

Mpumalanga Sport Awards

Banele Shabungu qualifies for Tokyo Olympics

South African Traditional Music Achievement Awards held in Mpumalanga

MEC bestowes posthumous honour on Dr Malindzisa

Mpumalanga Cultural Xperience 2020



culture, sport & recreation

**MPUMALANGA PROVINCE
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA**

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Editorial

Around this time last year, we were putting final touches to our 2020 New Year's Resolutions - oblivious to what was happening in the East.

On top of our resolutions was hosting the Springboks at Mbombela Stadium, pulling out all the stops for the Fifth edition of the Mpumalanga Cultural Xperience and gearing up for Mpumalanga Cycle Tour. All these events are catalyst for social cohesion and economic spinoffs for Mpumalanga. Little did we know that the events in the East would change life as we know it, forever.

The outbreak of Covid-19 pandemic threw a spanner in the works in all our plans and yours. Events were canceled, lives and jobs lost and the economy sunk into a recession.



Sibongile Nkosi

As a people, we had to adopt to a new normal and come up with innovative ways to save lives and livelihoods of our people. It has been a tough and testing 12 months for all of us and it took a collective effort to minimize the virus' impact on society, especially on the arts fraternity. The Covid-19 Relief Fund was a fillip for artists and athletes who could not earn an income during the lockdown period.

In tough conditions, the department delivered the Fifth edition of the Cultural Xperience. Unfortunately, the Mpumalanga Cycle Tour and the Rugby World Cup champions match were cancelled.

As I write this column, the country is in the midst of a second wave of the pandemic. Just as the country was able to weather the storm of the first wave, I am optimistic that we will once again defeat the invisible enemy - it all depends on our attitude. We need to continue observing Covid-19 health and safety protocols - keep social distance, wearing of face masks that cover both the mouth and nose, avoid large gatherings and unnecessary traveling.

That said, here's to a safe, sound and healthy 2021 - hope springs eternal.

Janssens wins big at Mpumalanga Sport Awards



A 76-year-old swimmer has won big at the Mpumalanga Sport Awards 2020, proving that age is just a number. Geraldine Janssens walked away with two big awards, Sportswoman of the Year and Sports Star of the Year at the virtual ceremony, which was recorded at Vision View Studios in Gauteng during Heritage Month.

The swimmer won the accolades after enjoying an annus mirabilis in the pool in 2019, including setting national records and earning a national call-up. At the 2019 National Championships, Janssens won all three backstroke events she entered in record times, which earned her a call-up to the national team to represent the country at the World Championships in Korea last August where she won a silver medal in 200m backstroke.

"I am so delighted to have won the Sportswoman of the Year and the Sports Star of the Year awards. I would like to congratulate the organizers and the sponsors and all concerned who worked to make the Awards happen. I would also like to congratulate the other nominees and winners on their individual achievements," said the septauagenarian, who started swimming in mid-2007 after having not swum for 52 years.

"I entered my first competition in November 2017 at the Mpumalanga Championships. I came within seven seconds of the national record in the 200m backstroke. After that, I started training

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hard and entered the Masters National Championships in March 2018 and I won the 200m backstroke event and broke the national record," she explained

her journey back to competitive swimming having retired in the sport as a 22 year old.

Culture, Sport and Recreation MEC, Lindiwe Ntshalintshali congratulated the veteran swimmer, "Janssens deserves all the accolades she has won at the Mpumalanga Sport Awards. She has done well in the last couple of years and has represented Mpumalanga with honour and distinction. Her achievements in the pool have put the province on the sporting map.

Honours roll:

Sportswoman of the year with disability (Faith Malope), **sports radio programme of the year** (Ligwalagwala FM's Drive Sports Corner), **sportsman of the year with disability** (Thulani Mthomebeni), **people's choice star of the year** (Keo Mokolope), **sports photographer of the year** (Manqoba Soko), **sports fan of the year** (Thabo Mnisi), **sports administrator of the year** (Sibusiso Mhlanga), **sportsman of the year** (Jan Degenaar), **newcomer of the year** (Christo Nagel), **sports presenter of the year** (Joseph Tsimba), **sports journalist of the year** (Mfanaukhona Shongwe), **volunteer of the year** (Ambros Sikutu), **coach of the year** (Nakedi Serumula), **school team of the year** (Motoaneng Primary School), **developing school of the year** (Morgenzon Landbou Akademie), **team of the year** (TS Sporting), **indigenous games team** (Hungry Lions).

