation that the province has with Shanghai. Whereas Limpopo has talented designers and seamstresses, there remains a gap in the market for formal wear for both men and women. These skills will prove imperative for the socio-economic empowerment of the people in all districts of Limpopo. Tom said that she is willing to visit the province to share some of her expertise as well as learn from local designers.

Heritage unites Limpopo

By Jermina Kaka

Lephalale - South Africa belongs to all who live in it - regardless of race, colour or creed. Before we can be Pedi's, Shangaan's, Venda's, Afrikaners and Ndebele's - we are first and foremost SOUTH AFRICANS, Limpopo MEC for Sport, Arts and Culture, Joyce Mashamba emphasized this during the heritage day celebration in Lephalale, which attracted members of diplomatic corps from neighbouring countries such as Cuba, Angola, Tanzania, Saharawi Democratic People's Republic, Botswana and thousands of local community members.

The MEC said "Let us freely exchange ideas and live exemplary lives to the codes and standards of our cultures, to ensure that our heritage is preserved. We have the opportunity to freely exchange ideas and practices with our African neighbours and with all other nations, in order to broaden our horizons. There is a wealth of indigenous knowledge to share with each other" MEC Mashamba appealed to the people of Limpopo to go beyond the heritage day by ensuring that the promotion of arts and culture becomes a daily routine.

She encouraged communities, especially the elders to teach the children about their heritage and not to shy away from their mother tongues. "Let us teach them respect and pride for our beautiful national flag and national anthem that symbolize all the positive aspects of this country, said MEC.

She further appreciated the collective participation during the hosting of the FIFA World Cup from the people around the world especially Africans. "About three months ago, South Africa was in the midst of hosting thousands of international guests at the 2010 FIFA World Cup. During this time, we had the unique opportunity as South Africans, to showcase and promote our cultural expressions and diverse heritage.

We were showing the world how we have evolved as a nation. Before the birth of our democracy in 1994, we were divided at all social levels - something which we dare not return to. We have become a living, dynamic example of a unified nation, regardless of our differences. We have laid a firm foundation for unity on the whole of the African continent" said MEC.

Heritage is that which a nation inherits as the sum total of wild life and scenic parks, sites of scientific or historical importance, national monuments, historic buildings, works of art, literature and music, oral traditions and museum collections.



Interact freely.....left to right, Sport,Arts and Culture MEC Joyce Mashamba, Mayor of Lephalale municipality Rosina Mogotlane, MEC for Treasury Saad Cachalia and Hon. Joy Matshoge at the Heritage day celebration. Pic: Sam Makondo



Touring stalls.....Sport,Arts and Culture HoD Desiree Tlhoale checking art and craft products exhibited during heritage day. Pic: Sam Makondo



Get down.....Taxila entertained people at heritage day celebrations. Pic: Sam Makondo

Short corner to parliament

Unqualified audit opinions for three years in succession, reflects that the Department of Sport, Arts and Culture in Limpopo has conducted its service delivery business within a good administrative and legislative framework. The department could account for the allocated finance and conducted its daily activities within the confines of the comprehensive plan it had for the years in point.

We have, in the previous edition, talked about how the department enhances participatory democracy through the statutory and non statutory bodies.

These bodies are constituted by members of the public based on the specific expertise they have. These bodies are:
LIHRA (The Limpopo Heritage Resources Authority)
LACC (The Limpopo Arts and Culture Council)
Sport and Recreation Council

LGNC (Limpopo Geographical Names Committee)
Library Board
MRM (Moral Regeneration Movement)
Limpopo Language Committee

In every district, these entities do their work in collaboration with the various municipalities.

Every community or ward is encouraged to have committees that will ensure that the information flow becomes smooth and all the people benefit from the services that the department renders.

By the time you read this, the MEC, Mrs. H.J Mashamba, shall have tabled the Limpopo Archives and Records Amendment Bill. The Chairperson of the Portfolio Committee of Sport, Arts and Culture Honourable NP Mhlarhi shall have unfolded a program of public hearings on the Bill. In the next edition we shall dissect it to reflect what the service delivery implications are.



*Huza John Nkhwashu
Parliamentary Officer*

The citizens of Limpopo celebrated Heritage Month in style. This was preceded by a very good debate in the Limpopo Legislature. The MEC for Sport, Arts and Culture, Mme H.J Mashamba, wrapped up the whole debate. She indicated that heritage should serve as a foundation for nation building, national identity and social cohesion. Heritage should also become the pillar of socio-economic development in the Limpopo province.

Black Mambazo rocks Bela - Bela

By Charles Modiba

Bela - Bela - The three times Grammy Awards winning, Ladysmith Black Mambazo (LBM) embarked on a countrywide tour to celebrate their 50 years in music and the Limpopo Department of Sport, Arts and Culture partnered with them to ensure that the people of Limpopo are given the opportunity to taste their music and the chance to watch their performances.

The group which has promoted South African culture worldwide featured a Norwegian singer Kristin Asbjornsen during the celebration in Bela - Bela Community Hall recently. The LBM was formed in 1960 by Dr Joseph Tshabalala basing its style on gospel music and traditional African harmonies.

The celebration formed part of the founder's 70th birthday as well as a decade of South African-Norwegian cultural collaboration through the funding organization Mmino, which works exclusively with music projects. It also gave the Department of Sport, Arts and Culture an opportunity to promote local artists by using two local bands as curtain - raisers and indeed they gave a superb performance. The hall was fully packed and the audience was entertained with the best songs.

In an exclusive interview with Mapungubwe News, Dr Joseph Tshabalala, the group founder and lead singer said: "Going back to eKasi feels great, as we will be in touch with the people. This is very special to us as we are able to engage with the people of South Africa and showcase the new things learnt in cities all over the world".

He further indicated that he formed Ladysmith Black Mambazo because of a series of dreams he had in 1960, in which he heard certain isicathamiya



Happy birthdayLegendary Ladysmith Black Mambazo performing at Bela-Bela Community Hall. Pic: Charles Modiba



In attendance.....Fans of Ladysmith Black Mambazo packed the hall during the tour. Pic: Charles Modiba

harmonies (isicathamiya being the traditional music of the Zulu people). Following their local success at wedding ceremonies and other gatherings, Tshabalala entered them into isicathamiya competitions. The group was described as 'so good' that they were eventually forbidden to enter the competitions, but welcomed to entertain them. Although they had been recognised as an isicathamiya group in 1964, they had been singing

together since the early 1950s. They released their first album, Amabutho, in 1973. The album, along with many other releases by the group, received gold disc certification.

Ladysmith Black Mambazo's collaboration with Paul Simon in 1986 paved the way for international releases, making them widely known across the world.

Limpopo artists exhibit in Gallagher Estate

By Charles Modiba

Midrand - The nation celebrated the 17th Decorex exhibition and the Limpopo Department of Sport, Arts and Culture joined the rest by sending a group of fifteen crafters to the Decorex Joburg 2010 held in Gallagher estate in Midrand recently.

The province did not disappoint as one of the crafters (Hassah Arts and Crafters) managed to scoop bronze medal in the South African Handmade collection. The exhibition ran for five days. It featured 650 local exhibitors who showcased their products and services.

