

# Tibuya *amasisweni*

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maiden budget speech

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From Russia with song



culture, sport & recreation  
MPUMALANGA PROVINCE  
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

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# Editorial

Sibongile Nkosi Director: Communication

**W**e are pleased to bring to the people of Mpumalanga another exciting edition of *Tibuya Emasisweni* which is informative and edutaintive. We want to assure our readers that due diligence was followed when we produced the newsletter and it is a platform that we communicate our successes as we implement programmes of the Department in all corners of Mpumalanga. The Sixth Administration has hit the ground running and as the department of Culture, Sport and Recreation, we have a new political head, MEC Lindiwe Ntshalintshali who needs no introduction to the portfolio. She is a seasoned leader having served in various portfolios in the local government sphere and she has already impressed upon officials in the department to focus on their work and ensure that services are rolled out so that people in the province will have access to libraries, sporting infrastructure and the arts and sport in the province reach a new level of excellence. We are hard at work producing champions and we are continuing to fly the flag of Mpumalanga high.

We have successfully hosted the Mpumalanga Sports Awards that were the talk of country and they were broadcast on Supersport and they positioned Mpumalanga as successful host of high calibre events. Our MEC highlighted the priorities of the department for the current financial year when she tabled her maiden policy and budget speech and we are reporting about these developments in this edition and we urge our readers to read about what the department will be doing this year so that they can hold us accountable. We are providing opportunities for our talented artists as we want the creative industry to be one of the sectors that stimulates the economy and in line with this approach, we have sent Iqugalipholile to Russia to take part in the Ural Cultural Festival.

We urge our readers to keep on reading the newsletter so that they can get information about how the department is implementing its mandate.





## New libraries for Thulamahashe, Sakhile and Thubelihle

Culture, Sport and Recreation MEC Lindiwe Ntshalintshali says her department will invest more resources in library infrastructure in the current financial year.

According to MEC Ntshalintshali, who was delivering her maiden budget vote speech on July 11, said putting more resources in library infrastructure will go a long way in improving and changing the provincial landscape by bringing world-class facilities closer to the people.

“In order to redress the imbalances of the past and bring equal opportunities to the people of Mpumalanga in the field of education, the province has commenced with the construction of three state of the art libraries in Thulamahashe, Sakhile and Thubelihle.”

Added the MEC, “We are convinced that the newly-built libraries have propelled a new culture of reading and acquiring of information by members of the community both young and old. This government is committed to improve literacy levels of our people and libraries play a crucial role in this regard, as we want to create a reading nation that will enable all our people to acquire knowledge to improve their lives.”

The department invested in the state of the art infrastructure to ensure that people do not walk long distances to access libraries. The 117 libraries in the province are equipped and resourced with latest titles and technology, including Internet and free WI-FI, which responds to the needs and aspirations of pupils and embraces the Fourth Industrial Revolution.

### CULTURAL AFFAIRS

The people of the province can expect a bigger and better Mpumalanga Cultural Xperience later in the year. “The Mpumalanga Cultural Xperience is in its fourth year of existence and its popularity has grown immensely. This signature event of the province is expected to grow significantly over the next five years to rival other similar events in the country. This initiative will provide a platform for diverse cultural groups, local artists and crafters to showcase their talents,” commented MEC Nsthalinsthali.

In this financial year, the department will continue to support the promotion of four cultural events through preservation programmes of Culture and Heritage, which are Miss Culture Indoni, Umkhosi woMhlanga, Komjekejeke and Erholweni. We will work closely with stakeholders to reconfigure the selection and hosting of the Miss Culture Indoni event.

Matters of bringing the people of the province will also be high on the agenda for the department in this financial year. Announced the MEC, “The Province will continue to fight against racial discrimination and xenophobia through community social cohesion dialogues, targeted workshops and national commemorative days. In addition we will continue to create awareness of our national symbols and orders in schools and communities.”

### SPORTS AND RECREATION

MEC Nsthalinsthali also announced the department will be naming the teams that will be playing in this year’s Mpumalanga Cultural Xperience Cup. The tournament will be used to popularize support for the upcoming Mpumalanga Cultural Xperience festival in December, while also promoting sport tourism and maximizing economic spin-offs in Mbombela.