MEC's Excellence Award: Trevor Nyakane, S'busiso Nkosi, Faf de Klerk, Duane Vermuelen and Kwagga Smith as well as Paralympian and Ntando Mahlangu.

MEC's Special Award: Peet Welthagen and Stanford Mhlanga.

Legends Award: Velaphi Mnkomo and William Sibiya

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Sprint princess qualifies for Tokyo Olympics



BANELE SHABANGU

Former National Indigenous Games Festival star athlete has made sporting history by qualifying for the Tokyo Olympics (30 July – 8 August 2021) and Junior u/20 World Championship (17 – 22 August 2021) in Kenya.

Banele Shabangu has qualified for the 100m relay in the Olympics as well as 100m and 200m relay in the World Champs. Shabangu, who hails from Barberton, is over the moon on making the squads after years of working hard. “I’m quite excited about my recent achievements. I’m the only junior athlete who will compete with seniors in Tokyo,” says the sprinter.

There is more good news in store. Earlier in the year, the 18-year-old sprinter was announced as one of six Puma Future Stars track and field stars ambassadors. “The Puma School of Speed delivered spectacular results and making the

selection process a difficult one. These six athletes really impressed us. We look forward to being with them every step of the way as they continue to excel in the exciting sport of track and field,” explained Puma’s Brett Bellinger.

Shabangu first gained prominence when representing Mpumalanga in Drie Stokkies at the National Indigenous Games Festival. She won her first gold medal at the festival in 2017 and went on to dominate Drie Stokkies. After her exploits at the festival, she was awarded a scholarship at Prestige College in Hammanskraal in Gauteng. It was at Prestige College that she blossomed in 100m and 200m athletics and became one of the school’s star performers.

Two years ago, her Drie Stokkies mentor, Dorcas Maleka said the following about the athlete: “She’s one of the brightest talents in Indigenous Games circles. It is only a matter of time before the whole country sits and notices her immense talent. She is hot and wanted property in the country. The next step is for her to set the athletics alight with her talent.” Maleka’s words have come to full fruition as the sprinter princess is on the cusp of greatness.

The Barbertonian is the second Drie Stokkies player to qualify for the Olympics, following in the footsteps of Luvo Manyonga in 2014, who went on to win an Olympic silver medal in Rio Olympics and was crowned Commonwealth Games champion.

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What is drie stokkies?

The game is played by a team consisting of six players – three boys and three girls – who compete against another team of the same amount of players. An athlete that wants to participate in this game should have the ability to get maximum lift from the grass to jump over the sticks. The three sticks are placed one meter from each other on the grass. Players of the two teams line up, run and start to jump. The players should only step once between the sticks. When a player jumps between the sticks s/he is not allowed to touch the sticks with his or her foot.



How do you score?

The player from the team that jumps the last (stretcher) should jump to reach the furthest point with his or her jump. Where that player stops the last stick needs to move to where his or her heels lands.



How do you win?

Measurements from the middle stick to the end stick will determine the winner.

What is the Puma School of Speed?

Launched in 2016 and Headed by the World's Fastest Man, Usain Bolt, the PUMA School of Speed Series is committed to the development of athletics talent in South Africa by identifying exceptional young South African athletes who believe that their future is #ForeverFaster. In addition to representing the brand, the six PUMA contract winners, aka Future Stars, will have access to PUMA's elite running ambassadors who will offer guidance on and off the track.



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If what happened at the first hosting of Satma Awards in Mpumalanga is anything to go by, then people of the province are in for a big treat in the next two years.

The hosts rolled out the carpet at Ingwenyama Lodge in White River to some of the big names in the music industry, who worked it like the professionals that they are in strict lockdown regulations. The likes of Kenny Makhenzo, Simphiwe Dana, Steve Kekana and Zahara.

Mpumalanga won the rights to hosts the 15 year old awards for the next three years, starting this year. Culture, Sport and Recreation MEC, Lindiwe Ntshalintshali has described the Awards as a boon for the province. "Hosting the Satma Awards has positive economic spinoffs for the Mpumalanga coffers and it also talks to the department's mandate of promoting social cohesion." During the Awards weekend (December 5), accommodation was fully-booked in White River and Mbombela with guests highlighting the economic spinoffs the MEC was referring to when the province bid for the rights to host it.