This year's exhibition brought stunning designs from the most influential companies within the industry. Aside from over 650 exhibiting companies, it also offered educational content and features which brought the show to life, creating a buzz whilst buyers unearthed the latest industry finds.

As a core part of the renowned South African Design Festival, Decorex puts South Africa on the design map and offers visitors a wealth of opportunities to find exclusive trend-setting products for the seasons ahead.

Decorex is South Africa's pre-eminent décor and design exhibition and a pioneer of the country's interior and exterior, décor and design landscapes. Founded in 1994, the award-winning Decorex SA portfolio continues to play a pivotal role in shaping the industry. Attracting over 100 000 discerning visitors and trade buyers - local and international - Decorex Joburg provided the highest level of return to an ever growing base of select exhibitors.

Karabo Motsheku who works for Hassah Arts &



Accolade..... Karabo Motsheku (left) and Refilwe Seleka (right) showing off the certificate at the Decorex exhibition. **Pic: Charles Modiba**

Creafts, says that she did not believe when her company was announced the third winner in the Individual Exhibitor category. "When I heard the name of my company being called as the third winner, I thought I was dreaming. It feels great to put Limpopo on the Map" says

Motsheku adding that it was not easy to be recognized as there was too much competition from all over the country. Decorex Joburg brought a breath of fresh air to the world of interiors: guided by softness and beauty.

Decorex Joburg 2010 once again showed why it's hailed as Southern Africa's largest and leading décor and interior design event.



Teamwork..... group of exhibitors that represented Limpopo at the 17th Decorex. **Pic: Charles Modiba**



Bargaining..... Limpopo stall was the most visited at the Decorex. **Pic: Charles Modiba**

Corruption can land you in jail - warn inmates

By Sam Makondo

Louis Trichardt - Inmates residing at the Makhado Correctional Centre spoke from experience and urged Sport, Arts and Culture officials to remain honest by staying away from corrupt activities. Speaking at the facility during the Anti-Corruption Campaign organized by the Department of Sport, Arts and Culture in partnership with Makhado Correctional Centre, inmates gave chilling tales that sent shivers down officials' spines. Inmates volunteered to tell their individual stories as a way of warning officials who help themselves from government's cookie jar without proper approval. These inmates who took part in the campaign are all in for fraud and forgery.

One inmate Johannes Molele worked as a police officer for 15 years before he was arrested in what he described as set up. This, he says was done to silence him for having performed his duties to the envy of his corrupt colleagues. "They started setting traps for me and was caught one day on camera shaking hands with a white man. The footage was later used as evidence that I was confirming a corruption deal," said Molele who has a diploma in Police science and serving eight years behind bars.

He urged officials who were in attendance to stay away from corruption and corrupt people as they will one day bring you down with them. "Stay away from it. Your kids and family will suffer," appealed Molele who is serving his sentence for fraud and forgery.

Norman Nemakhavani was head of reception at Matache prison before he got on the wrong side of the law. He did so by signing on behalf of the head of prison to release an inmate and was after some time approached by the Special Investigative Unit to check how the inmate was released. It was discovered that he released an inmate without proper authorization which is tantamount to fraud. Speaking from this sad experience, Nemakhavani urged officials not to



Giving time..... Granny Duba presenting a gift to inmate Lufuno Radzilani. **Pic: Sam Makondo.**

take verbal instructions or undertake their senior's responsibilities without proper authorisation. "It has hurt me a lot. I had kids who were about to go to university. It did not happen," pointed out Nemakhavani serving his six years prison sentence.

Thabiso Malipitsi was busted for cheque fraud and sentenced to three years in prison. He says he was approached by a Nigerian with a job offer and little did he know that it was about cashing fraudulent cheques. "I was arrested inside a bank cashing a cheque. The signature was linked to another cheque fraud case that occurred in Makhado and I had never

been to Makhado," said Malipitsi urging officials to say "NO" to corruption and corrupt people.

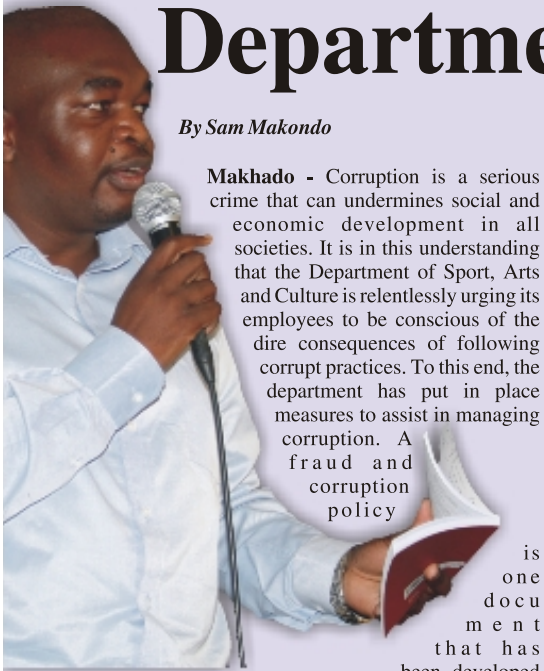
Lufuno Radzilani was also arrested for defrauding a bank that employed him huge sums of cash. He says he did what he did out of anger as he felt discriminated against at work. "I said to myself, let me hit them and go back home," said Radzilani who comes from Katlehong. He regrets what he did and said: "I risked too much for less. I was a breadwinner and my family is still waiting for me to come back and support them. Given a second chance, I will not do it again".



Take no part..... inmates Johannes Molele, Thabiso Malipitsi and Norman Nemakhavani with Kenny Baloyi, Phathu Lukhwareni and Senior officials of the Makhado Correctional facility. **Pic: Sam Makondo.**

Department guards against graft

By Sam Makondo



Makhado - Corruption is a serious crime that can undermine social and economic development in all societies. It is in this understanding that the Department of Sport, Arts and Culture is relentlessly urging its employees to be conscious of the dire consequences of following corrupt practices. To this end, the department has put in place measures to assist in managing corruption. A fraud and corruption policy

is one document that has been developed to en-force measures against corruption. Further, an anti-corruption strategy

Don't do it..... Phathufhedzo Lukhwarieni, Senior Manager speaking the Anti-corruption campaign in Makhado recently. **Pic: Sam Makondo**

Your NO counts.....officials attached to risk management campaigning, left to right, Sello Khungoane, Violet Selala, Mukhondeleli Magada, Kwena Mphaho and Granny Duba. **Pic: Sam Makondo**

aimed at providing clear guidelines in the fight against corruption is also in existence. Speaking at one of the department's Anti-Corruption campaigns targeting new employees recently at Makhado Correctional Facility, Risk Management Senior Manager Phathufhedzo Lukhwarieni warned strongly against practices of corruption. He said people often think that corruption is just a way of life but every society, sector and individual would benefit from saying "NO" to this crime. "It is not worth it. It is time to say "NO". Your "NO" counts and not the next person's "NO", emphasized Lukhwarieni. He said the department will spare no effort in building a well functioning department that delivers public services consistent with citizens' preferences. He also appealed to officials at this campaign not to offer or accept a bribe as it defeats the chances of reaching the goals set by the department every year. He said it was

a fact that we live in difficult financial times but people should never think corruption is the solution. The Anti-Corruption campaign is aimed at raising awareness and creating a culture which is intolerant towards corruption. This is supported by tight internal control systems which deny opportunities for corrupt activities. He further in raising awareness of the department's workforce pointed a danger of obsession when he said: "The more you get away with it, the bolder you get. Once you start, you cannot stop and the day you stop is when you are in prison". He also warned officials who think they can hide corrupt practices and said manifestations of corruption will be seen in them emphasizing the importance of staying away from it at all cost. He called on people to report incidents of corruption and for people to refuse to participate in any activities that are not legal and transparent.



