



CELEBRATING A LEGEND

Norah Mahlangu and Sandra Jacobs congratulate Esther Mahlangu on her wonderful life. *Read more on page 4.*



Let's Play It Safe

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THE RISE AND RISE OF

At 82, Esther Nikwambi Mahlangu should be enjoying old age and tending to her grandchildren. Not this octogenarian. Mahlangu is making waves, setting the art scene alight and winning awards with her colourful Ndebele paintings. Earlier in the year, she was awarded the prestigious Ubuntu Award on Arts and Culture. The award came hot on the heels of her partnership with American crooner, John Legend to fight Aids. The two worked together on the Belverde vodka campaign called Red Campaign. Mahlangu used her signature Ndebele prints to add colour on the campaign.



Esther Mahlangu admires her awards at her home.

ESTHER MAHLANGU

“The recent achievements of Mahlangu serve as an inspiration to the people of South Africa, particularly in her home province, Mpumalanga.”

Esther is doyenne of Ndebele culture

The recent achievements of Mahlangu serve as an inspiration to the people of South Africa, particularly in her home province, Mpumalanga. She was born in Middelburg in 1935 and was taught the skill of mural painting by her mother and grandfather. In the following years, she has used the skill to create a name for herself and in the process put the Ndebele people on the world stage. Before that, she put Botshabelo open-air museum outside of Middelburg on the map, which presents Ndebele culture to visitors.

“As the people of Mpumalanga, we are immensely proud about the achievements of Esther Mahlangu. She continues to make us proud with her accolades. The Ubuntu Award is yet another example of this. I hope her work and achievements will inspire our people, especially the youth to take pride in their culture,” mentioned Culture, Sport and Recreation MEC, Norah Mahlangu (not related) after Gogo Mahlangu was bestowed with the Ubuntu Award in Cape Town.

The world first took notice of Mahlangu when she painted a BMW in 1991 and she hasn't looked back ever since and has displayed her work the world over. “The car was later exhibited at the National Museum of Women in the Arts in Washington DC in 1994,” reads an entry on Wikipedia. Additional reporting from Sowetan and Wikipedia.



Arts journalist, Khethiwe Mndaawe, Esther Mahlangu and DCSR's regional manager in Nkangala District Bonginkosi Mtsweni.

Exhibitions and Projects

Solo exhibitions

2016 Esther Mahlangu Individual 7 series BMW and accompanying exhibition co-curated by BMW and 34FineArt, Frieze Art Fair, London, UK

2015 Esther Mahlangu 80, curated by 34FineArt, UCT Irma Stern Museum, Cape Town, SA

2014 Esther Mahlangu: An Artistic Residency, Virginia Museum of Fine Arts, Virginia, USA

2012 Overlay, 34FineArt, Cape Town, SA

2010 Centro Espositivo St. Art, Calenzano, Italy

2008 Esther Mahlangu: Reacquiring, The Kyle Kauffman Gallery, New York, USA

2007 Esther Mahlangu 2007, 34LONG, Cape Town, SA

2007 Why Africa?, Fiat 500, Turin, Italy

2005 Esther Mahlangu, 34LONG, Cape Town, SA

2003 Esther Mahlangu 2003, curated by 34FineArt, UCT Irma Stern Museum, Cape Town, SA

1998 Museum of Oceanian and African Art, Paris, France

1997 BA Airways Tail paintings, UK

1991 BMW Art Cars Commission, Germany

Esther Mahlangu.



Mpuce adds excitement in Mbombela's nightlife

In 2016, the people of Mpumalanga got a taste of what Mpumalanga Cultural Xperience (Mpuce) is all about – bringing life into the Mbombela nightlife.

Mpumalanga Cultural Xperience, a brainchild of the department, is used to kick start summer time with the hosting of festivities in the first week of December. It gets underway with a street carnival and Comedy Night on the first day. The second day features Battle of the DJs and concludes with a Music Festival. “We were encouraged by the reception from the audience and we will go all out to ensure the second edition is bigger and better,” says the mouthpiece of the department, Sibongile Nkosi.