# POLICY AND BUDGET SPEECH IN PICTURES







MEC Lindiwe. L Ntshalintshali

# MEET THE NEW MEC OF THE DEPARTMENT

She is an accomplished administrator, strategist and politician and brings to this portfolio an abundance of experience at a strategic level in the public service.

Her strength and capacity was further reaffirmed when she was appointed as a Chairperson of the Land Use Committee as well as the Member of the Mayoral Committee for Technical Services for the same municipality. She was then appointed as an Executive Mayor of eMalahleni in 2015 she served her respective deployments with distinctions and the South African Local Government Association could not ignore her sterling work, and she was appointed to serve as a Provincial Executive Member of SALGA between 2013 to 2015 term of Office. Ntshalintshali also served as president of the UCLGA (United Cities and Local Governments of Africa)

Her contribution to Local Government was recognised nationally and she was appointed to take on higher responsibilities at the National level in 2015. She was appointed as a Deputy President of SALGA and a Chairperson of the Sub-committee of Climate Change on the African Continent. Her term was decorated with various accolades and recognition for Excellence.

Ntshalintshali has attained her Diploma in Nursing Auxiliary (Middelburg Nursing College), Executive programme in Municipal Leadership and Development (University of Pretoria), Executive Programme in Municipal Finance (Wits University) and Executive Programme in Leadership Development (Wits University).

Ntshalintshali's political activism also demonstrates her resilience and capacity to lead society and advocate their needs. Her activism started from COSAS as a student and later she to becoming a member of the Sub regional structure of ANC Youth League. In 2005 she was elected to serve as member Provincial Executive Committee of the ANCYL Mpumalanga where she served the interest of young people with courage and diligence and she was later elected as the Deputy Secretary and RWC member of ANC Nkangala Region.

**L**indiwe Ntshalintshali was born in a small mining village of eMalahleni called Phola on the Highveld area of Mpumalanga Province. She completed her Senior Certificate at Mabande Comprehensive School two years after the dawn of Democracy.

She pursued her career in Nursing at one of the recognised public hospitals previously named Middelburg Hospital and her passion to serve the people was aroused. During all this period from High School days till current she has always been an Activist, and her participation in Politics resulted to her election to serve in government..

Ntshalintshali was elected as a PR Councillor and a Member of the Mayoral Committee for Development and Planning at eMalahleni Local Municipality during the administration term of 2006 to 2011.

She have served in various capacity of ANC structures from Branch Chairperson to REC member until such time that she was elected into the ANC Provincial Executive Committee in 2012 and tasked with the responsibility of Heading the Provincial Elections for the campaign of 2014 National General Elections. In 2015, at the 12th Provincial Conference, Ntshalintshali was elected as the Provincial Deputy Secretary and was tasked with coordinating the provincial elections in the province until date.



# Mhango wins big at Mpumalanga Sports Awards



**Y**oung chess player, Banele Mhango (16) is the toast of the Mpumalanga sporting world after he walked away with top honours – Sports Star of the Year - at the local sports awards.

The Mpumalanga Sports Awards were held in July at Emnotweni Arena in Mbombela and attracted all the big names in the sporting world. Among the dignitaries who attended the awards, we had President of South African Football Association, Danny Jordaan, legends from Witbank Black Aces, Orlando Pirates Captain, Happy Jele and Mpumalanga Sports Confederation President, Linda Zwane among others. The Awards were broadcast on Supersport and people across the country were able to see what Mpumalanga offers in terms of sport.

The Sport Star of Year, Mhango, who hails from Pienaar in the Ehlanzeni District, is regarded as the best thing to have happened to chess in a long time and the coveted award confirms that the Lihawu High School pupil is indeed the real deal. The Master, as he is affectionately known in the sport, beat a strong field to win the top award. In a short period of time, he has secured his place as the hottest young talent in the province. A status he achieved after being crowned national u/16 champion and joint African Youth Champion.

He also won a gold medal at South African Open Rapid Chess Tournament and a bronze medal at the South African Open Classic Championship.

The Mpumalanga Sports Awards is a platform used by the department of Culture, Sport and Recreation to honour, celebrate and reward sport excellence in the province.

Speaking at the event, MEC Lindiwe Ntshalintshali said, “We want to express the high regard that we hold for our sporting stars who have flown the Mpumalanga flag sky high by recording noticeable achievements that made us proud as a province as we are slowly but surely living to our mandate of creating champions in the province of the rising sun. Sport remains an important and essential factor in our efforts of fostering social cohesion and nation building in the province. We remain committed to use sport to heal the wounds and divisions of the past so that we can together build a democratic, non racist and progressive country where citizens will be patriotic and biased towards the developmental agenda of government.”

