

i O N N G A

Launch Edition



**Disrupting the
STATUS QUO**

MEC's first 100 days in office

EC hosts Netball World Cup Draw

Revival of EC as boxing mecca

iQONGA

Launch Edition

iQonga - short for 'Iqonga lezemidlalo, ulonwabo, ubugcisa, nenkcubeko' – is a stakeholder publication produced and published by the Eastern Cape Department of Sport, Recreation, Arts and Culture (DSRAC) as a central platform for the sharing and dissemination of information pertaining to provincial sport, recreation, arts and cultural programmes.

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Disrupting the status quo:

a transformative approach towards improved service delivery and sustainability



In October we held our annual strategic planning session for the department, and when making her maiden speech and opening remarks, our newly appointed MEC, the Honourable Nonceba Kotsiwe challenged us as the DSRAC management to find ways in which we can disrupt the status quo in how we conduct our operations as the department.

This resonated greatly with me as it has been one of the objectives that I had set myself when I assumed the role of HOD in the department - an undertaking that I believe will not only change how we deliver our services to the people of the Eastern Cape, making a meaningful impact, but will change the narrative of the department and how the department is positioned going forward.

WE HAVE MADE CONSIDERABLE STRIDES IN THIS REGARD, PARTICULARLY ON SOME

OF THE AREAS THAT ARE CRITICAL FOR THE DEPARTMENT:

- Hosting the 2023 Netball World Cup Draw, an international event broadcast live from the ICC in East London as a curtain-raiser to the 2023 Netball World Cup which will be held in Cape Town in the Western Cape from 28th July – 6th August 2023 is a step in the right direction in our efforts to developing sports tourism in the province.
- The milestone launch of the Eastern Cape's very first Boxing belt in partnership with Boxing SA, as part of the Provincial Professional Boxing Development Programme is testament to our commitment as a department and the province at large to advancing the sport of boxing and building on the legacy of the sport in the province.
- An investment of over R20 million, as part of the department's plans to revive and develop the film industry in the province, with the aim of promoting the province as a destination for storytelling for aspiring and renowned producers. Three productions, which will see young people from the province being employed and trained in the film industry through a skills transfer programme, have been commissioned as part of this investment.
- The declaration of the Mandela Bay Theatre Complex (MBTC) has been an excellent milestone in the advancement of the creative industries, specifically in the dance and performing arts space which has resulted in a yearlong plan of creative arts activities.
- The discovery of the dinosaur bones near Sterkspruit, we believe, will change the heritage landscape of the province and be a positive spinoff to tourism in the province.

IN OUR QUEST TO CHANGING THE STATUS QUO, WE HAVE ALSO:

Launched the Music Excellence Acceleration Programme (MAEPAC) as a way of unearthing talent in the province and supporting already established musicians, and building sustainable capacitation of musicians of the province who are competent enough to compete and share platforms within and beyond the borders of the country. Six record label companies benefitted from the programme, each receiving R300 000.

Started the process of refocusing our festivals and their impact, looking specifically at the aspect of inclusivity, broadening our offering and coming up with creative ways to host these events, including outsourcing etc. We will be embarking on a benchmarking exercise soon as well as looking into other potential funding sources.

Repurposing our entities to look at how best we create efficiencies and how we package their offering for maximum benefit of our communities.

Looking at building the momentum already started with the onset of Covid-19 when it comes to recreation and making sure that it is sustained for the betterment of not only our physical and mental wellbeing, but also as a way of keeping families together, taking our young people away from the streets and negative influences, and building an active and healthy conscious society through sport

and active recreation.

We will continue to support sports as a way of advancing/ promoting social cohesion in our communities and strive to make sure that our youth is gainfully and meaningfully occupied through our service offerings, and continue to have access to our services/ activities and that they also realise the positive impact that sport can have in changing their lives.

Digitising our archives and records, and automating our services, including library and language services in order to be on par with the 4th industrial revolution (4iR) - but as we undertake this task we are mindful of the many citizens who still do not have access to the internet and in this process we will endeavour to make sure that we do not leave these communities behind and that they still have access to services.

As we set out to challenge the status quo in the delivery of our services and in ensuring that we advocate for the importance of sport, arts, culture and heritage, and the meaningful impact that these can have in our societies, we invite you as our stakeholders to come along with us on this journey, share your valuable inputs and form partnerships with us in advancing our communities; thereby doing so we will not only be making positive impact in our communities, but we will also be challenging the status quo of many of our young people and creative

industries with the hope of changing their lives for the better.

We welcome you to the first issue of our stakeholder publication, iQonga. This is one of the ways that we are aiming to changing the status quo and changing things around in how and what we communicate. iQonga is an isiXhosa word which means 'centrestage' and likewise, the magazine lifts issues of sport, recreation, arts and culture to the fore and is a platform for the department to share its programmes.

It has been both challenging and exciting putting this publication together because of the dynamic nature of the environment that we operate in. But after seeing the final product, I am proud to say it really has been a labour of love.

We look forward to hearing your opinion on how we can improve our engagement with you our stakeholders and our service delivery offering to better serve our communities. Please share your views on our communication platforms.

Best wishes for the festive season and the new year ahead.

Sincerely,
Sibongile Mpofu
HEAD OF DEPARTMENT

DSRAC IN BRIEF:

Operation Clean Audit: the department obtained a clean audit opinion for the second consecutive year.

Museums: The department has made strides in ensuring that the Bayworld Museum in Gqeberha is revamped to its former glory, by partnering with the Nelson Mandela Bay Municipality through the Mandela Bay Development Agency to develop a virtual museum facility at Bayworld. This will go a long way in finding the best ways to utilise virtual museums and digital exhibitions to attract new audiences and extend their service offerings online for global consumption and appreciation.

