



KZN GOVERNMENT COMMEMORATES HERITAGE MONTH AS ONE NATION

2021

KwaZulu-Natal this week joined hands with the rest of the country in commemorating Heritage Day, an annual celebration that highlights the country's unity in diversity. September 24 was formally known as Shaka's day before changing to Heritage Day in 1996 to include various South African cultures. This month is a celebration of South African vibrant roots and diverse cultures.

This year, Heritage month is being celebrated under the theme: "The year of Charlotte Maxeke: Celebrating South Africa's Intangible Cultural Heritage". KZN Provincial Government hosted the We Are One Nation Heritage Celebration at Protea Ground, Northdale, uMgungundlovu District Protea to commemorate this important day in the country's calendar.

The event was held to cement unity in diversity after the unfortunate events of looting and destruction which engulfed parts of the province, resulting in 337 deaths. "We celebrate Heritage Day today because historically, we dedicate the 24th to mark and pay tribute to a great nation builder, King Shaka kaSenzangakhona", said the Premier. He further called on citizens to support the government's efforts aimed at advancing social cohesion, peace, and national building.

The stage was electric with various performances of dance, maskandi music and vibrant amapiano dance. Singer and saxophone player Simone blazed the stage with her melodious voice and saxophone skills that reminded the audience of the late Hugu Masekela. Maskandi artist Qadasi performed a song called Hlanganani ma Africa. Sherwin Dancers represented a definition of a rainbow nation as the group entertained the audience with different dance styles.

"We must draw lessons from the July riots and be united in being peace ambassadors, that there is no place for wanton violence, destruction of property, and preventable loss of life for the people of KwaZulu-Natal.

"We must be united, and those who sow seeds of division, anarchy, and instigate violence must face the full might of the law. We must never allow our province to return to the deadly violence of the eighties and the nineties. That violence created orphans and widows and our people still carry their scars. In all that we do, peace must be our way," said Premier Zikalala



Premier Zikalala during the walk-about at the multi-cultural stands during the We Are One Nation Heritage Celebration.



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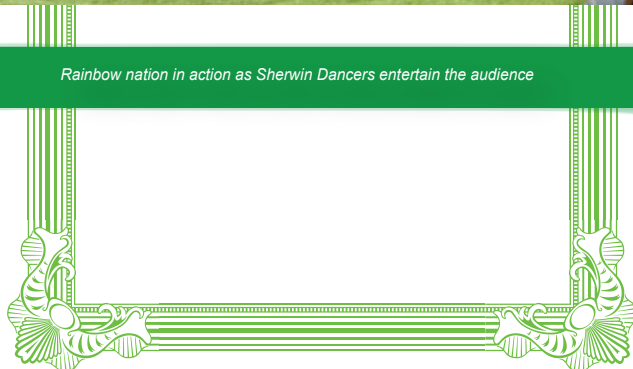
Premier Sihle Zikalala led an energetic team of Zulu traditional dancers at We Are One Nation Heritage Celebration



Rainbow nation in action as Sherwin Dancers entertain the audience



Premier Zikalala delivers the keynote address during the We Are One Nation Heritage Celebration.





COLLEAGUES SHARE ABOUT HERITAGE MONTH AND THEIR CULTURES

As we conclude the Heritage Month, we learn what are our colleagues have to say about the Heritage Month and their cultures. "Our rich and varied cultural heritage has a profound power to help build our nation." Nelson Mandela



"Heritage month for me means remembering and honoring both sides of my family the Zulu and Sotho. It's about embracing who I'm as a young Mosotho lady immersed in the Zulu kingdom and navigating between "ngiyabonga" le "kea leboha". I'm encouraged by food, attire and cultural practices of both cultures to always remember that I'm a person living in the ever-changing world of cultural diversity. I never forget to embrace the seaside of Umgababa and the mountain view of Phuthaditjhaba the best of both worlds for me. In essence Heritage month is about embracing culture in all its totality," says Ms Julia Motaung, Cabinet Office.