Rehabilitation of inmates through literature

By Sam Makondo

Polokwane - Limpopo department of Sport, Arts and Culture through its Language Services sub-branch is out to add the much needed value to the rehabilitation of inmates housed at the Polokwane Correctional Centre. This is after the language services division conducted a one day authorship workshop at the facility that seeks to train inmates in writing skills. Inmates can now keep themselves busy by putting



Facilitator Ramatsobane Phatudi navigated inmates through the pros and cons of writing. **Pic: Sam Makondo**

pen to paper documenting all sorts of experiences and put them together into a book.

Language Services Senior Manger Dr Agnes Mawela says conducting workshops in prisons will go a long way in redressing marginalized communities. "Inmates at various correctional centres fall under the category of formally marginalized people because they were never exposed to different forms of training," explained Mawela. She highlighted the purpose of the initiative as nothing else but to create awareness in creative writing, empowering inmates with authorship skills as well as unleashing potential in terms of authorship.

She says the benefits of acquiring these skills are immense and include among others job creation for authors as they will benefit from royalties gained from the sale of books. Mawela told Mapungubwe News that interesting enough is that some of the inmates already have hand-written manuscripts which they would like to submit for publishing and the department conducted the workshop at the right time.

Publishing company Shuter and Shooter formed part of the workshop proceedings and was represented by its provincial manager Chiko Letsoala. Letsoala navigated the inmates through the important points to consider if their manuscripts are to be considered for publishing. He encouraged inmates to neatly type their manuscripts and edit for language accuracy. That should be followed by a short synopsis of the book, personal details and sending of both hard and electronic versions of the manuscripts for further editing. Inmates were also encouraged to keep



Write, write and write..... Language services senior manager Dr Agnes Mawela encouraging inmates at Polokwane prison during the recent authorship workshop. **Pic: Sam Makondo**

original copy of the manuscripts for own record. They were warned about poorly assembled work which will be returned to them. An inmate representing a group of inmates in attendance expressed gratitude to the department for taking them on board. "It is not like we cannot write. We will try to write. I know we will not fail. This will keep us very busy,"

Centre Co-ordinator: Operational Support Nngodiseni Mashau appreciated the effort of the department and said it will help in further rehabilitating inmates at the centre. "It will add more to the rehabilitation that is already going on. Inmates do not have much to keep themselves busy and writing will surely assist in that regard," explained Mashau appealing to inmates not to take the opportunity for granted.

EXCO

visits Ga-Ntata community

By Sam Makondo

Ga-Ntata - The community of Ga-Ntata in Bolubedu in the Greater Letaba local municipality had a privilege of the premier and his cabinet listening to their demands and expectations. The visit was part of the ongoing "EXCO meets the people" programme where the leadership of Limpopo provincial government interacts with communities by giving them platforms to raise service delivery concerns.

This opportunity to talk to leaders continues to prove that government is driven by strong principles of interactive governance and the resolve to take government to the people. Exco's visit to this community is one channel of government's accountability to its people within the context of participatory democracy.

An hour before the event started, various MECs visited various areas and projects that fall within their competencies around the Ga-Ntata community. MEC for Sport, Arts and Culture Joyce Mashamba visited the nearest school to inspect the sport facilities. Mashao High School is among the schools that received sport equipment recently from the Department of Sport, Arts and Culture.

This was done in order to ensure that learners at that school take part in various sporting activities of their choice after school hours. At the school the MEC met with the school principal, sport councilors and chairperson of the school sport. They navigated the MEC through some of the challenges the school faces with regard to sport facilities. In her response MEC Mashamba said relevant sections in her department will be sent to assess the situation further for proper intervention.

Poor roads, water shortage, electricity, elements of crime, housing were some of the issues brought up at the meeting.

These concerns were responded to by respective political heads of provincial departments. Besides responding on the spot at the meeting, the issues raised are to be taken to cluster committees and relevant departments for appropriate intervention.

The general feeling was that of appreciation by MECs as they indicated that the comments, questions and concerns raised will enable government to be more considerate and strategic when planning on socio-economic development issues.

Government departments and other service delivery agencies exhibited at the function providing immediate information to community queries.



Listening..... MEC for Sport, Arts and Culture Joyce Mashamba and Huza Nkhwashi listening to the Mashao school principal Rhime Modjadji during a visit to the school to inspect sporting facilities. Pic: Sam Makondo

Making his appeal..... Foster Manyama presenting his case during the "Exco Meets the People" at Ga-Ntata. Pic: Sam Makondo



Department instills culture of reading

By Charles Modiba

Polokwane - The Department of Sport, Arts and Culture joined the rest of South Africans to celebrate Readathon month aiming at developing love for reading and to highlight the importance of literacy in the well-being of a modern nation. The campaign was held recently at the department's headquarters in Polokwane.

Readathon is an annual initiative executed jointly by the Department of Education and READ Educational Trust.

It aims to develop a culture of reading in South Africa, and to highlight the importance of literacy in the well-being of a modern nation through the distribution of books and reading materials to over 26 000 South African schools. It also promotes reading in its widest sense.

It started in 1988 and it is celebrated in the first week of September annually. The campaign was called the Nedbank Readathon previously and is currently called the CNA Readathon. The campaign is immensely popular and is a widely recognised brand in schools across the country.

Rhulani Shirinda, librarian at the Department of Sport, Arts and Culture, Head Office said that the CNA-Readathon 2010 is designed to encourage

every South African to become an avid reader and to promote reading in their communities, hence the slogan for 2010 which is: "Readers are Leaders".

He also indicated that Readathon serves as a channel for the government's core literacy messages to create a common sense of ownership. Shirinda urged departmental employees to make use of the departmental libraries and encouraged them to use their spare time to read books to foster and cultivate

active minds adding that gaining knowledge through reading is an enjoyable experience for people of all ages and cultures.



*Interacting..... Librarian Rhulani Shirinda explaining the importance of reading.
Pic: Charles Modiba*



Reading is to the mind..... Security personnel perusing some literature during the Readathon Week. Pic: Charles Modiba

Officials applaud sign language training

By Sam Makondo

Polokwane - Limpopo Department of Sport, Arts and Culture officials who attended the training on sign language have described the exercise both as an eye-opener and a step in the right direction. About 15 members of the department were taken on a two day training aimed at empowering them with sign language skills in order for them to reach to the sign language community as and when they discharge their respective duties.

Sign language is said to be the most basic human right of the deaf community and has become widely recognized and protected in various legislative and government policies. It is even acknowledged as a language equal in status to the eleven official languages of the country. It is against this understanding that the training division of the department realized that the said recognition will be meaningless unless proper training can take place. With a successful training as this one, officials will be able to communicate and understand deaf and hard of hearing people through the use of sign language. Sign language is also said to be a visual aid, unlike the spoken language. It is learned through your eyes and hands respectively.