Language Services: As part of its efforts to promote, encourage, and support multilingualism and cultural diversity, the department, through its language services directorate partnered with the South African Revenue Services (SARS) in producing a multilingual booklet which explains tax terminology in 10 official languages and is able provide taxpayers with information about the tax environment in their mother tongue. This initiative was launched at the Steve Biko Centre in Ginsberg recently. The multilingual tax terminology volume 1 booklet contains around 450 terms and covers a wide spectrum of fields in the financial world such as tax, wills, and general financial business. Other partners in this initiative are the Department of Education and Eastern Cape Legislature.

Celebrating 100 years of archival history

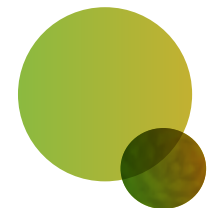
This year marks one hundred years of archival legislation and South Africa celebrated this achievement as part of its Annual National Archives Week – an annual event which promotes the importance of good record keeping practices. The department hosted the 2022 Annual National Archives Week event, which took place from 6 - 10 June 2022 at various venues in the Buffalo City District under the theme: “100 years of Archival; Role and strides made by our memory institution in preserving documentary heritage #AW2022# ArchivesAreYou. The aim of the five-day event was to popularise the profession and get to engage communities around the importance of archives in the preservation of societal memory. The Department, through the Archives and Records Services Directorate is responsible for the management of the Eastern Cape archives, with repositories in Mthatha, Qonce and Gqeberha.

Heritage Management: The department started the year with a bang, with the commemoration of the centenary of the passing of Reverend John Knox Bokwe, one of the early modern African intellectuals of the 19th and 20th century who excelled as an academic, educator, religious leader, journalist, culture activist, and community builder. All the national days were dedicated to his life and legacy.

The library service's E-books platform launched during the country's lockdown, brought about by the Covid-19 pandemic, where a number of our communities couldn't access the printed books at the department's libraries is fast gaining momentum with the public. The E-books Online service is aimed at encouraging a culture of reading and learning and offers electronic versions of printed books that can be read on a computer or a handheld electronic device. To be able to access the E-books one needs to register as a library user/ member by logging in on <http://easterncape.overdrive.com>. and they will be eligible to access any E-book of choice. The E-books service is accessible is affordable, offers shareable content and is environmentally friendly.

Resistance and Liberation
Heritage Route: The department also enhanced branding of the Eastern Cape as the Home of Legends and developed the route through unveiling of memorials (statues) dedicated to icons of the struggle for national liberation: Dr AB Xuma and Walter Sisulu Statues (Ngcobo); Canon James Calata Statue (Keiskammahoe); also standardised and registered 11 place names including Qonce (King William's Town), Ntabozuko (Berlin), Gqeberha (Port Elizabeth) and Kariega (Uitenhage).

DSRAC WELCOMES NEW MEC



The Department of Sport, Recreation, Arts and Culture (DSRAC) recently welcomed its new MEC, the Hon. Nonceba Kotsiwe, following the changes in the Provincial Executive announced by Premier, Hon. Lubabalo Oscar Mabuyane on 16 August 2022.

MEC Kotsiwe replaces the former MEC, Fezeka Nkomonye who has overseen the department since 2019.

MEC Kotsiwe is a seasoned politician, who has served in Provincial oversight bodies since 2014. These include, the Eastern Cape Provincial Legislature Committee, Member at Public Accounts (SCOPA) and several others. In March 2021, she was deployed as the MEC for Human Settlements. The deployment came at a time where that department had surrendered 338-million rands as a result of underspending. In her tenure as the political head of that department, she helped strengthen controls which resulted in sound financial management and the meeting of targets. MEC Kotsiwe's deployment to DSRAC comes at a time when nation building, unity

and social cohesion are topical themes. She says her immediate task is to ensure that there's continuity and ongoing improvements in departmental programmes and service delivery.

"The agenda is to position the Eastern Cape in greater pedestals in the arena of sports and recreation while promoting our diverse arts and culture.

These should be done in a bid to reposition the socio-economic realities of the people of the province. The Eastern Cape has an abundance of sporting and artistic talent, our role as government is to ensure that we create a supportive environment that nurtures that talent and allows it to thrive right here in the province. The question of social cohesion is very high on my agenda in terms of using sports, arts and culture to unite our diverse province," said Kotsiwe.

DSRAC head of department, Sibongile Mpofu welcomed MEC Kotsiwe to the department, adding that the wealth of experience that she brings will greatly benefit the department.

"We are honoured to have MEC Kotsiwe join the department. We look forward to her stewardship and guidance towards the development of sport and the arts and culture sectors," she said.

"We would also like to thank former MEC Fezeka Nkomonye for steering the department through the Covid 19 pandemic and for her contribution to the sport and creative industries of the province since her appointment in 2019," Mpofu added.

MEC Kotsiwe is in possession of a BA Degree in Social Science obtained in 1997 and Higher Diploma in Education (HDE) obtained in 1998 both from the University of Fort Hare.

She further obtained a Certificate in Economic Development and Labour Practise from the University of Western Cape (UWC) in 2009 and a Certificate in Economic Development & Policy from Wits University in 2021. She is currently studying towards a master's degree in public administration at the University of Fort Hare.