*Continued on page 7 and 8.*





Sports Star The Year  
Banele Shabangu



School Team of the Year:  
Morgenzon Agricultural High



Sports Administrator of the Year  
Frank Mbele



Newcomer of the Year  
Okuhle Mke



Indigenous Games Star of the Year  
Banele Shabangu



Sports Woman of the Year (with disability)  
Gopolang Johanna Mogale



Sports Women of the Year  
Zara D'Abbadie





Lifetime Achievement Award  
Christelle van Wetten



Sports Legends  
Simon Ngomane & Cyprian Maimane



MEC's Special Award  
Girly Mndawe



Sports Fan of the Year  
Manyovu



Photographer of the Year  
Richard Nkosi



Sports Journalist of the Year  
Bono Swagg



Sports Man of the Year (with disability)  
Raymond de Freitas



Team of the Year  
TS Galaxy



MEC's Special Award  
Innah Ngomane

## HONOURS ROLL:

**Sports Administrator of the Year** Frank Mbele | **School Team of the Year** Morgenzon Agricultural High  
**Newcomer of the Year** Okuhle Mke | **Volunteer of the Year** Florence Webb Deyse  
**Indigenous Games Star of the Year** Banele Shabangu | **Team of the Year** TS Galaxy | **Coach of the Year** Theresa Rossouw  
**Sports Woman of the Year (with disability)** Gopolang Johanna Mogale | **Sports Women of the Year** Zara D'Abbadie  
**Sports Man of the Year (with disability)** Raymond de Freitas | **Sports Man of the Year** Jannie Degenaar  
**Sports Fan of the Year** Manyovu | **Sports Journalist of the Year** Bono Swagg  
**Sports Photographer of the Year** Richard Nkosi | **Lifetime Achievement Award** Christelle van Wetten  
**Legends Award** Josiah Thugwane, Phiri Ngomane and Cypri Maimane

**MEC's Special Award** Innah Ngomane and Girly Mndawe



# MPUMALANGA SPORT AWARDS IN PICTURES





# Iqhugalipholile steals the show at Ural Cultural Festival in Russia.

Full story on page 11 and pictures on pages 12 and 15.





# Iqhugalipholile wows audiences in Yekaterinburg



**T**hey came, they performed and they conquered – that is the best way to describe Iqhugalipholile’s performances at this year’s Ural Cultural Festival in Yekaterinburg, Russia.

Audiences all over the city were eating out of the palms of the nine-member groups’ hands. It could have been their dance moves, their melodic voices or the mesmerizing sounds of the guitar that had the Russians screaming for more wherever the group performed. The tour was from June 25 to July 3.

“We want to thank the Mpumalanga Provincial Government for affording us an opportunity to showcase Maskandi music and isiZulu dance culture in Russia. We also appreciate the warm reception we received in Russia,” explained lead vocalist and guitarist, Dumisani Mofokeng. The other members of the group are Vusi Nkosi (manager), Vusumuzi Gwebu (dancer), Sibusiso Mathebula (dancer), Mxolisi Manana (bass guitarist), Sibusiso Nkosi (dancer and backing vocalist), Mondli Nkosi (dancer), Sipho Mokoena (dancer) and Njabulo Mofokeng (drummer).

Iqhugalipholile started their tour with a performance at a children’s hospital and that performance brought smiles to the sick patients who were temporarily healed by the power of Maskandi music. Thereafter, the group wowed audiences at the Ural Music Festival, which brings together different music styles from all over the world. It features more than 50 bands, which perform in various stages in Yekaterinburg.



The group was in Russia as part of the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU), which was signed by Mpumalanga Premier Refilwe Mtsweni-Tsipane and her Sverdlovsk counterpart, Evgeny Kuyvashev. Yekaterinburg is the capital city of Sverdlovsk region. The aim of the MoU is to strengthen cooperation between the two provinces by tapping into the cultural, economic, sport scientific, technological and tourism market of the two countries.

Last year, Abafana Bakamgqumeni represented Mpumalanga at the festival. In 2017, Inkwazi and Angie-M flew the local flag high at the popular festival.



# Ural Cultural Festival in Pictures















Iqhugalipholile vocalist and dancer, Siphiso Mokoena.