Some of the officials who went on this important training believe the training will go a long way in servicing the deaf community better. The department host significant days like Freedom Day, Africa Day, Heritage Day amongst others and deaf people should follow what is happening by communicating in a language they best understand. Language Services Senior Manager Dr Agnes Mawela whose division is charged with the promotion of languages in the province including sign language also attended the training. Her impression of the training is that it will benefit the department and the province at large in terms of the availability of skilled personnel who will



In attendance..... Sign language facilitator Dr Philemon Akach of the University of Free State imparting skills to some officials of the department of Sport, Arts and Culture. Pic: Sam Makondo

assist in sign language related services. "The impact on service delivery will be elevated as there will be redress in terms of sign language services as well as equity in terms of disability," Mawela said acknowledging that the training was interesting and educative.

Lucas Mabotja, Sepedi chief language practitioner says he will be able to interact with the deaf community without prejudice. "The whole workforce should be capacitated in this regard. Our department is event driven. Officials interact with communities more often and it will be difficult to communicate if one does not know basic sign language," explained Mabotja Tshivhenda language practitioner Tshifhiwa

Gangazhe happily said she can now finger spell all the letters of alphabet and can also ask basic questions like what a person's name is and exchanging greetings.

Diana Magamana, Xitsonga Chief Language Practitioner echoed her colleagues' sentiments adding that sign language knowledge will create an opportunity to access the deaf community. "It is important to be able to communicate with someone who is often ignored because they can not hear or speak the same language as those around them," said Magamana warning that mastering sign language takes a lot of practice.



Attentively taken..... departmental officials at the sign language training. Pic: Sam Makondo

Limpopo government sensitise departmental managers



*Know your story.....
Advocate Beauty Chidi encouraging
managers to be switched on
with regard to labour matters.
Pic: Charles Modiba.*

By Charles Modiba

Polokwane - Limpopo Province is serious about turning public service into a positive labour force. This follows the successful two day briefing session conducted by Office of the Premier in conjunction with the Department of Sport, Arts and Culture recently.

The purpose of the programme was to sensitize managers to the broader context of labour relations management and their own specific role. The aim of the session was to assess the capacity of managers in handling labour matters within their respective sub - branches.

The session started with a general introduction of labour relations in the public service and then moved to applicable legislations such as Labour Relations Act, Employment Equity Act, Basic Conditions of

Employment Act and Disciplinary Code and Procedure.

Session facilitator Advocate Beauty Chidi said that the outcome of the session was to ensure that participants should understand the Labour Relations Act, the impact and the value of an employment contract, apply labour relations legislation, work with unions, know the rights and obligations of union

representatives and understand the impact of recognition agreements, know how to appeal and dispute procedures work manage and understand grievance and disciplinary procedures. She further indicated that the backlog of cases prompted the Office of the Premier to embark on a briefing session programme. Chidi urged managers to serve government impartially without being biased to create confidence in the public service.



In attendance..... Some of the managers at the session. Pic: Charles Modiba.

Knowledge is Power



Open door policy..... Dr Agnes Mawela encouraged people to visit the department for services. Pic: Jermina Kaka

By Jermina Kaka

Ga-Mamabolo - Government business opportunities was a key issue during a seminar which attracted the Indunas, local youth, women and the community members at Ga-Mamabolo, Tshwaare village recently. The Department of Sport, Arts and Culture was part of the seminar which was organized by Government Communication and Information System, whereby government departments including parastatals were given a chance to make a presentation about economic opportunities within the public sector.

During the presentation, a representative from the department of Sport, Arts and Culture, Dr. Agnes Mawela - Senior Manager : Languages Services informed the participants about the roles and duties of

the department towards service delivery and community development. Dr. Mawela said the mission of the department is to enhance unity in diversity through the provision of services for sustainable development of sport, arts, culture and heritage in Limpopo.

The enthusiastic participants wanted to learn and know more about the department, but also highlighted the challenges they face in their community about lack of sport facilities, the development of local football clubs, cultural activities development and the functioning of the community library. Dr Mawela said that the doors of

the department are always open, they were provided with the direct link to the department to ensure that their needs are well attended to. One of the participants, Mr Solly Mamabolo appreciated the efforts taken to educate and inform them about government opportunities. Mamabolo said this should not be the end of it but it should be a continuous activity whereby communities are consulted about government services. He said Knowledge is Power. He further said that they are empowered and they will be able to share the education and the information acquired with other fellow community members who couldn't make it to the seminar.



Enquiring mind..... Solly Mamabolo appreciates government's efforts. Pic: Jermina Kaka.

Limpopo revives indigenous games

By Charles Modiba

Bela - Bela - The 2010 Provincial Indigenous Games organized by Limpopo Department of Sport, Arts and Culture was held in Bela - Bela recently. The games offered a refreshing opportunity for the province to engage in games that are truly and indigenously African. The very best indigenous athletes were on view for two days. Limpopo's five districts converged at the Mandela Hub to ditch their expertise against each other in their attempts to progress towards representing the province at the National Indigenous Games festival. The districts competed in codes such as Ncuba, Khadi, Khokho, Diketo, Dibeke, Intonga

and Jukskei.

Indigenous games provide a window for the expression and showcasing of African values and talent. Although there is cultural diversity in Africa, African people share some general values. The games also offers people opportunities to interact and draw energy and inspiration from varied experiences that present limitless possibilities.

Speaking to Mapungubwe News at the official opening of the games, Syril Setlhare, Manager: School Sport said that the objectives of the Indigenous Games festival was to celebrate the rich

cultural heritage by bringing together all people of Limpopo to a central venue where cultural exchanges occurs.

"The games are played for recreational purposes and to revive African culture. This year's competition attracted many people including those from different cultures" explained Setlhare adding that the games will discourage unwanted social behavior by keeping the youth engaged in the games and promote active and healthy lifestyles. More than hundred athletes were selected to represent Limpopo in the National Indigenous games, to be held in Gauteng Province later in the year.



Killer move..... Morabaraba formed part of the games played at the Provincial Indigenous games. Pic: Charles Modiba.



Indigenous run..... this athlete took part in the provincial indigenous game code Khokho at Bela-Bela. Pic: Charles Modiba



Watch it..... two athletes fighting it out to determine the best Diketo player. Pic: Charles Modiba

We love playing Football

By Sam Makondo

Nkowankowa - Limpopo's football grannies say they love playing the beautiful game and age will not stand in their way. Known as Vakhegula Vakhegula-meaning grannies in the Xitsonga language, the approximately 35 women squads gather twice a week for an hour's practice at the football ground next to the Nkowankowa stadium.

Mapungubwe News caught up with the team during one of their practice sessions as they swapped their domestic chores for football, donning soccer boots instead of their usual rubber sandals. What was clear about this outfit is that it is not your average soccer team with their ages ranging from 40 to 80 years. They play with such passion giving their old age no chance in taking its toll on them. Speaker after speaker expressed no regrets, saying football has without a doubt changed their lives in a tremendous way and they are fulfilling their individual dreams.