Nkosi's words were echoed on the department's 2016/2017 Policy and Budget Speech. “It is our intention to improve the knowledge of our people on values enshrined in the Constitution of our country and create equal opportunities for all in the province on matters of arts and culture. We are going to use the arts to reach a common identity in the province where working together; we will build a united Mpumalanga, that will be a vehicle for change and bring about new opportunities for our people. We will host the Mpumalanga Cultural Xperience in the third quarter of this financial year and will draw from the experience of the inaugural festival we held in 2016. This year's edition will be bigger, better and we will bring the whole country to a standstill as we bring an exciting weekend for people to tap in the rich history of our culture that will be expressed in an artistic expression and we have no doubt that this will resonate very well with those who subscribe to the notion that culture best finds expression through the arts.”

The first edition of festival had big names in the entertainment industry such as Celeste Ntuli (Comedy Night), DJ Switch, DJ Clock, DJ Shabbisto and DJ Sdunkero (Battle of the DJs) and Kwesta, Bholoja and DJ Sbu (Music Festival).

Mpuce is designed to bring vibrancy into the city as it is packaged to accommodate both young and old and it's filled with artistic excellence from the province, national and neighbouring countries. It came into existence after the pronouncement of Premier DD Mabuza during the State of the Province Address in 2016, where he committed the provincial government to launch and host the festival as one of the provincial signature events that will attract visitors to the province to share in our inclusive celebration of culture and heritage

“The three-day festival isn't about just having fun, but it also bring about economic spinoffs in the provincial capital,” adds Nkosi. Asked what the people can expect this year, Nkosi said it's going to be big and better compared to the inaugural edition.



Kedibone Mulaudzi



Nathi and Vusi Nova.



Kwesta.



Banele Silinda (female rugby)



Ginah Mbokongo (female basketball)

Tournament changes lives

In 2012, government started the national school sport championships as a way of lifting South African sport out of the doldrums by promoting sport at grassroots level.

School sport, according to then minister of Sport and Recreation Fikile Mbalula, is at the heartbeat of sport development in South Africa and it is the foundation on which many successful sport careers are built on. Mbalula was referring to current sporting icons such as Steven Pienaar, AB de Villiers who were discovered at school level and went to captain the national football and cricket teams, respectively.

The national school sport championships sees all the nine provinces competing for supremacy in Autumn, Winter and Summer games. The Autumn Games comprises of track and field athletics and is held during the March/April school holidays. The Winter Games is made up of football, netball, chess, hockey, rugby 15, tennis, volleyball, kho-kho and jukskei and is held during the June school holidays. The Summer Games caters for cricket, gymnastics, basketball, rugby 7s, table tennis, morabaraba and kgati sporting codes and is played during the December school holidays.

