



Premier's Stars bids farewell to colleagues

2021



The Office of the Premier will bid farewell to two staff members who have served the provincial government for decades. Mr Carel du Preez, commenced his career within the Provincial Government at the tender age of 21 years old on 01 January 1987 as a Principle Personnel Officer. He was promoted to an Assistant Director on 01 January 2003. His hard work and diligence were recognised, and three years later, on 01 March 2006, he was promoted to Deputy Director. Carel has served the Office of the Premier for thirty-four years, within Human Resources.

He is known as a very stern and no-nonsense person, but he has a heart of gold. He always gives donations generously to worthy causes and is always willing to assist with Persal, computer related and work challenges. Carel is not just a colleague but a good friend to many. We wish him well as he leaves the Office of the Premier to enjoy his well-earned retirement.



Mr Shaun Emslie started working within the Receiver of Revenue as Chief Taxation Officer from 01 January 1981, and in August 1993 was promoted to Deputy Receiver of Revenue. He was transferred on promotion to Provincial Government on 15 December 1994. He was promoted as a Director on 01 November 1995. Shaun's dedication and working ethos saw him being promoted to Chief Director for Provincial Information Technology on 01 July 2002. Known as an approachable, down to earth and humble manager who is always willing to help. Shaun is known to go out of his way to help staff at any level. A keen sportsman Shaun is a passionate boxer and cyclist. He has participated in number of cycling races, where he has represented our Province at the South African track championships. He has been married for 35 years and is looking forward to spending quality time with his family.

The two will officially take up retirement at the end of December.



Premier Zikalala unveils the monument of late Black Mambazo leader Joseph Shabalala



KwaZulu-Natal Premier Sihle Zikalala on 27 November 2021 unveiled the monument of late Black Mambazo leader, Prof. Joseph Shabalala in Ladysmith. Premier Zikalala said late Ladysmith Black Mambazo founder Joseph Shabalala will be remembered for putting KwaZulu-Natal and South Africa on the world map through his music, respect for others and fighting for peace. Premier further Zikalala said Shabalala was an epitome of humility who used his music to advance the social cause of peace in KwaZulu-Natal while remaining true to his roots. "He was a proud Zulu man and an expert in indigenous knowledge which he used to shine the light on the struggles of our people and inspired peace," said Premier Zikalala.

Speaking during the unveiling of a memorial in honour of Shabalala, Premier Zikalala said through music Ladysmith Black Mambazo had captured the world's attention and won several awards in the process.

"During the 16 Days Campaign for No Violence against women and children, we remember Mr Joseph Shabalala for his song Isigcino. In Isigcino Mr Shabalala wrote and I quote "Isigcino uzosala wedwa weYise kaThoko ngob'ungishaya njalo". "This was a resounding call made by Black Mambazo way back in the 60s at the height of apartheid, to end violence against women. Let us use Professor Shabalala's life to make this a better and safer world for women and children starting here in KwaZulu-Natal," said Premier Zikalala.

"We salute uBaba uJoseph Shabalala for his telling contribution to arts and culture and also to tourism. As we unveil this memorial it is to ensure that we and others to follow, will never forget this achievement. For generations to come, we expect this memorial to draw the world to KwaZulu-Natal and Ladysmith which will also increase tourism to our province," added Premier Zikalala.



Premier Zikalala honours Black Mambazo leader

Premier Zikalala also congratulated Professor Shabalala for being awarded the Order of Ikhamanga in Gold. "We also wish to congratulate Joseph Shabalala for the award which was received by the Shabalala family on 18 November from President Cyril Ramaphosa. This is well-deserved, and a fitting recognition of Mr Joseph Shabalala's life-long contribution to arts and culture".

Premier Zikalala also committed the province to an annual lecture in memory of Professor Shabalala. "I am sure it will be appropriate to honour our hero Professor Shabalala with this kind of event which will include a memorial lecture every year," concluded Premier Zikalala.



Arts and Culture Deputy Minister Nomacawe Mafu, KwaZulu-Natal Premier Sihle Zikalala and KZN Arts and Culture MEC Hlengiwe Mavimbela unveil the memorial of the late Professor Joseph Shabalala at the Ladysmith Cemetery on Saturday 27 November 2021.