REFLECTION: My first 100 days in office

MEC Nonceba Kotsiwe

While the 100-day milestone in office for any political office bearer is mostly arbitrary, the early days of a Member of the Executive Council in a new department can be a choice time for her to set a new agenda. It has been over three months since I took over helm as the Member of the Executive Council deployed in the Eastern Cape Department of Sport, Recreation, Arts and Culture.

I am tasked with the responsibility of

ensuring that the department realizes its strategic mission of developing and promoting sport, recreation, arts, and culture for spiritual, intellectual, physical, and material upliftment of the people of the Eastern Cape. I had to hit the ground running and roll my sleeves due to the demanding programmes of the department. The first step was to ensure that the department's top management buys into my vision of creating a balance in all aspects that the department solely exists to promote. In just two days

after I assumed duty on 18 of August 2022, I had a meeting with the top management of the department and urged them that, we must work as hand in glove in ensuring that service delivering pertaining to the department and its programmes is done efficiently.

I'm assuming my role as the MEC in this department after being deployed by the Honourable Premier with a full understanding that this department has a vast mandate. But it cannot be that only sport is treated as a priority.



MEC Nonceba Kontsiwe meeting Management, HOD Sibongile Mpofo and CFO Nceba Adonis

The Eastern Cape is rich in heritage, arts and culture and the time has come that we capitalize on that.

Hitting the ground running also meant that while I was engaging with the top management of the department, I had to ensure service delivery continuity and attended to the programmes and activities planned to promote the work of the department. One of those activities that ushered me into the department was the hosting of the Eastern Cape Sports and Recreation Awards in Gqeberha, to recognise, celebrate and reward individuals, federations and teams that have excelled both on and off the field.

The province has seen a lot of excellence in the sports fraternity. Athletes from the Eastern Cape are representing the province well in various platforms. Hence it was important to reward their excellence which has placed the province on the map and showing that the athletes work is valued.

I would have loved to see more recognition of women and the role they play in sport, especially now that the country is hosting the Netball World Cup next year, for the first time on African soil.

Netball is the biggest women's sport in South Africa and is played across the country from remote villages to metropolitan areas.

We pay homage to those individuals who have paved the way and made a mark in the sports fraternity but are sadly no longer with us. Amongst those are four Netball players who passed away in a tragic accident, a year ago, as they were travelling to the Spar Netball Championships in the Western Cape. The businessmen, legends and sports administrators like Monde Tabata, Jeff Budaza, Andrew Sokolich, Alfred Mtsi, Mthetheleli Ngumbela and many others. May their souls continue to rest in peace.

I had an opportunity also to be part of the Hollywoodbets COSAFA Women's Championships hosted in Gqeberha to close of Women's Month. The tournament has been held in the province five times by the same municipality and my plan is to facilitate a platform between COSAFA and Buffalo City Metro Municipality wherein an agreement to host the next tournament in BCMM would be discussed. This is part of making sure that other parts of our province are included and other countries have an opportunity to see the beautiful culture and heritage we are endowed with.

The month of September is celebrated across the country as Heritage Month. For the Eastern Cape, it is a month the province remembers the death of Steve Biko and the Bisho Massacre. Both these historic events have resurrected the conversation of the need to fast-track the Liberation Struggle Route project. It is with paramount importance to run this project concurrently with

the liberation struggle fallen exiles repatriation project.

Part of that Liberation Struggle Route is the Ngcobo Heroes Park where the statues of Dr. AB Xuma and Walter Sisulu are erected and were officially unveiled by the Eastern Cape Government, led by honourable Premier Oscar Mabuyane, as part of the Heritage Day commemorations. In the same vein, Heritage Month was closed off by unveiling a life size statue of Revered Canon James Arthur Calata at Qoboqobo.

On matters of administration, the department needs to change its culture and I have shared my vision which I envisage for the department with employees at one of the strategic planning sessions. My plea is that each departmental employee performs their task to the best of their abilities. I hope that through the strategic sessions, we are able to reinvent a service delivery model which will directly speak to the needs of our people. If there are red tapes that hinder service delivery, then we need to come up with permissible ways that will disrupt the status quo. We need not be comfortable and think now that the department has a clean audit outcome all is well, our books are in order. We must constantly improve on our performance, the audit outcome must speak also service delivery - to the communities we serve, what does it mean to them, especially in the rural outskirts.

This should be throughout the programmes we carryout, with emphasis on the youth of this province. As we know that unemployment levels are very high, and our children find

themselves lingering with nothing to do and end up doing mischievous activities. Our programmes should be able to cater for them whether we speak of sport or arts and culture, they must find something positive to do through these programmes.

I am glad that I have been part of handing over of sporting attire and equipment to schools, sporting hubs, leagues and clubs at district level as this speaks to the youth and would like to see more talent being unearthed in the most rural parts of our communities.

Lastly, I have started a process of interacting with districts in a bid to ensure there's operational hegemony at an administrative level, while also strengthening partnerships with the private sector and other social partners. I am also looking into strengthening monitoring in the department's entities and federations supported by the department. All of these have initiatives have been kick started by having meetings with the affected parties.

I look forward to effectively servicing the people of our province beyond the 100 days in office as we continue to unlock the hindrances to service delivery within the creative, sport, arts and culture industries, as long as we work together with our communities.

EC hosts 2023 Netball World Cup DRAW

MEC Nonceba Kotsiwe with EC Legislature Deputy Speaker Mlibo Qoboshiyane



The East London International Convention Centre was a hive of activity, this as the world of Netball gathered for the team draw at a glitz and glamour event held on 30 November 2022.

The Department of Sport, Recreation, Arts and Culture MEC Nonceba Kotsiwe welcomed the guests to the province and highlighted the importance of hosting the draw and the tournament in the country.