# Mpumalanga mini-library impresses at APSD conference

Exhibitors: Bongani Sibambo and Vincent Omondi



At the end of Day 2 at the Africa Public Service Day (APSD) Conference in Nairobi, Kenya, Bongani Sibambo pulled at the heartstrings of the delegates and exhibitors alike.

“Today is the happiest day of my life. I am happy to have met someone like me. It was my biggest dream to come to Kenya and meet a blind person at the conference,” said Sibambo at the Kenyatta International Convention Centre after meeting a blind resident of Nairobi, Vincent Omondi (24).

He continued, “I am grateful to get a chance to interact with Vincent, who is visually impaired like me and to teach him more about the Mini-Library for the Blind.”

Sibambo was in Nairobi as part of the Department of Culture, Sport and Recreation delegation showcasing the beauty of the Mini-Library for the Blind and visually impaired at the three-day conference, which was held from June 21 to 23.

The theme for the conference was, “The intersection of Youth Empowerment and Migration: Entrenching a Culture of Good Governance, ICT and Innovation for Inclusive Service Delivery.”

It was as if the theme was put together for the Mini-Library for the Blind. This is a service that is at the centre of innovation and it involves young people and benefits the whole community.

Culture, Sport and Recreation MEC, Lindiwe Ntshalintshali congratulated the delegation for flying the Mpumalanga flag high at the conference and has also encouraged locals to make use of the service of the Mini-Library for the Blind, which has been rolled out to other libraries in the province, since it was launched at Kamaqhekeza Public Library.

At the Kenyatta International Convention Centre, the department had a stall where officials, including Sibambo demonstrated how the Mini-Library for the Blind has changed the lives of people in Mpumalanga. One of the visitors to the stall was Vincent’s sister. She was impressed by it and promised to bring her brother to experience the Mini-Library for the Blind for himself.

“I am glad to be in this place and to interact with the gadgets and technology that I have not been in a position to interact with in the past. It has offered me an opportunity to interact with a hard copy book. I am impressed with the technology. I also look forward to interacting with Bongani,” Omondi said after being taken through the Mini-Library for the Blind.

The Mini-Library for the Blind provides assistive devices like computer hardware and software specifically designed for the blind and visually impaired users. Additional devices include document readers and audio playback equipment, audio and braille books and accessible book lending services to members on request.



Director of Library Services, Musa Sibambo(not related to Bongani) explains how the Mini-Library for the blind works to visitors to the stall



Ernst Sitiba chats to Monique Ronoh and Doreen Ndunge, while shobi Mudaka looks on



A visitor to the stall listens to Shobi Mudaka, Musa Sibambo, Ernst Sitiba and Bongani Sibambo talk about the Mini-Library for the Blind