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Office of the Premier assists Masibambane centre to get donations



The Office on the Status of Persons with Disabilities in the Office of the Premier recently visited the Masibambane centre which is situated at Umlazi D section. The centre cares for children with disabilities. The day care centre was founded by Mrs. Luthuli. Some parents brought their children at the day care centre and eventually abandoned them. Abandoned children then found a home in the centre.

When Rev. Nombuso Maphalala in the Office on the Status of Persons with Disabilities visited the centre, she discovered that the centre was not in a good condition and required some renovations. A decision was then taken to seek donations in order to assist the centre with renovations.

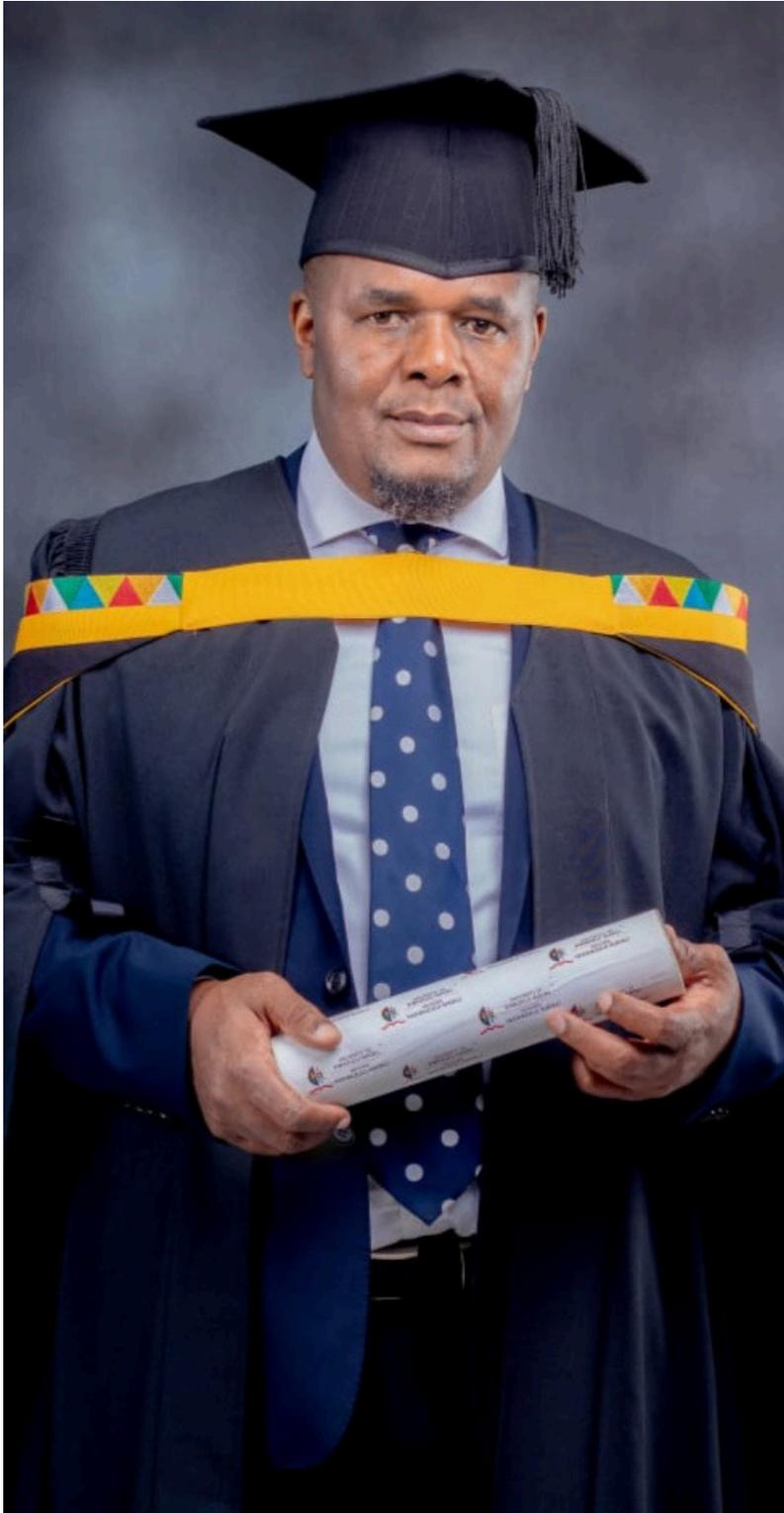
The Office of the Premier received the following items from donors:

- paint and lunch parcels from Alimdaad Foundation;
- wooden doors from Europhoria Capital and
- seeds, garden tools from the Department of Agriculture.