The Satma Awards stage was a kaleidoscope of South African cultures - black and white - came together to celebrate what binds the country together, music, fashion and cuisine. It won't be an Awards event without winners and the following people walked away with gongs on the night:

Best Male Artist of All Times (Steve Kekani) , **Best Female Artist of All Times** (P.J Powers), **Best Afro Soul Artist of All Times** (Abigail Kubheka), **Best African Jazz Artist of All Times** (Jonas Gwangwa), **Best Reggae Artist of All Times** (Lucky Dube), **Best Praise Singer of All Times** (Zolani Mkiva), **Best Poet of All Times-Founders Award** (Mzwakhe Mbuli), **Best Indigenous Comedian of All Times** (Kenneth Nkosi), **Best Traditional Dance Group of All Times** (Abafana Basemawosi), **Best Mbaqanga Traditional Legend** (Black Moses Ngwenya), **Best Acapella (Isicathamiya) Traditional Legend** (Colenso Abafana BeNkokhelo), **Best Cultural Electronic Media Journalist of All Times** (Thokozani Mandlenkosi Ernest Nene), **First African Print Media Journalist** (Dr Thami Mazwai), **Best African Outfit** (Eshter Mahlangu - 85 Nov), **Best Sepedi Traditional Legend** (William Mohlala), **Best Tshivenda Traditional Legend** (Dr Matodzi Irene Mawela), **Best Xitsonga Traditional Legend** (Dr Thomas "Xinyori" Chauke), **Best Ndebele Traditional Legend** (Nodweni "Kakaramba" Mahlangu), **Best Traditional African Outfit** (Dr Nothembi Mkhwebane), **Best IsiXhosa Traditional Legend** (Latozi "Madosini" Mphahleni), **Best Setswana Traditional Legend** (Ngwao Ya Shona), **Best Siswati Traditional Legend** (Make Shelangubo), **Best Indian Traditional Legend** (Sanjay Kelavan), **Best Sesotho Traditional Legend** (Tshepo Tsola), **Best Boeremusiek Traditional Legend** (Klipwerf Boereorkes), **Best Maskandi Traditional Legend** (Thokozani Langa), **Vernacular Hip Hop Artist of All Times** (Mxolisi Majosi - Zulu Boy), **Best Traditional Song of All Times** (Stimela - Zwakala), **Best Traditional Music Global Icon** (Ladysmith Black Mambazo), **Best Traditional Artist of All Times** (Mahlathini Nkabinde), **First African Radio Presenter** (K.E Masinga), and **First Minister of Arts & Culture** (Dr Ben Ngubane).

Special Awards:

Welcome "Bhodloza" Nzimande, Nomcebo Zikode & Master KG, Mbuso Khoza, Magidza Ludzakeni, Judge Vuka Tshabalala, Saba Mbbane, Ntencane and Kgosi Mampuru II.

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MEC bestows posthumous honour on Dr Malindzisa

Dr Gubudla Aaron Malindzisa might be gone but he will never be forgotten. This was evident when Culture, Sport and Recreation MEC Lindiwe Ntshalintshali honoured him recently.

Malindzisa, who died this year at the age of 76, was a renowned author, short stories and radio serials such as Walutfota Lolumanti, Sandla Semtsetfo, Livi Lalabaphansi, Sekuhlonywe Tintsi, Sekuhlwire, Lifu Lelimnyama, Umhlaba Uyahlaba, Letiphuma Embiteni, Ngawubona Umngacabo

Wami, Kahleni Phela, Simo Lesibucayi, Kuphilwa kanYe Kulomhlaba, Lalela Ngikutekele, Ngoneni Nkosi Yami and Tinganekwane tase-Africa. Walutfota Lolumanti became a classic radio serial on Ligwalagwala FM.



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He was one of five SiSwati authors honoured by the department and National Library of South Africa as part of the Classics Living Legends Project. The other four were Dr JJ Thwala, Prof JP Shongwe, ESN Mathunjwa and AT Fakude, who have all written some of the best books in SiSwati.

The Classics Living Legends project was initiated in 2008 to honour authors by reprinting their books and printed and donated to libraries and reading clubs. The project is aimed at encouraging people to visit libraries and to read in their indigenous languages. During the past twelve years, the Classics Living Legends has reproduced 94 titles, many of which were out of print.



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It's not how the department had planned to celebrate the fifth anniversary of the Mpumalanga Cultural Xperience, but the outbreak of the Covid-19 and subsequent lockdown regulations resulted in muted celebration. The "Xperiencers" sounded the call to party in a responsible manner in line with the Covid-19 health and safety protocols.

Our photographer was there to capture some of the moments at the Soul Session Xperience, Comedy Xperience and Gospel Music Awards.



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A man with a beard and dreadlocks, wearing a striped shirt and a black vest, speaking into a microphone. The word "Caption" is written at the bottom.



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