One of the mid-fielders Reineth Mushwana,



The Legends..... Vakhegula Vakhegula team. Pic: Sam Makondo

otherwise known as "Walaza" in the team says the benefits of playing football outweigh that of sitting at home. "My body is a healthy one. Stress is a thing of the past. Unannounced fatigue no longer attack me and I am very strong," she says with a smile.

The sixty-year-old Mushwana has been with the team since its inception and wear the captain's armband marshalling the troops during their matches. She added the role that football plays uniting the community, young and old. "Football has brought us together. It is so amazing," says the team captain.

Her assistant captain, fifty-year-old Grace Nkuna nicknamed "Habana" by her local fans says if there is one thing she does not regret is being part of the Vakhegula Vakhegula squad. "Football has changed my life. My people' skills have improved not to mention my health," indicated Nkuna adding that she has long said goodbye to opportunistic disease as a result of inactive lifestyle.

The team was founded by community worker Beka Ntsanwisi five years ago to help older women to keep fit and flexible. If not playing football, these passionate grannies are pensioners, domestic workers

and self employed doing staff from craft work to selling fruits and vegetables.

To show that this team is full of talented stars, the team has a player nicknamed Maradona of Argentina. Christina Macebe is that player and she says she earned herself such a name because of her antics in the field of play. The sixty-two-year old Macebe says football has brought her happiness that she never had. "I am stress free. I used to suffer hypertension but it is gone and I am healthier. I sleep like a baby at night," explained Macebe

"Kondos" is another passionate granny who takes pride in her speed and her accurate passes as she does her thing in the middle of the park. Her real name is Modjadji Makondo and sixty-two-years old.

Seventy-seven year old Onica Novela also told Mapungubwe News of her love and passion for the beautiful game and how she plans to continue to play as long as she is around. "I am becoming stronger and stronger. It is an amazing story and I thank Bheka Ntsanwisi for having started this team," Novela said happily.

Limpopo takes part in championship



On the ball..... Limpopo player (white) showing some silky skills.
Pic: Charles Modiba

By Charles Modiba

Parktown - The first ever Inter-provincial championships for the deaf organized by the Gauteng Sports Deaf Federation were held in Parktown recently. Limpopo team competed in soccer and netball and showed more commitment during these games.

Patricia Kgamane, Provincial Director for Limpopo Deaf Sports Federation (LPDSF) says although Limpopo team did not do well during the Inter-provincial championships for the deaf in Johannesburg, she is happy with the results.

Speaking at the opening games at Wits Sports ground in Parktown recently, Kgamane said that she still does not believe that they have managed to compete in these championships as it was not an easy task to raise funds to partake in the competition. "It was not an easy ride to be where we are today. I would like to thank Limpopo Department of Sport, Arts and Culture for giving us the support in the form of transport, soccer kits, accommodation and catering", said Kgamane.



Team Limpopo..... netball outfit that represented the province at the first Inter-provincial championships for the Deaf. **Pic: Charles Modiba**

"We explored all avenues to secure support without success. The Limpopo Department of Sport, Arts and Culture rescued the team on the eleventh hour. The HoD, Desiree Tlhoale showed much of commitment in the development of sport in the province and gave us the go ahead. She promised to speed up the process of securing transport and other logistics and indeed it took them just a week", explained Kgamane.

funds" says Kgamane.

Giving his message of support, Deputy Manager for Sport Development Willy Segole assured the players that they will still have a place in the hearts of the people of Limpopo even if they don't win the tournament.

"Be assured that you remain the champions in our hearts", urged Segole.

"The Inter - Provincial Championships for 2011 will be held in Limpopo depending on the availability of



One love..... Football team that represented Limpopo at the championships. **Pic: Charles Modiba**

Limpopo is on

By Charles Modiba

Seshego - Limpopo's Rugby team fought tooth and nail during the Bottom Five Women's Rugby Tournament held in Seshego recently. This was after they competed in the rugby tournament organised by Limpopo Blue bulls. Team Limpopo started the tournament in high spirit as they walloped National Correctional services team 34 - 5 in their opening game.

After Team Limpopo won 18 - 8 for third position, Coach Letlaka Maja said: "players were scared of their opponents during the second game and injuries to key players was a major blow to us" He further indicated that the team did not get enough training before the tournament. "I will make sure that we get more regular games so that we can prepare well for next year's tournament", says Maja adding that he will engage with Limpopo Rugby to organise more practice matches to enable the players to be fit.

The winning coach for Valke rugby team, the tournament, Devendra Easthorpe, who holds International Rugby Certificate (IRB), Advance



We are the champions..... Valke rugby team were celebrating winning the Bottom Five Women's Rugby victory at Seshego Stadium. **Pic: Charles Modiba**

Certificate in Coaching South African Rugby level 1,2 & 3 says: "I am to ecstatic for the team's achievement. We were the winner in 2006 when this

tournament started and we became second in 2007, 2008 and 2009. In this year's tournament the team didn't get enough training but the mindset of the

Tourney, a resounding success

By Sam Makondo

Seshego - Besides Limpopo having taken an overall third position, tournament director Freddy Chisi has hailed the 2010 Bottom 5 Women's rugby tournament a memorable one. This after the Limpopo Blue Bulls Rugby Union in partnership with SA Rugby hosted the third edition of the Bottom Five tournament at Seshego stadium in Polokwane.

Chisi attributes the success to the sterling teamwork of the Rugby Union, Department of Sport, Arts and Culture and the Limpopo Academy of Sport. These institutions, he says, ensured that tournament logistics were in place and that teams were well prepared for the rugby festivities that ran from 12 to 14 August 2010. It was a women's rugby tournament and coincided perfectly with Women's month. Participating teams included Falcons, SANDF, Correctional Services, Griquas and Blue Bulls Limpopo. Chisi also said without having to sing praises for Limpopo Rugby Union, he believes the tournament has helped market women's rugby in the province and looking forward to seeing more women take part in the sport.

On the state of women's rugby in the province, Chisi said: "Women's rugby in Limpopo is without a doubt growing very fast. The province currently has 7 clubs

that are playing in the official provincial league". The team that represented Limpopo in the tournament comprised players from clubs such as Phagameng Rugby Club (Waterberg district), University of Venda (Vhembe district), Marholeni Secondary (Vhembe district), Moletji Rugby Club (Capricorn district), Mankweng Rugby Club (Capricorn) and Hluvuka Secondary (Vhembe district).

SARU Manager for Sevens and Women's Rugby Mahlubi Puzi said they are serious about developing women's rugby and paid tribute to Limpopo Blue Bulls Rugby Union for creating sufficient platform for women participation. "Tap into the potential Limpopo has and make the game accessible to all the people from all walks of life," Puzi said adding that the game has grown from humble beginnings to serious milestones.

You go girls..... MEC for Sport, Arts and Culture Joyce Mashamba getting to know Team Limpopo during the Bottom Five Women's Rugby.



In the air..... Some of the hard moments that goes with the game.
Pic: Charles Modiba



Team Limpopo..... this outfit took third position in the Bottom Five Women's Rugby tournament. **Pic: Charles Modiba**

the right track

players were 100% and they strived for achievements. I am quite sure that the team will do well in the Vodacom league and will soon play in the elite league".