“We feel honoured to be part of this historic event as this province. It is no accident in history that this province is dubbed as the Home of Legends. It is because of icons like Sisulu, Tambo, Mandela, Madikizela, Sobukwe, Biko and many other gallant warriors that we earned this title. They took up the arms so that a girl from the deep rural Eastern Cape can boldly put on the Proteas jersey and represent the nation in international platforms. We will be witness to a tournament of this kind being played for the first time on African soil. This is a dream come through that those who came before us never lived to realize,” said MEC Kotsiwe.



General Manager - Sport and Recreation Ms Deidre Sedras with the Netball World Cup Mascot, Letsetsi

The draw saw the confirmation of 16 participating teams; with South Africa, Australia, England, Jamaica, New Zealand, and Uganda getting automatic qualification to the World Cup due to their world rankings. South Africa is paired with Jamaica, Wales, and Sri Lanka in pool C. While Australia is in pool A with Tonga, Zimbabwe, and Fiji. Pool B is made up by England, Malawi, Scotland and Barbados. The last group, which is pool D, will see New Zealand face off against Uganda, Singapore, and Trinidad & Tobago.

The Department of Sport, Arts and Culture Minister Nathi Mthethwa, said he was elated that the country was



From left is Limpopo Sport, Arts & Culture MEC Nakedi Kekana, EC DSRAC MEC Nonceba Kotsiwe, DSAC Minister Nathi Mthethwa and President of Netball SA Cecilia Molokwane

conducting the draw and will be hosts to the Netball World Cup next year. “Today’s draw marks an important milestone on our roadmap towards the biggest sports event to be hosted by South Africa since the 2010 FIFA World Cup. We are grateful that World Netball trusted us enough to award the hosting of their most significant asset to South Africa and the African Continent. We dare not disappoint them. What makes the event particularly important in today’s South Africa, is that it is the first and biggest event for women sports.”

“As the countdown clock is ticking, ever so patiently, we have decided to step up the publicity around the 2023 Netball World Cup. We are encouraged to learn that the 2023 Netball World Cup Board has already achieved milestones like the launch of Netball Fridays, the activation of the Countdown Clock, the launch of the Mascot, Letsatsi, as well as sponsorship and partnership announcements,” said Minister Mthethwa.

The final draw is one of the events leading up to the upcoming Netball World Cup 2023 which will be hosted by the City of Cape Town from 28th July – 06th August 2023.

REVIVING BOXING IN THE EASTERN CAPE REQUIRES STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIPS

Mesuli Zifo - Daily Dispatch Sports Editor

The recent title win of the newly crowned IBF Junior Fly-Weight World Champion, Sivenathi Nontshinga, and that of Zolani "Last Born" Tete, who beat Jason Cunningham in England on the 2nd July 2022 to be the new IBF, WBO Intercontinental and Commonwealth Champion were not only for the province but for the entire country.

These wins give hope to many young stars who might have been despondent due to the social ills facing our communities. They also remind us that the Eastern Cape Province is changing its course and reclaiming its number one position of being the

boxing mecca of the country.

Over the years, the Eastern Cape Province has produced a number of national and world boxing champions. Among them, is boxing legend and world title record-holder Vuyani Bungu, and the likes of Masibulele 'Hawk' Makepula, Azinga 'Golden Boy' Fuzile and the late Ndoda 'Happyboy' Mayende as some of the boxers who have raised the Eastern Cape flag high. This spark, however, has diminished in the recent years, resulting in local boxers leaving to other provinces due to lack of tournaments; while boxing promoters were at loggerheads with each other, leaving very

limited development and hosting of tournaments taking place.

This led the Department of Sport, Recreation, Arts and Culture (DSRAC) to halt the disbursement of funding that was meant to be used for boxing tournaments for several years. However, the former DSRAC MEC, Ms Fezeka Nkomonye in her tenure, managed to turn things around for the sport in the province and set the wheels in motion to re-develop the boxing programme; ending the historical internal battles between licensees and promoters, that had rendered thousands of boxers inactive.



Newly launched Eastern Cape Boxing Championship Belt

“My intervention was solely for the purpose of reviving and developing boxing in the province and for boxing promoters to come up with amicable solutions to the problems that had negatively impacted boxers and the development of the sport. Boxing is a sport with a great potential of taking a child from egalini eZiphuzane to the greatest world stages. The economic and developmental potential of boxing is huge; it can literally change lives and break the cycle of poverty,” said Nkomonye at the time.

The intervention yielded positive results as it gave birth to the Eastern Cape Boxing Promoters Association (ECBPA), bringing much needed stability on the management and administration front of Eastern Cape Boxing. “I am of the view that the entire boxing fraternity must have a common vision to develop the sport of boxing. Once there is visible stability, accountability and growth; many funders, corporate et.al would want to associate with the beloved sport, she said.

As a spin-off of this, for the first time in the history of boxing in the Eastern Cape in June this year, the Provincial Championship Belt was launched in an effort to promote the Eastern Cape Boxing Development Programme. The province had never had a championship belt before this and was lagging behind other provinces such as Gauteng and the Western Cape. Boxers at some stage were given certificates and trophies as evidence that they are provincial champions. This historic occasion marked the first time that provincial titles would be accompanied by a token dating back to

the apartheid regime when the province was demarcated as part of the Cape Province.

The unveiling of the belt gives renewed hope to our pugilists, as the excitement was written all over their faces during the launch.