# Mpumalanga Cycling Tour promotes social cohesion and nation building

*Read more on the next page.*



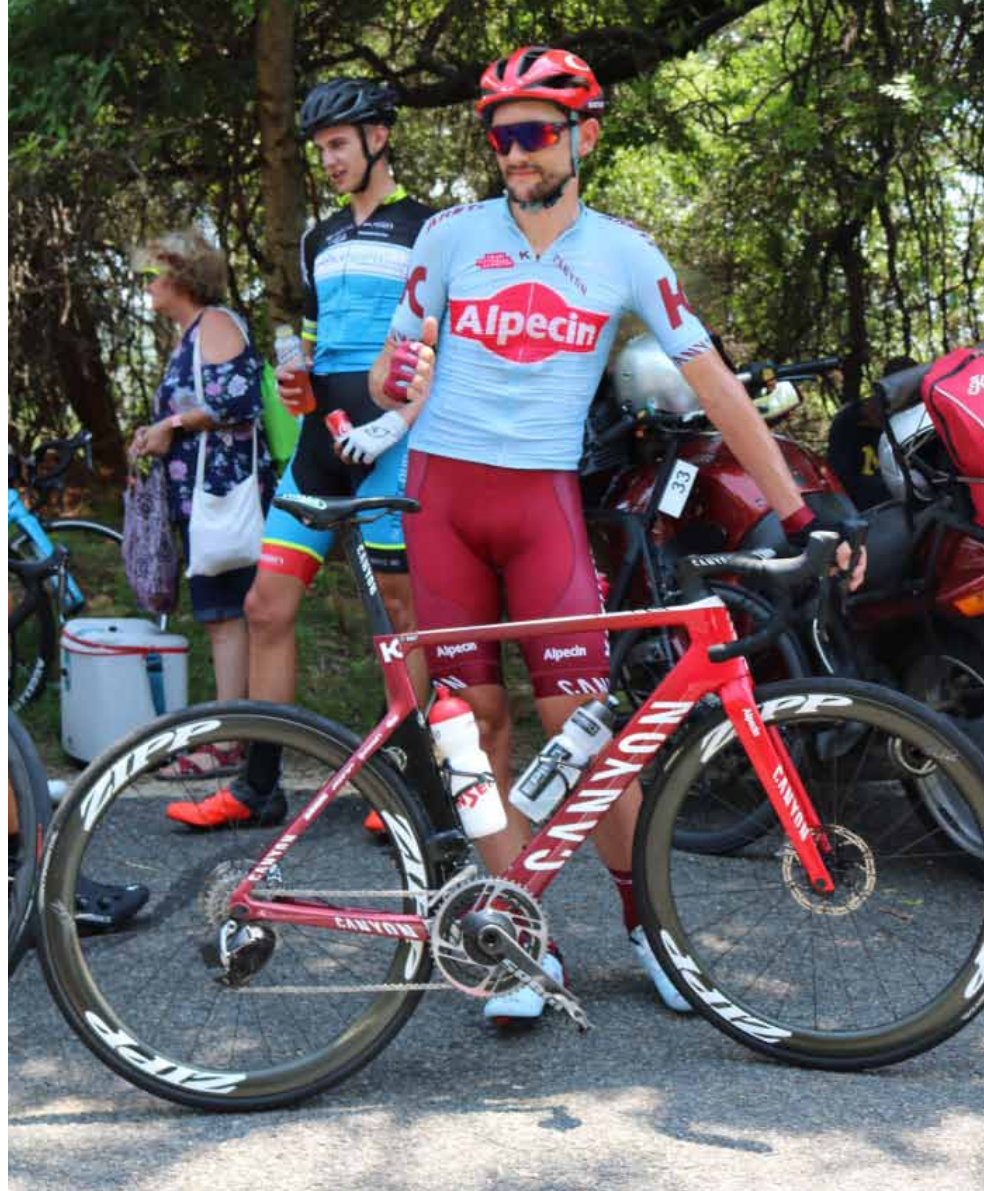
**Two-time  
Mpumalanga Cycle Tour  
champion, Matt Beers.**



# Cyclists chase history



Cyclists jostle for top honours.



Willie Smit.

**T**wo cyclists have written themselves into the history books of the Mpumalanga Cycle Tour having both won the tour twice in its four-year history.

Willie Smit was the inaugural winner of the tour in 2016 and he successfully defended his title the following year before he was signed up by Katusha-Alpecin to race in Europe. Enter Matt Beers, who like Smit, won the tour on two consecutive years. Smit was available for the fourth edition of the tour and he was hoping to become the first man to win the tour on three occasions but he narrowly lost out to Beers.

It goes without saying that more records will beckon for two champion cyclists when the fifth edition of the tour gets underway on August 30 Blyde River Canyon. Traditionally, the tour has been held in January but it has been moved to mid-year to mitigate the heat issue during summer. The tour consists of six stages over six days and more than 750 kilometres, which takes riders to the beautiful corners of Mpumalanga.

“We are pleased by the growth of the Mpumalanga Cycle Tour and the positive reception it got from the cycling community. What has been more encouraging has been the performance of local cyclists, who have dominated the race since its launch,” says MEC for Culture, Sport and Recreation, Lindiwe Ntshalintshali, whose department is the main sponsor of the tour.

“The Tour is organised by Mpumalanga Cycle Union with the Department of Culture, Sport and Recreation in partnership with Forever Resorts SA and it takes place annually. The Department is using the Cycle Tour to sell the Province as an ideal sport tourism destination. Besides the monetary and sporting benefits that come with hosting an event of this magnitude, the tour affords us a platform to promote

**“Six Stages, Six days and more than 750 Kilometres which takes riders to the beautiful corners of Mpumalanga.”**



A peloton sprinting towards the finish line in one of the stages of the fourth edition of Mpumalanga Cycle Tour.



Matt Beers





Siyabonga Bheluza flanked by MEC Lindiwe Ntshalintshali and his grandfather.