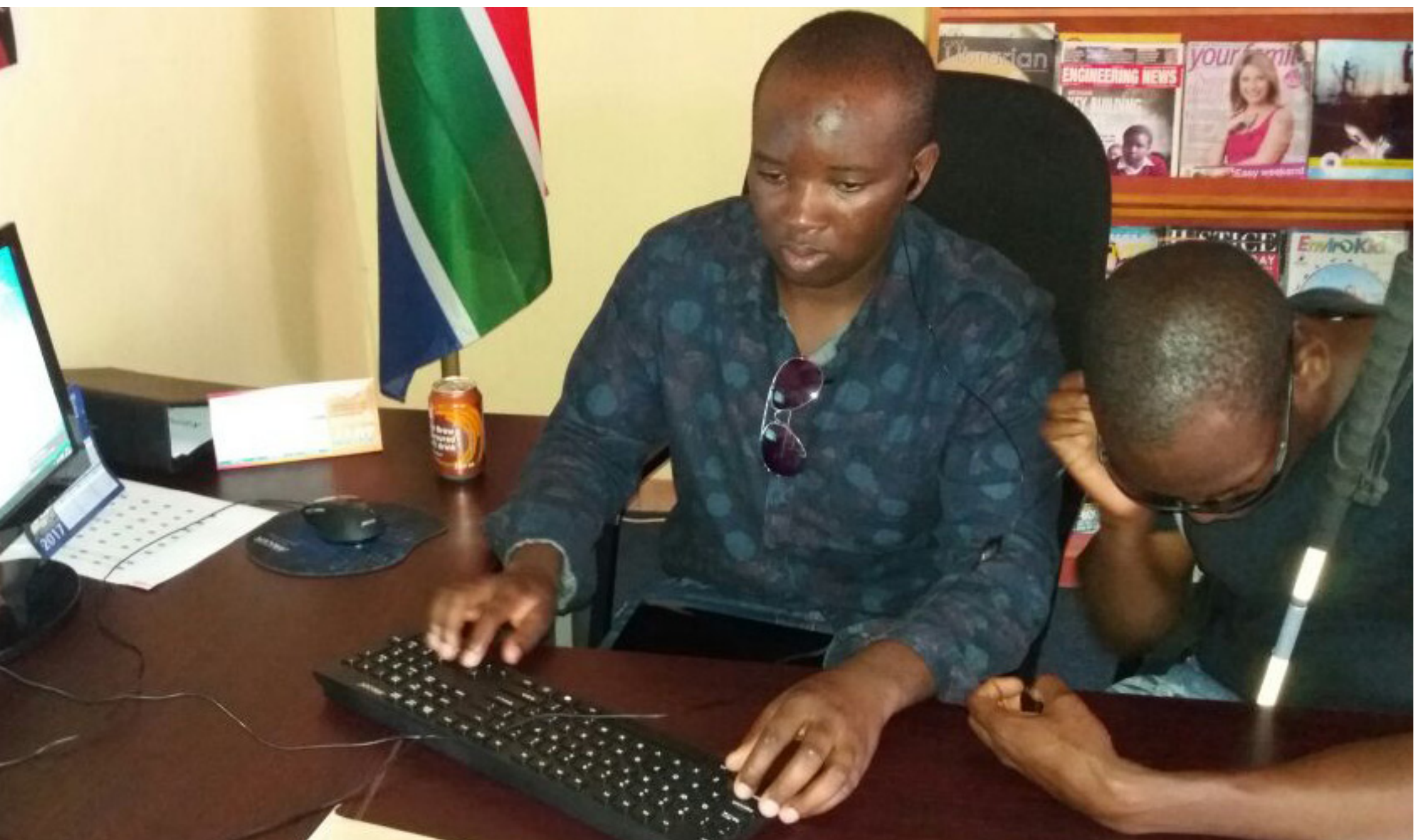
At the national championships, the athletes who perform well on each sporting code receive a full bursary that covers for high school educational and extra-curriculum costs at a sport focused school. In Mpumalanga, Lowveld High, Rob Ferreira, Ligbron Academy, Lydenburg Hoerskool, and General Hertzog Hoerskool have been identified for this purpose. The bursary scheme is designed to assist athletes' score both in the classroom and on the field. Since the launch of the bursary scheme, the following athletes from the province have managed to score bursaries:

“In Mpumalanga, Lowveld High, Rob Ferreira, Ligbron Academy, Lydenburg Hoerskool, and General Hertzog Hoerskool have been identified as sport focused schools.”





Library Opens New Vistas for Blind Users



Ernst Sitiba showing Pat Maziya the ropes to use MiniLib.

A library user in Kamaqhekeza says the introduction of a MiniLib at the local library to cater for the needs of the blind has opened a window of opportunities for him.

"I believe I would have gone insane without reading, I really do. It's really important to keep my brain active by reading and the MiniLib caters for this need," Pat Maziya, who is blind, told Tibuya Emasisweni.

According to the local librarian, Ernst Sitiba, Maziya is an active user who uses the MiniLib for the Blind to empower himself with information.

The Kamaghekeza Public Library is one of 14 libraries in Mpumalanga that have been equipped to cater for the needs of the blind, who in the past did not find joy in the library.

The department came up with this concept of MiniLib for the Blind in order to cater for the needs of people with disabilities, especially those who are blind and visually impaired. The MiniLib for the Blind is established within a normal library and it is an eye opening reading that allows easy access to information to the blind and visually impaired users.

"MiniLib for the Blind plays a vital role in the lives of blind and visually impaired people as it assists them to overcome daily challenges, boosting their mental well-being, enabling them to develop learning skills and providing opportunities for social contact through social groups," mentioned Sitiba.

So what happens in a MiniLib? They are actively transforming lives in the community of Mpumalanga ever since they were established with the number of users growing each and every

day. A MiniLib for the Blind is packed with fascinating and educational services such as The Daisy Player (CD), which caters for both literate and illiterate in a form of audio books and there is a document reader. Documents and newspapers are put through the machine and it reads out loud the content on the documents or newspapers. The Library also has computers, which are designed specifically for blind users and all these resources make life easier for the blind and visually impaired people.