The funding which was discontinued has since been reinstated and the department has partnered with Boxing South Africa (BSA) as the custodian of professional boxing in South Africa to be directly involved as an implementing agent for the selection of suitable boxing promoters to host 12 development tournaments in the province up until March 2023, with the first EC boxing title match held in Gqeberha on July 30th, 2022. The tournaments saw boxers from across the province vying for the spot of first provincial champion to go home with the prestigious EC Championship Belt. DSRAC has, up until March 2023, availed funding of about R2.2 million to BSA for this initiative, with the belief that these tournaments will indeed contribute to the renewal and growth of boxing in the province.

Through this initiative, five promoters were afforded the opportunity to stage tournaments in various regions in the province, such as OR Tambo, Sarah Baartman, Gqeberha and two in the Buffalo City Metro, between August and September this year. The successful promoters included a joint venture X Promotions and Isizwe who hosted a tournament in Makhanda/ Kirkwood, as well as Fireworks Promotions with Qonce as their venue of choice; while veteran promoter KK Promotions

and Black Magiq followed suit with a tournament in Mthatha.

THE DEVELOPMENT OF BOXING CANNOT BE LEFT TO DSRAC ALONE, BUT REQUIRES SUPPORT AND PARTNERSHIPS WITH THE CORPORATE SECTOR, BUSINESSES, LOCAL GOVERNMENT AND OTHER GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENTS INVESTING IN THE SPORT. BOXING SOUTH AFRICA HAVE SHOWN THEIR COMMITMENT THROUGH DIFFERENT PROGRAMMES, ENCOURAGING LICENSEES TO PROFESSIONALISE BOXING TO MAKE SURE THE RENEWAL, GROWTH AND TRANSFORMATION AGENDA OF THE SPORT IS ACHIEVED.

The Eastern Cape boxing has an international footprint, and requires deliberate actions and initiatives such as through sport tourism to promote the province by hosting major international boxing events that feature local boxers who have the potential to be world champions. The province has future stars like Nhlanhla Tyirha, Phumelela Cafu, and many more who have a huge potential to be credible champions and they need unwavering support.

Strategic partnerships are needed in order to revive boxing in the province, and to market the beautiful Eastern Cape province as a destination of choice, with boxing as a key attraction. I believe through this approach, the province will ultimately reclaim its status of being the boxing mecca.

EC WOMEN'S RUGBY CLUBS CLASH IN GENEVA SCHOLTZ MEMORIAL TOURNAMENT



The Geneva Scholtz Women's Rugby Tournament, the biggest women's rugby competition in the province, kicked off to much excitement at Midros Sport Grounds in Middelburg on 8 – 9 October 2022, after two years of non-action due to the Covid 19 pandemic.

The tournament, organised by the Department of Sport, Recreation, Arts and Culture (DSRAC), Eastern Cape Province Rugby Union, the Eastern Cape Federation in partnership with Inxuba Yethemba Local Municipality, is held annually in memory of Geneva Scholtz, a former Eastern Province loose forward who tragically passed away in 2013 while playing in a match between Quaru and Middelburg Stormers.

Eight districts from Eastern Cape participated in the tournament, with Buffalo City Municipality, Nelson Mandela, O.R Tambo and Amathole in division A; and Chris Hani, Alfred Nzo, Joe Gqabi and Sarah Baartman in division B.

In the division finals, Quaru was successful in defeating Buffalo City's Tsholomnqa Rugby Club 25-5. In the same vein, division B champions Ngcele United defeated Chris Hani Golden Ladies 35-25.

The Middelburg Stormers were a tough opponent for Quaru in their division A playoff game, and they were able to secure a 6-0 victory.

Geneva's uncle Mr Kerneels said they are happy as a family that Geneva is not forgotten and continues to be honoured through the tournament.

“This give us the satisfaction that she is not forgotten, and her spirit is still alive, because she dedicated herself to rugby and we really appreciate everything that has been done in her name.”

Honour memory of **GENEVA SCHOLTZ**

Vusumzi Mba & Akhona Mgijima

by supporting women in sport



August is Women's Month in South Africa. It is when the country commemorates the historic march by women to the Union Buildings on August 9, 1956 in protest against the hated pass laws.

This year marks the 66th anniversary of the watershed event which strengthened the fundamentals of the great power that women wield. It planted the seed that would bear the fruits of access, excellence and success many years later.

Each year, the month of August serves as a reminder that it was women who stood up against the most ruthless and brutal regime, boldly uttering: "Wathint' abafazi wathint' imbokodo"

(You strike a woman, you strike a rock). Theirs was a peaceful march and it was hugely significant because today it is no longer taboo to have women in strategic centres of power where women are excelling and leading in all sectors of society, including those predominantly associated with men.

These are the fruits of the historic protest march on the Union Buildings. The commitment and character of Helen Joseph, Lilian Ngoyi, Rahima Moosa and Sophia Williams should serve as an inspiration and a fountain of hope for a better South Africa.

Former President Nelson Mandela was right when he declared during the inaugural Laureus World Sports Awards

in 2000 that: "Sport has the power to change the world. It has the power to inspire. It has the power to unite people in a way that little else does."

As we continue to celebrate Women's Month, we must remember to also focus on other sectors where women excel beyond political activism.

March 9, 2013 was supposed to have ended with joy for Geneva Scholtz, the Middelburg Stormers rugby player who previously also represented the Eastern Province, but she collapsed during the game against Quaru. The medical team stabilised her and she was taken to Humansdorp Hospital for further assessment, however Scholtz tragically died while waiting for a helicopter that

would take her to a hospital in the then Port Elizabeth for acute care.