## MEC Ntshalintshali changes a boy's life on Mandela Day

**T**here is no better way to keep the legacy of Madiba alive than reaching out to children and youth.

It does not cost an arm and a leg to do it. All it needs is our time and dedication to the cause of making Mpumalanga and South Africa a better place for all those who live in it and nothing else.

Culture, Sport and Recreation MEC, Lindiwe Ntshalintshali spent her 67 minutes (and more) with the learners of Sukumani Primary and Mabande Comprehensive Schools in Phola, outside Ogies.

MEC Ntshalintshali was in the area to make donations to the two schools but she was touched by a plight of a Grade 9 pupil, Siyabonga Bheluza. The youngster is orphaned and stays with his grandfather.

She bought Bheluza new school uniform, basic necessities and toiletries. She also took him out for breakfast. MEC Ntshalintshali also donated football and netball kits and library books to both schools. She motivated the learners and encouraged them to stay in school and also participate in sport as both education and sport have the power to change peoples' lives.

On the eve of Mandela Day, departmental officials went to the schools to clean their libraries and empower them with the latest methodology of shelving of books.

Declared by the United Nations in 2010, Mandela Day is an annual international day that celebrates the idea that each one of us has the power to transform the world and make it a better place by making everyday a Mandela Day.

“

There can be no greater gift than that of giving one's time and energy to help others without expecting anything in return

-Nelson Mandela

”



(Top) MEC Ntshalintshali donates library books, netball and football kits at Sukumani Primary School in Phola. (Bottom) Mabande Comprehensive School also received a donation of books and sporting attire.







Runners get refreshments at the departmental waterpoint at the marathon.

## Department grooms athletes for Loskop Ultra-marathon

Through its Community and School Sport Programme, the Department of Culture, Sport and Recreation has given hundreds of budding athletes an opportunity to test their running skills in Loskop Marathon Series.

Over the years the department has taken athletes from rural communities in Mpumalanga and signed them up to participate in one of the toughest and loved Marathon Series in South Africa. According to the department's Sibongile Nkosi, the department is excited to be part of the Loskop Marathon Series. "The department recruits first time participants who have shown an interest in road running and we help the athletes with registration, transport and accommodation for the race," explains Nkosi.



Runners at the start of the Loskop Ultra-marathon.

Annually, the department assists 190 runners and the exercise is designed to develop road-running interest in the community. "South Africa has a problem of obesity and as a department we are using the race to promote healthy lifestyle by providing a platform to those who are keen to take up road running," said Nkosi, adding that the athletes take part in the 21 kilometres and 4.9 kilometres races, which are run inside Loskopdam Resort. Nkosi said the plan is to give the athletes a push and hopefully in the future they would graduate to participate in the ultra-marathon, which starts from Middelburg to the resort covering 50 kilometres.

"We want to emphasize that the department does not assist well established athletes, who would like to participate in the 50km," she concluded. The department also has a water-point at the 18-kilometre mark, which is situated next to Doornkoop and draws hundreds of locals who line up the streets to support the athletes.



2019 winner, Charles Tjiyane.



# Mgwenya helps Sunbirds soar to new heights

**I**n a short period of time, Mpumalanga Sunbirds' Thembisile Mgwenya has completed a remarkable transition in the world of South African netball.

She went from amateur player to playing at the biggest stage in the country - Netball Premier League. That was in 2014. Recently, she made another transition to coaching. Five years ago, it looked like her dream of playing netball at the highest level was fading fast until the launch of Netball Premier League, which allowed her to pit her skills against the best in the country. In the inaugural season, Sunbirds finished last in the league. However, they managed to turn things around in the following years. Last year, they recorded the biggest improvement with the team finishing in seven position. *Continued on the next page.*

**“We are happy about the progress the side has made and we trust it will attract more young players who will join the ranks of the sport.”**

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Thembisile Mgwenya (assistant coach), Connie Phala, Sanele Buthelezi, Busisiwe Mkhize, Sindile Nkuna, Lentshamang Motau (front).

According to her, last year's performance was a good launch pad to take the team to new heights in the 2019 season. "This season Mpumalanga Sunbirds have a good chance of winning top honours," says Mgwenya, who together with Theresa Rossouw form a new coaching partnership. Her optimism stems from the recent reconfiguration of the league.