LIBRARIES OFFERING SERVICES TO THE BLIND

1. Siyabuswa
2. Mhluzi
3. EMalahleni
4. Mashishing
5. Kamaqhekeza
6. EMkhondo
7. Volkrast
8. Msogwaba
9. Mbombela
10. Maphotla
11. Gerald Sekoto
12. Secunda
13. Ermelo
14. Mafemane

Passion does pay



There is a woman in the dusty streets of Newscom outside of White River who is challenging an old adage that says: passion doesn't pay.

We are told passion doesn't pay the bills. That doesn't apply to Fundi Khoza, who has turned her passion into a thriving business that keeps the wolf from the door. Moreover, it makes her happy. The 24-year-old uses old newspapers to create beautiful designs of just about anything you can think of under the sun such as animals, dummies, placement mats to mention but a few. Khoza uses old copies of Mpumalanga News and The Lowvelder, glue and vanish to create her masterpieces.

Khoza resisted to lure to join the rat race of formal employment and instead opted to be her own boss in the creative industry. She tells Tibuya Emasisweni, "I went to school to get a formal qualification, but I always knew I wanted to be involved in the creative industry." She has a qualification in engineering from Ehlanzeni FET. After completing her studies, she decided to pursue her passion full-time and she has not looked back ever since. Khoza is one of 20 women who benefitted from a Recycling Project launched by the department, Innibos, Canary Walk and Lowveld Media, which is aimed at creating job opportunities, do skills development and create more entrepreneurs in the craft-market sector. The department's partnership with the private sector has assisted in her selling her wares at shopping centres around the capital city of Mpumalanga, Mbombela.

Those interested in placing orders can reach Khoza on 071-587-0356.



Caption

Queen's baton Arrives in Mpumalanga

When the final relay runner hands over the baton to Queen Elizabeth at the opening ceremony of the 2018 Gold Coast Commonwealth Games next year April a handful of South Africans will say they touched the baton when it passed in the country.

Among those who had the honour to touch and carry the baton as it made its way around Mpumalanga, was Josiah Thugwane, Dumisa Ngobe, Culture, Sport and Recreation MEC, Norah Mahlangu, Steval Pumas and Sunbirds players and hundreds of ordinary people.

The Queen's Baton journey in the province inspired community pride, explored and celebrated the links, traditions, places and people that connect us as a nation. It hiked through Gods' Window, saw amazing vistas at the Blyde River Canyon, Three Rondavels and Bourke's Luck Potholes.

The Queen's Baton Relay came to Mpumalanga encourage people from all walks of life to participate in the build-up to the 2018 games. The Commonwealth Games, which sees 71 Commonwealth nations competing in various sporting codes, takes place in Australia next year. The Queens Baton Relay commenced from the Buckingham Palace on 13 March 2017.



The Queen's Baton landed in province on May 17 in eMalahleni at Sasol Filling Station and that is where it started its three-kilometre journey to Lynnville Cenotaph.

From there it went to Waterval Boven then Mbombela Stadium. The second day saw the baton taken to Leroro and it concluded whirlwind provincial tour the following day at Mvuyazi Primary School near the Kruger Gate.

"It was a great experience to be in Mpumalanga and we enjoyed our stay in the province," said Australia High Commissioner to South Africa, Adam McCarthy about the Queen's Baton Relay in the province.

Zwelithini Mdakane at Nomoya Masilela Musuem in Bethal.



Josiah Thugwane.

Mpumalanga's plans to conquer

Winning and winning consistently does not happen overnight or come easy. It takes preparation to achieve consistence in competitive sport.

To achieve consistence in sport you need to have systems in place to help athletes get positive results and that's exactly what Mpumalanga has been doing in recent times. In the past two national tournaments Mpumalanga has made the other provinces sit and notice. The signs have always been there that Team Mpumalanga is on the up and a good showing was around the corner. Things started falling into place at the Summer Games, which were held in Johannesburg in December 2016 where the province stunned the big provinces with a second place finish, leaving the likes of Gauteng in its wake. The team excelled in cricket, gymnastics, basketball, rugby 7s, table tennis, morabaraba and kgati and collected nine medals in the process.

The school sport community was still recovering from the shock of the Summer Games and Team Mpumalanga made a big splash at the South African National Schools Aquatics Championships in Polokwane during the 2017 Easter school holidays. The 55 swimmers who flew the provincial flag high propelled the province to a third place finish. The podium finish was secured after notching up 42 medals (including 12 gold, 14 silver and 16 bronze). What made the performance more special was that Mpumalanga beat the likes of Western Cape, Eastern Cape and Free State to the third place finish.