Her death must not be in vain as we must transcend the merely political honouring of women going forward. Geneva's sad passing was an epitome of pain and a blow to transformation because she was a daughter of a single, struggling parent in the coloured community of Middelburg - a place where poverty, crime, unemployment, gender-based violence and teenage pregnancy are at their apex.

Despite this, Geneva was deservedly selected for the SA Women's training squad in 2011, wearing the Springboks colours with pride. She was celebrated by her community for making history.

She used sport to inspire her peers and youngsters to dare to dream despite their socio-economic challenges. Women in SA sport are still hampered by a dire lack of development. The main causes are the lack of resources invested in sport, meagre funds for sports development in the Eastern Cape and the lack of gender diversity at higher echelons in sports codes, coupled with the fact that sport receives less money than other government departments. This is unfortunate as sport and recreation are an integral part in the quest to build a socially cohesive society.

It is no wonder we are struggling to build a non-racial and non-sexist society. Women in sport are paid less than their male counterparts, get less sponsorship, play in fewer tournaments than men and are often marginalised in sports development. This can be attributed to minimal investment by the government and a lack of support by the private sector.

All stakeholders have a duty to give the youth inspired by Geneva a chance of success. Both the government and the private sector must play a role. The government and private sector must contribute resources to unearth more talent from places like Middelburg. It breaks one's heart that there are still insufficient sport facilities for youngsters to use to escape drug and alcohol abuse.

Geneva, like other bright stars in sport, shone in a sporting code that was, and still is dominated by men. She stood up when standing was not easy by playing despite the challenges. Her example must encourage our communities to be involved in sport to fight crime, drug and alcohol abuse, as well as gender-based violence.

A heroine and a pioneer of her time who said she would die playing rugby fell on the field as a brave soldier dying in battle. She did not betray the mission

of a generation of young women to live better lives.

Geneva reminds us of great leaders such as Nonesi, the wife of King Ngubengcuka, and of Vusani kaNdaba, who led the AbaThembu nation under conditions twice as regent and queen.

Sport development programmes must never be taken for granted and used for profiteering and corrupt ends. Let us promote the health and livelihoods of youngsters through sport. We can also contribute to the fight against mental health problems and contribute to better academic performance by the youth.

Parents having to bury their children is abnormal. This man-made abnormality is due to the failure to prioritise sport and recreational activities over shebeen profiteering.

Let us build a generation of heroines in sport that can be like their counterparts in other areas of society such as Princess Emmah Sandile of AmaRharhabe, Princess Krotoa of the Goringhaicona, Princess Mkabayi kaJama, Mamokgethi Phakeng, Winnie Madikizela-Mandela, Maria Ramos, Brigalia Bam and Mamphela Ramphele. Geneva has done it, now the ball is in our court. Let us build the legacy.

EC Teen sprints her way into the world record books



17 year old Viwe Jingqi grew up in Ntswashini Village ku-Beyele, on the outskirts of eNgcobo. Running for the love of it in the hills and valleys of eNgcobo, playing ugqaphu and blacktoti, Viwe enjoyed any hobby or sport that would make her run. At the age of 10, she started competing in inter-house running contests at school. She sprinted her way into district and provincial competitions. In 2018 she took part in her first national contest, the junior national championships in Gqeberha where her breakthrough performance saw her scouted by Tuks Sport.

On the 22 April 2022 Jingqi went From humble beginnings to the fastest under-18 female sprinter in the world. Jingqi rewrote the national record books that have stood for nearly four decades when she broke 2 national records and completed a 100meter race in 11.24 seconds and a 200meter race in 23.03 seconds. She also holds the title of the world's fastest female

under-18 runner in 2022. Viwe says even though she knew she could do it, she could not believe it when her name was called out as the winner. She is super excited about participating in the 2024 Olympic Games in Paris.

IQONGA caught up with the sprinting sensation for a brief Q&A session to find out what it takes to be a record-breaking athlete:

How do you prepare for each game or match? I pray before I compete to make sure I am okay spiritually and then warm up properly to get my limbs ready.

Who do you wish was watching you perform at every game or match? My late brother Vukile who died tragically in a car accident last year, I miss him every day and wish he could see well I'm doing. I know he would be proud.

Do you have any other interests besides athletics? Being a motivational speaker and singing.

Advice to aspiring youngsters? Giving up is never an option. I think the biggest lesson is to not forget why you started.

How has athletics changed your life? I went from being just a girl in a remote village in the Eastern Cape to being a recognized track star. Athletics has opened up my world.

Please tell us about meeting Caster Semenya for the first time. When I saw Caster I had goose bumps. I couldn't believe it. She has always been an inspiration to me because she comes from humble beginnings like myself and raced her way up. And on her journey came across a lot of things that could have discouraged her but she never let anything daunt her. But I never got a chance to talk to her but I hope one day I will.

Jingqi was part of the 47-member Athletics South Africa team that took part at the World Athletics U20 Championships in Cali, Colombia from 1 – 6 August 2022.

Over 80 awardees recognised for their contribution to sport in the province



Danny Jordan receiving the legend award for football from MEC Nonceba Kotsiwe, assisted by former NMBMM Mayor Eugene Johnson

Rugby star, Lusanda Dumke, 26, lived every sports woman's dream at the Department of Sport Recreation, Arts and Culture's Sport and Recreation Awards held at the Boardwalk Hotel in Gqeberha on the 19th August 2022.

The story of the young woman orphaned at age 12, became one of hope and inspiration when she was awarded not only the prestigious sports woman of the year title but also that of the sports star of the year.