"I am a proud Xhosa woman originally coming from the beautiful Province of the Eastern Cape (iPhondo leMpuma Koloni), eNcembu Location kuTsolo. Ndiyinkosazana yamaRhozi! Masoka! Tanzi! Nzimane! Mzimkhulu! Dedeza! Zibunu-bunwana! I got married to a Zulu man uThabethe! Madliwa! Nyamande! Nyama-kayishi! Heritage for me is when I'm reminded of my culture, my roots, who am I? where I come from? My language (isiXhosa)! Our traditional food like iinkobe, umqa, umngqusho, isigwampa etc.

During this period I'm also reminded about our celebrations, our colourful attire (Imibhaco), traditional songs, traditional dances (ukuxhentsa, umngungqo, ingobhe umtshotsho, etc. As amaXhosa we take pride of our rituals like isiko lokwaluka (circumcision) where young men are taught about manhood, intonjane where young girls are taught about womanhood. Our traditional accessories include ingawa, uzallpholile (long smoking pipe) colourful beads, traditional makeup (ukuchokoza), our lipstick (intshongo)," says Ms Yandisa Thabethe, Directorate: Special Projects and OSS



"Heritage Day celebrations in South Africa is a wonderful opportunity to showcase one's culture & heritage; and to invoke appreciation for the motley of cultures on our landscape for systemic unity, togetherness and for establishing and cementing the "Rainbow Nation." Personally, it is a welcoming occasion to present the colourful Indian culture with beautiful eastern outfits, traditional dishes such as samosas, biryanis and curries and Bollywood music. One of the aspects that stands out for me in the Hindu culture is the traditional Hindu attire, the sari. The sari is a traditional Indian outfit worn mainly by women of Hindu descent.

It is just a length of material worn and draped in different ways and styles to make it appealing, stylish and sensual. It is a symbol of Indian Hindu identity and femininity and is worn for religious, cultural & traditional functions and as daily wear in countries like India. Overall, it is associated with respect for elders and with reverence for Hindu culture & heritage. The sari is worn with great pride, decorum & admiration and is accompanied by various embellishments & accessories including eastern sandals, eastern bangles & necklaces and supplemented by the wearing of a red dot for married woman and other colour dots for the unmarried. "I relish the occasions when I adorn this cultural icon called "The Sari." This being a solid part of my Hindu heritage," says Ms Asheera Orrie, Provincial Government Communication.



Heritage is a commemoration of our different nationalities, cultures and a way to remember our roots and where we come from as a people. The month also provides an ideal opportunity to celebrate all our differences which make us a unique nation.

Heritage month is important to me because I hold dear the idea of teaching our future generations about the ways of our ancestors and our languages. I wish it can be Heritage Day everyday as the unifier of the nation," says Mr Lucky Madonsela, Information Communication Technology.



WHO IS SINENHLANHLA SHOZI?



Sinenhlanhla Shoji was recently appointed Director: Co-operative Governance in the Office of the Premier. While she is not a new face, Premier Stars got a chance to find out more about her.

I was born and raised in Ndwedwe, which is part of iLembe District. I was and am still part of a very vibrant family. My parents took keen interest in all areas of our lives including our studies, hobbies, friends etc. We were raised as Christians and as an adult, I have also chosen to follow the Christian religion. My parents instilled the importance of being spiritually grounded as an individual, and that has been a constant and sure guide for my life. I have three (3) sisters and two (2) brothers and I am especially close to my sisters. I currently reside in Howick with my husband and our two (2) sons. Having a family of my own has been a welcome blessing and a source of unending joy to me.

You have been with the OTP for a few years now, but prior to your employment at OTP, who was your previous employer?

I was previously with the Office of the Chief Justice based in Midrand. I was employed as Director: Institutional Secretariat Services from May 2021. I had a good experience with the Department, however it was short-lived as I was subsequently appointed by the Office of the Premier in September 2021.

What other positions have you held at OTP and what aspects of those positions did you enjoy?

Before I left the Office of the Premier, I was employed as Deputy Director within the IGR and DG Support Chief Director from April 2012. (I also served a short stint in the Office of the Head of Department for Department of Public Works from February 2018 to September 2018). However, the work at the Office of the Premier has been one of the most dynamic and interesting positions I have held in my career.