Now known as the Telkom Netball League, it has been divided into two pools. Pool A features Jaguars, Free State Crinums, North West Flames, Western Cape Flames, Gauteng Fire, President's 12 Smileys, National Male Team and Zimbabwe National Team. Pool B consists of Sunbirds, KwaZulu Natal Kingdom Stars, Eastern Cape Aloes, Limpopo Boababs and Northern Cape Diamonds.

"We have a good chance of winning Pool B as we will be playing against teams that we beat last season. The only team that will give us a big challenge is Kingdom Stars, but we have a strong side to compete against the big teams," adds the coach who honed her netball skills at KaBokweni outside of White River.

Sunbirds have no choice but to beat all teams before them if they want to play in Pool A in 2020. For that to happen, they must come up on top in their pool. They would then head off to the lottery that is the play-offs against the team that finishes last in Pool A.

The good run did not go unnoticed. It caught the attention of sport authorities in Mpumalanga. "We are happy about the progress the side has made and we trust it will attract more young players who will join the ranks of the sport," says Culture, Sport and Recreation spokesperson, Sibongile Nkosi.

She believes that with the league matches beamed live on TV, more youth will develop an interest in the sport and they will in future be taking up the sport. The NPL enjoys rolling coverage on SuperSport.



# Mpumalanga selects a team to participate at the National Indigenous Games

**M**pumalanga has selected its team that will participate in this year's National Indigenous Games Tournament at Seshego Stadium in Polokwane, Limpopo during Heritage month.

The selection took place on July 20 at AJ Swanepoel Stadium in Ermelo where clubs that were victorious in municipal leagues vied for the honour to represent the province at the national tournament in the following codes: Diketo (coordination game), Dibeke (running game), Khokho (running game), Morabaraba (board game), Ncuva (board game), Jukskei (target game), Kgati (rope-jumping), Intonga (stick fighting) and Drie stokkies.

The aim of the selection was to choose a winning team that will represent the province with pride and honour at the national tournament in Limpopo from 22 to 27 September.

“The winning clubs and players will have the honour of representing Mpumalanga at national level,” explained the department’s Sibongile Nkosi.

This is the second provincial tournament to be hosted since the formation of Indigenous Games League, which are played in all municipalities of the province from June until July. After the municipal league, it moved to district level and culminated in the provincial selections.

This year’s national tournament will see the participation of learners for the first time who will vie for top honours in the following codes: jukskei, kgati, morabaraba and khokho. The national tournament has been combined with the Schools Indigenous Games Tournament.

“Team Mpumalanga will go into this year’s National Indigenous Festival not to make numbers, but to challenge for top honours at the games. We are going for nothing but glory at the national tournament. As per usual, the province is expected to dominate in khokho, kgati, jukskei and morabaraba,” concludes Nkosi.

Indigenous Games are aimed at promoting cultural activities that have a particular appeal to vast sectors of the South African community – young and old, black and white. It goes without saying that they are more than a recreational sport as they play a pivotal role in promoting national unity and social cohesion.



An athlete tries her luck in Drie stokkies.



Two boys fight during Intonga trials.



Morabaraba players during the trials.





The victorious volleyball team.

## Volleyball, Hockey teams win Gold at Games

**M**pumalanga obtained fifth position during the annual South African School Sport National Championships popularly known as Winter Games.

The games were played in Durban, KwaZulu-Natal over four days from 1 July and they were played in seven codes namely, Rugby 15, Volleyball, Soccer, Netball, Chess, Hockey and Tennis. Mpumalanga won six medals, three gold and three bronze.

The Volleyball U/17 Team for Girls was one of the star performers and they easily won gold after beating Free State 2-0.

Mpumalanga's Palesa Masiteng was selected player of the tournament in the Volleyball U/17 Girls Team after playing very well through out the tournament. She has vowed to continue representing the province well and added that she will continue working hard in her game so that she can bring more accolades to the province.

Team Mpumalanga also dominated in the area of Learners with Special Education Needs and the province remains committed to bring learners with disabilities into sport so that they can also participate and excel in sport.

Culture, Sport and Recreation MEC, Lindiwe Ntshalintshali congratulated Team Mpumalanga for working hard for their province. She encouraged them to continue taking part in sport and live positive lifestyle so that they can become future sport stars of the province where they can win provincial and national awards.