Dumke could not make the award ceremony as she was part of the Springbok team which beat Spain 37-14 in the final Test of their Women's Winter Series at the Fanie du Toit Stadium in Potchefstroom. Connected via a video call from her hotel room in Potchefstroom, Dumke could not hold back the tears as the announcement was made. Surrounded by some of her teammates who broke out in song and celebration in support of their friend, an emotional Dumke said: "I honestly did not expect this." She thanked the Border Women's rugby team, the Department of Sport, Recreation, Arts and Culture as well as her family for their support.

Among the dignitaries who graced the event where over 80 awardees who were recognised for their contribution to sport in the province, was Eastern Cape Premier Lubabalo Oscar Mabuyane, former South African



Football Association (SAFA) president Danny Jordaan, Nelson Mandela Bay Municipality Mayor, Eugene Johnson; MECs of provincial government departments and local sports legends. Premier Mabuyane delivered the keynote address and honoured the Eastern Cape-bred talent. He also recognised team members of Africa's pride Banyana-Banyana who had qualified for the Women's World Cup to be played in Australia and New Zealand in 2023.

Other awards on the evening included the sports team of the year award, which went to Border Women's Rugby, and Luxolo Adams scooped the sports

man of the year award.

The annual sports awards are held to recognize and celebrate individuals, federations and teams that have excelled both on and off the field. This year, the awards covered the period from June 2020 to June 2022 to make up for when gatherings were strictly regulated because of the Covid 19 pandemic.

The awards were held in partnership with the Eastern Cape Sport Confederation and strategic partners, National Lotteries Commission, ABSA, Old Mutual and the Boardwalk Hotel.



EASTERN CAPE SPORT & RECREATION

Achievers Awards

Hon MEC
NONCEBA KONTSIWE
Dept of Sport, Recreation, Arts & Culture

Congratulates the Winners

LEGENDS AWARDS

Fezile Sobikwa
Loyiso Mtya
Nceba Dladla
Brian Ndzundzu
Daniel Jordaan
Johnson Kula
Matinise Toni
Justice Mzilikazi
Nompumelelo Javu
Zola Dunywa
Nomngqibelo Tsotsobe
Temba Ludwaba

SCHOOL TEAM OF THE YEAR

Humansdorp High School

FEDERATION OF THE YEAR

Judo Eastern Cape

INDIGENOUS GAMES STAR OF THE YEAR

Nomakhuzi Hlomendlini

ADMINISTRATOR OF THE YEAR

Sondisa Magajana

RECREATION AWARDS

Lunga Nqini
Nkosinathi Biko
Siphokazi Mkrakra
Nwabisa Mahlahla
Sanelisiwe Nyembe
Asanda Tyaba
Luvuyo Dikgashwe
Xoliswa Jikeka

PRESENTER OF THE YEAR - ELECTRONIC PROVINCIAL/ NATIONAL MEDIA

Zolani Bongco

MEC SPECIAL AWARDS

Zolani Tete
Ayabonga Khaka
Sibonele Ngwane
Peter Bacela
Kaunda Ntunja
Mahlubandile Puzi
Mnyamezeli Klaas
Mandisa Williams
Nomsebenzi Tsotsobe
Singathwa Magida
Melikhaya Frans

JOURNALIST OF THE YEAR - PROVINCIAL/NATIONAL MEDIA

Selby Madikane

TECHNICAL OFFICIAL OF THE YEAR

Mthobeli Vena

COACH OF THE YEAR

Nwabisa Ngxatu

SPORTSMAN OF THE YEAR GOLDEN AGE

Andre Ludik

SPORTSWOMAN OF THE YEAR GOLDEN AGE

Josina Els

DISABLED SPORTS TEAM OF THE YEAR

Eastern Cape Wheelchair Basketball

DISABLED SPORTSWOMAN OF THE YEAR OF THE YEAR

Ntombomhlontlo Somtswayi

DISABLED SPORTSMAN OF THE YEAR

Jaco Smit

SPORT TEAM OF THE YEAR

Border Womens Rugby

SPORTSWOMAN OF THE YEAR

Lusanda Dumke

SPORTSMAN OF THE YEAR

Luxolo Adams

SPORT STAR OF THE YEAR

Lusanda Dumke

SPECIAL AWARDS

Sibulele Holweni
Kaylin Swart
Kholosa Biyana
Robyn Moodley
Melinda Kgadiete
Bambanani Mbane
Ma-Eleven Sethuntsa

IN APPRECIATION OF EXCELLENT SERVICE RENDERED TO FOOTBALL - 2022

Sibulele Holweni
Kaylin Swart
Kholosa Biyana
Robyn Moodley
Melinda Kgadiete
Bambanani Mbane
Ma-Eleven Sethuntsa

IN APPRECIATION OF EXCELLENT SERVICE RENDERED TO FOOTBALL - 2022

Akhona Makhalima
Luxolo September

Creatives urged to collaborate at EC Arts & Culture Awards

Former DSRAC MEC Fezeka Nkomonye with MEC special award recipients, Mr Bongani Fuzile (Deputy Editor- Daily Dispatch), Mr Jet Novuka (SA Actor/Director), Ms Noxolo Grootboom (Retired SABC Newsreader), and Mr Zolani Bongco (SABC Radio and TV Sport Commentator) and his wife.



A story of a little girl who had no chance at an education and little prospect for a bright future was turned around by the love of her mother tongue, isiXhosa.

This is the inspirational story of celebrated and much loved news anchor, editor and all-round broadcaster, Noxolo Grootboom, as she told it at this year's Eastern Cape Provincial Arts and Culture Awards hosted by the Department of Sport, Recreation, Arts and Culture (DSRAC) at the East London Golf Club in May.