The Office of the Premier together with the officials from the departments of Social Development, Human Settlement, and Agriculture visited the Masibambane centre as part of the activation programs for persons with disabilities. They painted the walls. They also started a vegetable garden for children to eat fresh vegetables from their garden to minimize food costs and to promote a healthy living lifestyle.



Hats off to Mafezwe Khanyile



Congratulations to Mr Mafezwe Khanyile, Director: Service Delivery Improvement in the Office of the Premier for obtaining a Master's Degree in Administration. His dissertation topic was access to information for community participation to enhance service delivery in uMshwathi Local Municipality. This study was informed by the high number of violent service delivery protests at local government level that unfortunately result in extensive damage to property.

Mafezwe said access to public service information is a critical enabler for citizens to exercise their voice, provides communities an opportunity to hold the public service to account, monitor the spending of public funds and make informed decisions about that which affect their livelihoods.

"This qualitative research design study at uMshwathi Local Municipality explored the complexities of access to information, policy development and implementation, the use of technology in the provision of information, the "Politics-Administration dichotomy" at play in municipalities. The blame-game between politicians and officials and the challenges associated with the willingness of the public service (or lack thereof) to ensure that citizens have access to public service information guided by the relevant legislation and policies also came to the fore.

"Amongst the key findings of this study, was that there are serious gaps in the provision of information to members of the public and that ward committees are seen as an extension of the political structures in almost all municipal wards. The study then makes recommendations on how these should be addressed, said Mafezwe.



Hats off to Mafezwe Khanyile

Mafezwe was born in Pietermaritzburg, he grew up and studied in Mpolweni Mission and matriculated at Mehlokazulu High School in Imbali township. He got involved in politics at an early age. He clearly remembers being attacked in Imbali and getting involved in the Seven Day War that led to the political conflict in the Pietermaritzburg and Midlands region in the 1980s and 90s between two political parties that started with the one political party that stopped their buses at Imbali Township crossings as they returned from their political rally and started burning down houses in Imbali Township.

Mafezwe has worked for Eskom, the Independent Electoral Commission, uMshwathi Municipality and has been with the Office of the Premier since 2006 to date.

When asked where he would want to see change in the Public Sector, Mafezwe said amongst the many changes that the public service needs to effect, is ensuring that deployed public representatives as well as officials appointed in government understand what is expected of them. It becomes very problematic when a mayor cannot even analyse a budget and an SDBIP and yet they are expected to ensure that their municipality is efficiently run.

“I do think that that the public service is starting to move in the right direction especially with the fight against corruption. However, I think one of our biggest failures is the lack of consequence management,” said Mafezwe.

“We try and save costs, but I think the reason too many cost reduction approaches fail is because they are predicated on the wrong assumptions. Budgets are allocated but come the end of the year monies meant to improve the lives of the citizens are returned to Treasury without consequences,” said Mafezwe.

“Finally, as a public service we need to ensure that the many policies that have been developed are implemented without fail because this is one of our biggest downfall in the public service,” said Mafezwe in conclusion.

Remembering our fallen colleagues

Equally to enhance skills development and remove red tape in our administration. We want to ignite entrepreneurial development for your people. ”KZN Government established the Youth Development Fund, which allocated R70 million targeted at assisting businesses owned by young people to create new jobs and bolster women-owned businesses as well.



Mr Sivalingam 'Doods' Padayachee, Office Support & Aux. Services died on 04 January 2021



Remembering our fallen colleagues



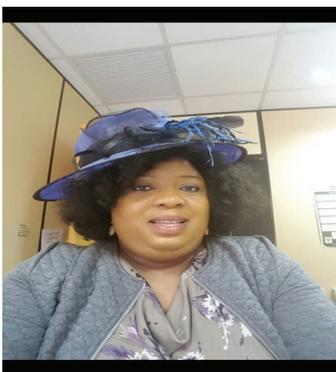
Mrs Hlengiwe 'Maha' Madlala, Provincial Government Communication died on 06 June 2021



Mrs Thabisile Sikhosana Ximba, Labour Relations died on 20 August 2021



Mr Philemon Dube, Office Support & Aux. Services died on 31 August 2021



Mrs Sindisiwe Hadebe, Provincial Strategic Management Branch died on 14 September 2021