George Russell, the losing coach for Griquas, says he is not happy to lose the game. He indicated that the reason for the failure was made by the wrong decision the players made during the games. "Most of the players are new in the sport and this tournament was their first competitive games", explained Russell adding that he is going to work on the silly mistakes made by the players and promised that in next year's tournament the team will do better. Valcke Rugby team was promoted to the Vodacom Women's league.



Runners up..... Griquas took the second position at the tournament. **Pic: Charles Modiba.**

INAS-FID roadshow

By Jermina Kaka

Limpopo - The INAS-FID 5TH World Championships 2010 campaign kicked off with a big bang in Limpopo. The representatives from the South Africa's top soccer supporters, Department of Sport, Arts and Culture in conjunction with the Greater Giyani Local Municipality, Mopani District Municipality, SASA II and other stakeholders used a double decker open bus to travel around Giyani, Nkowanowa, Seshego, Mankweng and the surrounding areas distributing pamphlets, t-shirts, vuvuzelas, caps and squeeze bottles.

The campaign which was aimed at promoting and marketing the INAS-FID 5TH World Championships 2010 in Limpopo attracted hundreds of people in all the areas the bus visited. The road show was also aimed at ensuring that the people of Limpopo become part of the championships excitement by encouraging sport especially soccer in communities. It also served as an opportunity to share information on matters such as fixtures and match venues.



You are part of us



One love..... The South African team posing with the MEC for Sport, Arts and Culture Joyce Mashamba. Pic: Charles Modiba

By Charles Modiba

Polokwane - Limpopo MEC for Sport, Arts and Culture Joyce Mashamba, said Limpopo province had the privilege to host two international football events in such short succession and the province welcomed the opportunity to be the home of the INAS-FID World Football Championships.

Speaking at the welcoming function of Team South Africa (The SWANS) in Polokwane, at South Gate Lodge recently, the MEC said since the birth of democracy in South Africa, more and more emphasis has been placed on the recognition of people with all forms of disability. She said in her address that government continues to drive the process of acknowledging and advancing the rights of the differently gifted fellow human beings.

She pointed out that this is done by - among others - providing intellectually impaired athletes with opportunities to grow professionally; by establishing forums for them to showcase their creativity and by supporting any ventures where they can actively participate in sport. She cited the examples of Masingita Masunga who is making great strides of her own in all walks of life. She further in her address said that the SWANS are also an inspiration to those

who may still be disregarded in their communities and not recognized for their worth and the talents they may possess.

"We acknowledge that the benefits of active participation in sport include the fostering of healthy bodies and confident spirits - something that is imperative for sustained health and development in any human being. We therefore need to keep all our people active" explained Mashamba adding that there are still challenges of unearthing talent among impaired athletes in the rural communities of Limpopo and indeed South Africa.

The MEC further said government cannot rest until an understanding and awareness of the inclusion of impaired athletes in sport is created and to direct valuable resources towards necessary infrastructure and programmes of inclusion and active participation.

INAS-FID is the international federation for athletes with intellectual disabilities. The World Football championship for intellectually impaired players is hosted by the country that hosted the FIFA World Cup in the same year of hosting the world cup. The 2014 World Football Championship for Intellectually Impaired athletes will be hosted in Brazil.



Nimble feet..... This Dance ensemble entertained the South African Squad. Pic: Charles Modiba

World championships revives the soccer mood

By Jermina Kaka

Polokwane - Limpopo Department of Sport, Arts and Culture in conjunction with the South Africa Sports Association for the Intellectually Impaired (SASA-II) and the International Sport Federation for people with Intellectual Disabilities (INAS-FID) hosted the successful INAS-FID 5TH World Championships 2010 in Limpopo.

The championships revived the spirit of the 2010 Football World Cup whereby the soccer lovers had an

opportunity to watch the games of the intellectually impaired players. It was the blowing of vuvuzelas everyday from the 23 of August to the 11 of September. Eleven countries that participated include, South Africa, Netherlands, South Korea, Portugal, Germany, France, Turkey, Poland, Japan and Saudi Arabia.

The support from all the districts was amazing, the games which took place at various stadiums such as Peter Mokaba, Seshego, Oscar Mpeta, Nkowankowa and Giyani attracted people from all walks of life,

both young and old, men and women, boys and girls.

The participating teams had great fun in and outside the play ground, as they had a chance to visit some game reserves in Limpopo to view the beauty of the province including its cultural diversity and its richness.

The scores have been fascinating and the level of play was viewed as professional and international. All the teams played at least three games each in the first round of group stages. Fifa rules were also applied. Like any other games yellow and red cards were handed out to curb foul play.



Packed to the rafters..... fans enjoying one of the INAS-FID championships matches. Pic: Sam Makondo



The Swans dance..... South Africa and France dancing together after their match. Pic: Sam Makondo

Artists dazzle visiting countries

By Sam Makondo

Polokwane - Visiting countries that participated in the the 5th INAS-FID World Football championships were treated to a feast of Limpopo finest performing artists in the traditional dance and instrumental ensembles. The championships were purely about football for the intellectually impaired and Limpopo used this opportunity during the official and closing ceremonies to showcase some of its unique cultures and traditions to the thrill of these visiting countries. Other than the host South Africa, countries that enjoyed the cultural entertainment as a way of warmly welcoming and saying goodbye include Netherlands who got second position, Poland, Portugal, Hungary, Germany, France, Turkey, Japan, South Korea and the 2010 INAS-FID World champions, Saudi Arabia. These countries were dazzled by traditional dance groups such as Taxila, RK Dance theatre, Phambile Nge Skhetho, Phuthi Dancers, Mabathane Boswa, Lamino voices choir. Draw card at the official opening was Afro jazz and afro soul sensation Salaelo Selota who performed like his life depended on it to the loud cheers from those in attendance. Another sensation was Maduvha, South Africa's afro pop and gospel singer and actress who performed at the closing ceremony. Ihashi Elimhlophe and his dancing group gave an impressive performance of their singing and dancing skills at the closing ceremony. GO Explor, Robson Rambuwani ZCC Brass Band and Jaco Taylor also performed for the visiting countries.



Never dismiss INAS-FID footballers

By Sam Makondo

Polokwane - When South Africa and Poland kicked off the 5th INAS-FID World Football Championships the writing was on the wall that football fans were in for an exciting tournament. This was with a 3-2 victory for Poland over host South Africa following an exciting official opening that showcased Limpopo's finest cultures welcoming the eleven countries that took part in the championships.

When the two countries took to the field in a hard fought contest, many were not that convinced that the



In charge..... South Africa taking on South Korea at Seshego stadium. Pic: Sam Makondo



Enterprising..... Saudi Arabia against Netherlands at Peter Mokaba stadium. Pic: Sam Makondo

best was still to come more especially after the FIFA World Cup that saw Spain crowned champions in South Africa's Soccer City. The games that followed produced an avalanche of goals with countries like Germany, Netherlands and defending champions Saudi Arabia scoring eight goals against Turkey and France respectively in their first round matches to the thrill of fans.

As if that was not enough, South Africa came back firing all cylinders following their opening loss against Poland to give South Korea a beating of their lives scoring 15 goals with no response from the Koreans. The South African score remains the highest in the tournament followed by Poland's 14-0 against South Korea.