I was fortunate that throughout my employment in this position, my supervisors constantly challenged me to try new things and exposed me to different roles and responsibilities. I am hard-pressed to point out certain aspect as those that I enjoyed. It is more accurate to say the nature of the work was interesting in itself. Working at the IGR and DG Support Chief Directorate is an eye-opening experience as you quickly get to understand how the Department and also the Provincial Government works. Being responsible for governance structures as well as intergovernmental relations means one is able to participate and observe firsthand the coordinated effort of our government in action.



WHO IS SINENHLANHLA SHOZI?

What inspired you to apply for your current position in the Office of the Premier?

The post of Director: Cooperative Governance is one of the three posts that make up the IGR Chief Directorate in the Office of the Premier. With my current studies as well as my experiences and skills-set within the environment, I felt I would be able to practically apply all this knowledge and contribute in strengthening IGR in our Province.

What contribution do you hope to make in pursuit of a quality civil service?

There are many contributions that one hopes to make, both big and small. I will single out two (2) that are a priority for me currently. The first one is professionalism, which is also one of the values for the Office of the Premier. As part of the highest office in the Province and also being responsible for high level IGR Governance Structures, professionalism becomes critical. I hope to enhance the quality of our work through ensuring professionalism in amongst others, producing high quality work, giving timeous and progressive feedback, adhering to generic professionalism inclusive of punctuality, reliability, good conduct and exemplary dress code, etc. The second one is in respect of giving value for money. I hope to be able to produce above average results in all my work. Ensuring I use the time spent at work to accomplish more than expected. And also ensuring that all my contributions and participation add value that makes an impact to my work and to the work of my colleagues.

What are your hobbies and person interests outside the work environment?

I love relaxing with an interesting book and reading the Holy Bible over weekends. I love a good movie that is based on a true story, especially the one that will make me cry. As a family, we also love taking some time out and literally play together.

SINENHLANHLA SHOZI



PREMIER'S STARS WELCOME NEW COLLEAGUES TO THE TEAM



Ms Thobekile Witness Zulu, Director: Human Resource Support, Office No. 24, 1st Floor, Invesco Centre



Ms Sinenhlanhla Fortunate Shoji, Director: Cooperative Governance, Office No. 326, Moses Mabhida Building



Ms Gugu Precious Sisilana, Deputy Director: Media Liaison and Monitoring, Room G17, Ground floor, Moses Mabhida Building



Ms Ntombizodwa Zandile Hlatshwayo, State Accountant: Financial Planning, LG floor, Moses Mabhida Building

LIBRARY SERVICES HOSTS A TWO-DAY BOOK EXHIBITION

The knowledge Management and Library Services Unit of the Provincial Public Service Training Academy hosted a two-day book exhibition on 28 - 29 September 2021. The exhibition took place at Natalia Building in Pietermaritzburg and Provincial Public Service Training Academy in Durban respectively. Five booksellers attended the exhibition with a total of 1135 books on display, offering staff a wide selection of books to choose from. The staff took turns in viewing and assisting the librarian to choose relevant books for their units as well as books of interest.



Day 1 book exhibition in Pietermaritzburg



Day 2 book exhibition in Durban





NATIONAL WILLS WEEK

South Africans have been encouraged to write their final Will during the National Wills Week which was celebrated on 13-17 September 2021. The campaign is aimed at educating all South Africans about the importance of drafting a will that is legally sound. Having a will written will ensure that there are no competing claims on your estate when you pass away and your intention to your dependents is followed. The pandemic has further emphasised why it is important to have a will.

Secure your loved ones by having a will.

- Having a signed and valid will ensures that your estate is administered in accordance with your wishes when you pass away.
- By approaching an attorney, you ensure that you have a will that not only complies with legislation but also contains your last wishes regarding your estate.
- A will provides certainty and ensures that your family, and loved ones are provided for.
- Having a will ensures that funeral arrangements are in accordance with your wishes.

What happens if you die without a valid will?

- In terms of South African law, if a person dies without a valid will, the Intestate Succession Act will be applicable to such person's estate.
- The Act provides that all the assets that form part of the deceased's estate shall be distributed to a spouse and children (should they have any), alternatively their parents or siblings, and in exceptional cases, even extended family members.
- If you do not have a valid will your assets may not be left to the person of your choice.
- You will have no control over the person who is appointed as the executor of your estate and therefore will have no control over who will attend to the administration of your estate.
- The Master of the High Court will have to approve the executor applying to be appointed.

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