According to the department's spokesperson, Sibongile Nkosi the province has invested heavily in the development and conditioning of athletes and the efforts are starting to show. "The province took a decision to go all out when preparing for national tournaments



Gia dos Santos

South Africa is taking shape



Caption

by hosting of training camps, which incorporates the academy section in the department. Having the academy section on board has added an extra dimension to the athletes and they go into these tournaments ready to compete and win medals. It has proven that the inclusion of LowMed helps the athletes to prepare well for the national tournaments and the results have been improving. We are hoping to win these national tournaments within the next three years or so," Nkosi explained the winning formula.

"We are delighted by Team Mpumalanga's performance in recent times and we extend words of gratitude to all the athletes, coaches management and the parents for making this achievement possible," said the department's Sibongile Nkosi.

The good performance of Team Mpumalanga also caught the attention of Culture, Sport and Recreation MEC, Norah Mahlangu, who had the following to say during her budget vote: "Working together with the Department of Education, the department of Culture, Sport and Recreation ensured that 1 300 pupils were selected to participate in Provincial Schools Championships and 800 of these learners were selected to participate in the National Schools Sport Championships. We are pleased to announce to this august house that the Provincial team obtained position two in the Summer Games that were held in Pretoria."

Concludes Nkosi, "Mpumalanga is doing something right and the results are starting to show. We are hoping that in the near future we will take top honours."



Celebrating Heroes of the Liberation Struggle in Mjindi Location



Sandile Mabuza reading more on the role played by his late father Enos Mabuza during the Liberation Struggle.

Mention the name Ellen Cynthia Lindiwe Mokoena and you are likely to get no response from your audience, yet the Barberton native played a leading role in the attainment of freedom in South Africa.

Mokoena played her part in the small mining town to fight the apartheid regime and has finally received recognition for her role in the liberation struggle of the country, thanks to the intervention by the department.

She is indeed one of the unsung heroines of the struggle, who was initiated in politics in 1985 during her school vacations in Johannesburg. Tsuma, as she is affectionately known, was the only woman detained with other freedom fighters during the State of Emergency in 1986 in the area and was kept in solitary confinement for months. She survived and still lives with some pellets that were lodged in her body during skirmishes with security forces.

During Human Rights Month the department held an exhibition at the Barberton Museum in Mbombela City to highlight the role played by people such as Mokoena in the attainment of

Freedom in the country, particularly in the mining town of Mjindini.

The exhibition is a result of research conducted by Julius Matsebula on the liberation struggle in Mjindini in the 1970s to 1990s. "The purpose of the study is to preserve the history of the liberation struggle and to establish a temporary exhibition in the museum for present and future generations to come and so that they can learn about it and celebrate the freedom and democracy that is the result of the sacrifices and bravery of a number of people from Umjindi (Barberton)," said Matsebula.

People can still view the exhibition at Barberton Museum, which is situated at 36 Pilgrims Street or by calling 013 712 4208 to organise school tours or a visit.

"If we want to redress the imbalances of the past, we must encourage our people to visit museums so that they can learn more about the history of the country," enthuses Sibongile Nkosi.

Vision

A PATRIOTIC
SOCIAL
COHESIVE
SOCIETY

Mission

PROMOTE
SOCIAL
COHESION
and
NATION
BUILDING
THROUGH
CULTURAL
SUPPORT
AND INFORMATION
SERVICES *to the people
of Mpumalanga*

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.

AFRICAN UNION ANTHEM

Let us all unite and celebrate together
The victories won for our liberation
Let us dedicate ourselves to rise together
To defend our liberty and unity

O Sons and Daughters of Africa
Flesh of the Sun and Flesh of the Sky
Let us make Africa the Tree of Life

Let us all unite and sing together
To uphold the bonds that frame our destiny
Let us dedicate ourselves to fight together
For lasting peace and justice on earth

O Sons and Daughters of Africa
Flesh of the Sun and Flesh of the Sky
Let us make Africa the Tree of Life

Let us all unite and toil together
To give the best we have to Africa
The cradle of mankind and fount of culture
Our pride and hope at break of dawn.

O Sons and Daughters of Africa
Flesh of the Sun and Flesh of the Sky
Let us make Africa the Tree of Life