Best keeping..... Portugal against Poland at the Giyani stadium. Pic: Sam Makondo

Better teams on the day showed character and composure to an unparalleled sense of satisfaction of their coaches. They played as if their lives depended on it with competitiveness and intensity that is unrivalled in football. Those that came to the party exhibited will, focus and huge individual talent that was rewarded with some scoring three goals in a game. Countries that fought like no other included the defending champions Saudi Arabia, Poland, Netherlands and Portugal.

Thank you, LIMPOPO!!

By Sam Makondo

Polokwane - INAS-FID team managers were immeasurably grateful and lauded Limpopo for hosting a memorable 5th World Football Championships. Speaking at the farewell dinner aimed at bidding farewell to all the eleven participating countries, manager after manager expressed their gratitude and satisfaction at the impeccable manner and way the tournament was organized and played from the 23 August to 11 September. Each manager congratulated the Champions, Saudi Arabia for winning the championships when they beat the Netherlands 1-0.

Breaking the ice was Poland's team manager Faszczur Zenon expressing his many thanks to the way in which the tournament was run and the hospitality shown by the province from the first day the team landed in the country. He pointed out the President of South African Sport Association for the Intellectual Impaired Lizzy Vogel as having been the

jewel and very helpful. Germany's team manager Robert Voigtberger said: "Thank you Limpopo. Everybody has made the tournament a memorable one. The friendliness was overwhelming and we will go back the happiest country in that regard" Christophe Deve of France expressed his gratitude in French and he was followed by Hungary's team manager Mozes Sander who thanked Limpopo, Polokwane, Lizzy Vogel and South Africa for a memorable championship. Kohichi Saito of Japan promised to come back to the province following his country's wonderful stay in the country. Runner up Netherlands' team manager Nauta Hendrik was particularly impressed by the amount of work put in by the volunteers from day one to the final. "Volunteers were very helpful. They were truly amazing." It was an honour for Portugal's team manager Victor Pereira for having participated in the championships hosted by Limpopo.

Seo Won Young, South Korea team manager asked God to bless South Africa and Limpopo, the province

that hosted the championship. Team manager of Turkey, Aynur Cicek thanked the province for hosting his country in its first participation in the INAS-FID Football Championships. The hosting country team manager Navigator Mangadi said wished the visiting countries well as they return to their countries after such a successful tournament saying South Africa rose to the challenge but other teams were better. "We congratulate Saudi Arabia," Mangadi said.

The 2010 INAS-FID 5th World Football Champions team manager Ah Ahamed Al Ohamed was the happiest of them all following his country triumph over Netherlands to claim the world championship for the second time. "We have experienced amazing hospitality in this country," said the Saudi team manager emphasizing teamwork aimed at developing INAS-FID footballers. Limpopo played host to the championships and venues included Peter Mokaba stadium, Seshego stadium, Nkwankowa stadium, Oscar Mpetha stadium and Giyani Stadium.



Thank you... Germany team manager Robert Voigtberger.



Awesome tournament... Japan team manager Kahichi Saito.



Wonderful experience... Team manager of Netherlands Nauta Hendrik.



Memorable tournament... Saudi Arabia winning team manager Al Ahamed Al Ohamed.



Unforgettable experience... Victor Pereira, team manager of Portugal.

Fond farewell to INAS-FID stars

By Sam Makondo

Polokwane - "Goodbyes are not forever. Goodbyes are not the end. They simply mean I will miss you till we meet again!" This expression proved true when the MEC for Sport, Arts and Culture Joyce Mashamba bid farewell to the countries that took part in the INAS-FID 5th World Football Championships hosted by Limpopo. Delivering her farewell message at an evening function at Polokwane's Marco Hall following the crowning of Saudi Arabia as world champions for the second time, MEC Mashamba's first thing first was to congratulate the champions. "You are the champions! You are the champions of the INAS-FID 5TH World Football Championships 2010, in Limpopo, South Africa and the champions of the hearts of its people. We hope you will think back to this time with pleasant memories. Please take with you to your country, our warmest greetings and congratulations," said the MEC.

She said in her address that championship has left a lasting legacy for the people of Limpopo especially those in the rural parts of the province. "You have given them a gift that is the opportunity to view a prestigious international sporting event. For this, we will be forever thankful to you," appreciated the MEC.

She added in her message that she trusts every visiting country had a memorable stay in the province that is characterized by colorful sights and rhythmic sounds. "We hope you have experienced the friendliness and openness that characterize us as South Africans," said Mashamba. MEC Mashamba further said the tournament was a platform for forging friendships both on and off the field between people of different cultures and different continents. She also hailed footballers for their true amazing talents not forgetting the managers who groomed these players to the high level of competence as was seen during the championships.

Her message to the teams that did not make to the finals was: "We know you have done your best. We realize that hard work and effort had been put into your preparations and we want to assure you that we have enjoyed your performances, goal after goal"

She also thanked all the people who worked hard behind the scenes to ensure the success of the teams. "Your hard work and dedication has not been in vain and we can now proudly say that Limpopo has been a gracious host, thanks to your efforts," signed off the MEC asking God to take care of everyone.

SASSA-II President Lizzy Vogel also thanked all the participating countries acknowledging that it is not easy to be away for three solid weeks. She also thanked managers for preparing teams for such a tournament and said it takes discipline and hard work.

Vogel's farewell message was clear and straight forward: "We made friends. It is going to be empty when you leave. We wish all the best as you return home. Do not forget friends you made"



It was nice meeting you..... MEC Joyce Mashamba saying goodbye to the countries that took part in the championships. Pic: Sam Makondo



Thank you..... Poland team Manager Jaszezur Zenon with SASSA-II President Lizzy Vogel at the farewell function. Pic: Sam Makondo



Good job..... Leila Ebrahim receiving a gift from Saudi Arabia Team Manager Al Ahamed Al Ohamed. Pic: Sam Makondo



Bidding farewell..... departmental choir singing at the farewell function. Pic: Sam Makondo

Tourney gets a high-five



On the ball..... (left to right:) MEC Soviet Lekganyane of Local Government, MEC Joyce Mashamba of Sport, Arts and Culture, HoD Desiree Thloaele and Lizzy Vogel of SASSA-II presenting the man of the match to Portugal player. Pic: Sam Makondo.

By Sam Makondo

Polokwane - The 5th INAS-FID World Football Championships was successfully hosted thanks to the visionary and impeccable leadership of Limpopo MEC For Sport Arts and Culture Joyce Mashamba. This is according to INAS-FID President for the European Region Geoff Smedley.

Speaking to Mapungubwe News in an exclusive interview Smedley did not mince his word in saying that tournament has gone extremely well and he specifically attributed that to the support INAS-FID received from the provincial department of Sport, Arts and Culture. "The MEC has shown interest from day one in this championships and the rest as they say is history," beamed Smedley pointing out that the tournament has met expectations.