Grootboom, who was one of the MEC's Special Award recipients at the glittering event, built her reputation with her unmatched flair for presenting the news in her mother tongue. The multi-talented storyteller who retired in 2021, after 37 years at the public broadcaster, the South African Broadcast Corporation (SABC), said it is the respect she has for the wealth that is her heritage and language that earned her the love and admiration of millions of South Africans. "When you lose your language, you disconnect with your roots and lose the essence of who you are," she said.

"My story is of a little girl from a far-off village in the Eastern Cape; it is a story of a bleak future filled with fear and doubt, and the only thing I had was my language – isiXhosa, and it became my beacon of light," she added, sharing her background with the attendees and fellow award recipients at the event.

Graced by distinguished dignitaries from government, business and stakeholders from the arts and culture sector, the prestigious award ceremony was held in recognition of individuals, groups and organisations or institutions that have displayed superior contribution and professional excellence in the arts and culture sector in the province.

The department received nominations from the public spanning across

nine different categories, including music, language, visual and performing arts, and indigenous knowledge.

A dedicated team of adjudicators who are professionals in the Music, Indigenous Knowledge, Language, Visual and Performing Arts genres selected the top 19 most deserving candidates.

Handing out the awards at the event, then DSRAC MEC Fezeka Nkomonye said even though there is a vast amount of creative talent in the Eastern Cape, most of it leaves the province in search of greener pastures.

"To halt this exodus of talent, we have a responsibility to create a nurturing environment for our artists. We also have a responsibility to make sure that they receive the necessary support and platforms to showcase their talent so as to earn a living through their craft," she said, pleading with the artists to learn to collaborate and lift each other up as there is greater success in numbers.

Through the department's support of platforms like the National Arts Festival in Makhanda, Isingqi Sethu in Port St Johns, the Shukuma

Dance and Iphulo Drama Festivals in Nelson Mandela Metropolitan Municipality, as well as the Komani Jazz and the OR Tambo Choral Music Festivals, and many other arts and culture programmes; the government intends to ensure that creatives from the Eastern Cape have the platforms to showcase their talent and the economic means to sustain them.

The next awards ceremony is set to take place in March 2023, where more creatives will be honoured for their sterling work and contribution to the arts and creative industries.



Change

ECPGNC standardize more than 300 names in the province

The Department of Sport, Recreation, Arts and Culture’s cultural body, Eastern Cape Province Geographic Names Committee (ECPGNC) has been hard at work in standardizing place names to represent the provinces cultural heritage landscape through the process of name change.

According to the ECPGNC chairperson Mr Zukile Jodwana this process is done to heal the nation, promote nation building and foster social cohesion. “The process of name changes is not taken lightly as it takes due diligence. The ECPGNC receives applications for proposed renaming, conduct research on the name and facilitate a consultative process with the local community concerned, business, faith organisations, and other stakeholders in the jurisdiction of the place to be renamed” he said.

About 295 names have been standardised or changed from 2003 to 2021, with 11 new names gazetted by Minister Nathi Mthethwa in August 2022.

The proposed names can be based on a historical event, the role played by an individual or any other historical reason that the community sees fit.

From there, public hearings are conducted around the proposed names, where public comment is solicited and reasons for the proposed standardization are presented.

Objections received from this process are sent to the ECPGNC’s Objections Sub-committee for review. Once a consensus on the new name has been reached amongst all relevant stakeholders, the Committee makes recommendations to the national body, the South African Geographical Names Council (SAGNC) which examines the processes followed in coming to the conclusion that such a name should be

standardised or accepted before the name is gazetted.

Section 10 (3) of the South African Geographical Names Act, 1998 provides that “Any person or body dissatisfied with a geographical name approved by the Minister of Sport, Arts and Culture may, within one month from the date of publication of the geographical name in the Gazette, lodge a complaint in writing to the Minister”. Furthermore, Section 10(4) of the Act further state that “the Minister may refer the complaint to the Council for advice whether or not to reject or amend a geographical name so approved”.

The ECPGNC is planning to gazette two more names before the end of the financial year of 2022-23.

Mandela Bay Theatre Complex appoints new council



MBTC Chairperson
Ms Palesa Kadi

The Department of Sport Arts and Culture (DSAC) Minister Nathi Mthethwa has appointed a nine members to serve on the council of the Mandela Bay Theatre Complex, an entity of the provincial department of sport, recreation, arts and culture.

The appointment of the council follows the official declaration of the entity in May 2021 by Minister Mthethwa as a Cultural Institution in accordance with the Cultural Institutions Act (1998) and the Public Finance Management Act (1999).

The Council Members are: the chairperson of the council, Palesa Kadi together with Comfort Dithula Nabane, Prof. Mcebisi Ndletyana, Dr. Olwethu Sipuka, Mbasa Metuse, Suren Maharaj, Nonceba Shoba and Justice Irma Schoeman, as council members.

The council's term of office is effective from 02 June 2022 until 01 June 2025.

Welcoming the new council, MBTC chief executive officer, Monde Ngonyama said, “As the Staff and performing arts fraternity of the Eastern Cape we place our faith in the collective of the Accounting Authority in taking the industry forward. We are glad to welcome the council members to the Mandela Bay Theatre Complex as it celebrates 130 years of The Opera House and ten years into the unflappable transformation agenda.”

The council sat for its first sitting on 08 July 2022.

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CHECK OUT our social media platforms

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You can now find DSRAC-EC on

Twitter, Facebook, Instagram and YouTube!