"You must focus on your studies and continue working hard in your sport so that you can be candidates for Ministerial Bursaries which are given to those who excel in their codes and we believe in your talent and we know that you will improve on this year's performance in the next editions of the games," MEC Ntshalintshali said.

Some of the athletes from Mpumalanga were also selected for national teams during the winter games due to their excellent performances.



The Mpumalanga hockey team celebrates after winning gold at the Winter Games Championships.



# New Names for Mpumalanga Provincial Government Buildings

**T**asked with transforming the Mpumalanga heritage landscape, the Department of Culture, Sport and Recreation added another feather on its impressive cap to achieve this objective.

The department led a successful process of renaming buildings at the Mpumalanga Provincial Government Complex in Mbombela with the buildings spotting new names. The new names are as follows: **Building 1 - Baobab, Building 2 - Makhonjwa, Building 3 - Indwe, Building 4 - Nokuthula Simelane, Building 5 - Ikhamanga, Building 6 - Samora Machel, Building 7 - Rhino and Building 8 - Mgwenya.**

The process started with the establishment of a Local Geographic Committee, which ensured that all relevant stakeholders were involved and kept updated from start until the unveiling of the new names.

“We are happy that the process went smoothly and now buildings at the Mpumalanga Provincial Government Complex have new names that reflect and acknowledge our history and heritage as people of the province,” explains MEC for Culture, Sport and Recreation, Lindiwe Ntshalintshali.

MEC Ntshalintshali says her department has been hard at work transforming the local heritage landscape. Last year, the department unveiled a six-metre statue of former president, Nelson Mandela. The statue was the province’s contribution to the centenary celebration of Madiba. The statue is erected at the Piazza at the Mpumalanga Provincial Legislature.

“The statue of this towering figure will be a constant reminder to all of us, public representatives and public servants, that we are here not for our own sake, but as loyal servants of the people. We will be reminded to embrace servant leadership values and to always act in the best interest of citizens of Mpumalanga,” said MEC Ntshalintshali.

## ***Makhonjwa Mountains is now a World Heritage Site***

Meanwhile, Mpumalanga is now home to a new World Heritage Site in the form of the majestic Makhonjwa Mountains in Barberton, which were recently inscribed on the prestigious World Heritage List during the 42nd session of the World Heritage Committee that was held in Manama, Bahrain.

In the process, the mountains became World Heritage Site number 10 in South Africa and the first in the province. It was this achievement that excited the provincial government leadership. “We are excited about the recent developments as it positions Mpumalanga as an ideal tourist destination. As a department, we want to thank the men and women who have worked tirelessly to ensure that Barberton Makhonjwa Mountains gets the nod from the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural (Unesco) World Heritage Committee,” says MEC Ntshalintshali.

So how did the mountains get the nod? Sites that are deemed World Heritage Sites are recognised as having global historical or environmental significance, may signify a phenomenal achievement of humanity, or reveal ancient civilizations. The recognition allows the country to access funds for conservation from the World Heritage Fund and may increase tourism to the area. To be accepted onto the list, a country must meet stringent criteria and show how the site will be conserved.

According to local historians, the mountains are thought to be one of the oldest sites on Earth, with its volcanic rocks estimated to be between 3.2 and 3.6 billion years old. The mountains are also believed to contain the oldest signs of life, with a micro fossil of bacteria discovered there that is estimated to be 3.1 billion years old.

The other World Heritage Sites in the country are: Robben Island (Western Cape), Cape Floral Region Protected Areas (Western Cape and Eastern Cape), Mapungubwe Cultural Landscape (Limpopo), Vredefort Dome (Free State and North-West), Maloti Drakensberg Park [Transboundary with Lesotho], Isimangaliso Wetland Park (KwaZulu-Natal), Fossil Hominid Sites of South Africa (Gauteng, North-West and Limpopo) and Richtersveld Cultural and Botanical Landscape and Khomani Cultural Landscape (Northern Cape).



## The National Bird: BLUE CRANE



The National Bird is the BLUE CRANE (*Anthropoides paradisica*). It is quite common in the Karoo, but is also seen in the grasslands of KwaZulu-Natal and the Highveld, usually in pairs or small family parties. This elegant bird is a light blue-grey, with a long neck supporting a big head, long legs and elegant wing plumes that sweep to the ground. It eats seeds, insects and reptiles.



# SOUTH AFRICAN NATIONAL ANTHEM

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

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

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

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