Fantastic tournament..... Geoff Smedley (Left) with one of the SAFA match Commissioners ushering teams to the field of play. Pic: Sam Makondo

"She has been fundamental to the tournament. She has got 100 percent interest in people with disabilities. Her department has also been fundamental in making sure that everything ran according to plan," added the president. He acknowledged that like in any big tournament there will be small disappointments but hailed without a doubt the championships a resounding success that enjoyed all the support. Besides the support of the provincial government, the INAS-FID President said they were also handsomely supported by SAFA. "Support has been great. Matches have been supported by SAFA. They supplied officials, not just referees but commissioners and that has made a huge difference to the way games have been managed," said the president who was an official representative for INAS-FID. He praised referees for managing the games with such professionalism in the entire tournament. "Referees were fantastic. They controlled the matches with such enthusiasm. They kept them flowing. The cards were justified. They have done a good job," explained the satisfied Smedley.

Smedley also said the tournament would not have been exciting if fans never made to the stadiums saying the fans were equally supportive and fantastic. "Fans were terrific. I always saw a huge crowd. They have been very enthusiastic," appreciated Smedley adding that it was a good opportunity for Limpopo to see athletes playing football.

Feedback from participating countries is another thing the president pointed out. He said teams were happy whether winning or losing. "It has been a good experience for the players. They have seen different parts and aspects of Limpopo. It is an experience for them. They do not get out a lot," Smedley explained to Mapungubwe News.

It was clear that Smedley is a happy and satisfied man following a successful staging of the 2010 championships when he finally said: "Thank you is not enough but it's all you've got. I cannot say thank you big enough or loud enough really."

President of the South African Sport Association for the Intellectualaly Impaired Lizzy Vogel echoed Smedley's impressions of the tournament when she said: "We gave the province an opportunity to attend the games. We did very well given the fact that Limpopo hosted the first time. We pulled it off. Everything went according to plan."

Brazil will host the 6th World Championships.



Heads or tail..... referees did a good job the championships. Pic: Sam Makondo

Saudis retain title

By Sam Makondo

Polokwane - Saudi Arabia have successfully retained their World Championship title in a battle of nails final against Netherlands in the INAS-FID Football in Polokwane. The Kingdom of Saudi Arabia outfit, commonly known as Saudi Arabia, won the championship in Germany four years ago against the same side making this year a repeat in which The Netherlands were hoping to redeem themselves following a consolation runner up position. Saudi Arabia won the match 1-0.

Played at the packed Peter Mokaba, the final lived up to expectations to the thrill of the supporters as the Saudis' brilliant run in the tournament was handsomely rewarded when the Netherlands fell in the second stanza of extra time. This after both teams failed to score in the regulation time making the game more exciting and a dream final. Their victory over the Netherlands has ensured that the Saudis, being the largest Arab country of the Middle East, joins the pantheons of football greats and resolves any reasonable doubt just who is the best country in the world today.

Jumping up and down and not finding his voice perfectly, Saudi Arabia winning coach Abdul Aziz described his country's win as a great one. "It is a good feeling to have defended the title. It is the second world cup for me and the team has delivered. I am very proud of the boys," explained the coach through his translator. He also pointed out that the Netherlands are a good side who played enterprising football but his team was a better side on the day and deserved the crown.

It was not the same feeling for Renna Buma, the Netherlands coach who came second again to the same team four years ago. Buma described the final as a battle between David versus Goliath only that his David side lost to Goliath. "My team is young and not so experienced but gave a good account of themselves in the championships. I am very proud of what the boys did," summed up the disappointed coach who also added that his boys' mistake was to give too much respect for the champions. The road to the finals for Saudi Arabia was a smooth one and saw them eliminating France, Japan, Hungary and Poland. In all these assignments they scored a total of twenty one goals. Two of their players were outstanding in the tournament with Mayed Alawsari have been voted Player of the tournament and their goalkeeper Ahmed AL Rashid walking away with the Golden Glove award. Brazil hosts the 6th INAS-FID World Football Championships.



INAS-FID Champs..... Saudi Arabia successfully defended their championship at Polokwane's Peter Mokaba stadium. Pic: Sam Makondo.



Well done..... Executive Mayor of Capricorn District Lawrence Mapoulo congratulating Player of the tournament Mayed Alawsari with MEC Mashamba looking on . Pic: Sam Makondo



Congratulations..... MEC Joyce Mashamaba about to shake hands with recipient of Golden Boot Guilherme Silva of Portugal. Pic: Sam Makondo



Dancing..... Golden Glove recipient Ahmed Al Rashid of Saudi Arabia. Pic: Sam Makondo

BOXING GYM

- NO WHITE ELEPHANT -

By Sam Makondo

Malamulele - Boxing trainer extraordinaire Eric Baloyi has vowed to make Malamulele Boxing Gymnasium a centre of boxing excellence by training and staging tournament at this state-of-the-art facility. Baloyi says he has always, still is and will always be driven by the burning desire to unearth and produce boxing talent right from Malamulele Township and its surrounding villages. The gymnasium valued at approximately R9m, was officially opened for use by the community last year by the Minister of Sport and Recreation Makhenkesi Stofile and MEC for Sport Arts and Culture Joyce Mashamba. Baloyi, father to Cassius "The Hitman Baloyi" has been hard at work since then and is busy training about 108 aspirant male and female boxers as young as eight years old.

These trainees, he says hail from the township itself and the neighbouring villages such as Madonsi, Xithelani, Mafanele, Gija-Mhandeni, Gandlanani, Jeromi and Xibangwa. Baloyi has a straight forward training schedule that takes place from Tuesday to Friday. On these days they do roadwork and punch work and exercise such as pushups, stomach and chest exercises. He says the weekend is always reserved for practice and boxing tournaments that are staged right at the gymnasium with Mondays reserved for reviews of weekend activities.

Other than the physical training, there is a day dedicated to teaching boxing theory. The theory covers boxing aspects such as punches and defense, body movement, ring craft and tactics and boxing stands emphasizing good balance.

Since opening, a total number of 12 boxing tournaments have taken place at the gymnasium and they include among others Inter Boxing tournament, Makhoma Boxing tournament, Gladiator tournament, Elim Superspar tournament and Kubvi development tournament.

Baloyi added that he is looking ahead and has already started training boxers for the 2012, 2016 and 2020 Olympics.

Rofhiwa Nemukula is one the trainees. He is only 12 years and attend school at Xihlovo Primary School. He told Mapungubwe News his reason for doing boxing. "I want to be famous. Boxing has a lot of famous people. I want to be on television," said



Nurturing..... Young trainees hard at work under the watchful eye of boxing trainer Eric Baloyi. **Pic: Sam Makondo**

Nemkula citing Cassius Baloyi and American boxer Floyd "Money" Mayweather as his role models. Nemukula added that he likes boxing because he won't have to warm a bench as it happens in football.

Thirteen year old Ripfumelo Khosa said he joined boxing because his friend was forever at training every time he went to visit him. Baloyi is also training female boxers. Basani Nkuna told *Mapungubwe*

News that she is training very hard to become a professional boxer. "Just watch the space. If you are not reading about me you will be glued to your telly watching me as I knock them out in the ring," said the grade 12 learner from Xithelani village. Ntshunxeko Ndlovu who attends school at Malamulele High says all she loves is boxing as it instills discipline in a person. "I love boxing. It is a good sport. You stay fit and learn discipline," pointed out Ndlovu.



Dedicated..... some of the female boxers trained by Eric Baloyi. **Pic: Sam Makondo**

Passionate punchers.....a group of young boys aspiring to be hard hitters in the boxing ring. **Pic: Sam Makondo**

