

Uplifting Star

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VOLUME 2 | EDITION 1

HAMBA VANGELI

1 - 15 JULY 2012



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S'FISO STEALS THE SHOW

BY: MIKE NKALANE



THOUSANDS of Gospel fanatics braved cold weather to listen to their favourite stars at Khayelitsha's OR Tambo hall on June 30.

But they did not regret leaving comfort of their homes. Nine renowned gospel artists from Siphso Makhabane's Big Fish Music stable, festival organisers dazzled them for the rest of the day. Among them were Hlengiwe Mhlaba, Sifiso Ncwane, Mxolisi Mbethe and Nomzamo Sotayi.

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CELEBRITIES DELIVER SERMON

THEY see them on TV. But on 1 July they shared a pulpit with them when Muvhango actors visited Shekainah Healing Ministries in Khayelitsha.

CONTINUED ON PG2



ED'S CORNER

Christians, Uplifting Star is your newspaper. I want you to feel that sense of ownership. Tell us what would you like to read and see in your pages. Any suggestions are welcomed as we are striving towards making this one the country's read. Church leaders please write columns for our opinion pages. Church members feel free to write letters to the editor. These letters can range from your views in life general, compliments where you received excellent service or ill treated at a local clinic or police station, government department etc.

ENGAGE US SO THAT YOU NOT US, EDITORIAL STAFF DIRECT THIS NEWSPAPER TOWARDS GROWTH. WE WANT THIS TO BE YOUR PLATFORM TO SPARK HOLY DEBATES CONCERNING THE ISSUES OF FAITH.

All the churches are welcome to send notices, events or announcements.

Stay blessed.

Mike Nkalane-Editor.

FROM PG 1

CELEBRITIES DELIVER SERMON

Delivering a day's sermon from Genesis 1:1 "The creation of the world", Muamela who plays Susan, first wife of chief Azwindini reminded the congregation that the governments were ordained when the earth was created. "When God created the earth He knew that a man will rule. That was before there were governors," she said. She urged them to always give unconditional love. "Those who talk about love are just talking for the sake of talking because they have nothing to lose. But those who have compassion let the actions speak."

Main character chief Azwindini urged them to be the ambassadors of their and value their roots. "Know who you are and where you are coming from. You are the children of God. When people see you they see God. That is why it is important to represent your church. Be the ambassadors always," he urged.

Church founder Apostle Musa Mohlala his congregation was over the moon. He said celebrities were presented to him by God. "I am a friend of Queen Moroka of Generations among others. Senzo and Jason will be here soon," he said with a wide smile.



CAST MUZHANGO ACTORS SHARED THE PULPIT WITH SHEKAINAH CONGREGATION ON 1 JULY

FROM PG 1

S'FISO STEALS THE SHOW

Sifiso stood out as the best. Fans wanted more even after he was done singing. He had to be escorted as fans crowded him. "Wow! I wish Sifiso can sing forever. If you are a gospel lover you will never get bored by his voice. He is the best the gospel has to offer. He is on his own class. May God keep him alive forever for us," said Nozipho Velebhayi.

Makhabane, the organiser thanked fans for braving winter to support his artists. "Ungibongele kakhulu unguqulele ngedolo (thank them a lot and kneel down for me). These people left their homes braving winter. I have no words to thank them. God knows I am sincere from the bottom of my heart," he said.

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THE TEAM



GOSPEL ON THE B^b

BY: BRIAN MTONGANA

Welcome to the first edition of *Gospel on the B-flat*. The purpose of this section is to firstly appreciate cutting-edge gospel artists, praise and worship gospel choirs making waves in the gospel music scene South Africa.

Secondly, to educate and empower the faithful through words of wisdom, sharing of experiences, information, music techniques and testimonies in order to grow to understand and appreciate great gospel music in South Africa. Not only that, but also to remind each other about the main purpose of why we sing this kind of music, which is to spread the good news of hope, love, healing and most importantly winning souls for the kingdom of God. **She was actually inspired by her husband who was the first person to say "you can do it". "so I went ahead & learnt more about it and discovered that I really do want to be vocal coach.**

Her upcoming album definitely has an international flare with a local flavour.

If you want to be featured in this space email lwazi1@gmail.com

ON STAGE: NTOKOZO MBAMBO



CHORUS

Any exciting upcoming projects?

Yes, I'm super excited about my latest album "Filled" and my hubby & I are doing a tour together called "The United Tour".

Rumour has it that your album is coming out soon? S'funukwazi.

Indeed, exciting times ahead lol. It was recorded live at the Lyric Theatre in Gold Reef City, Johannesburg in February and is due for release end of July.

BRIDGE

How has working with the acclaimed gospel pianist/producer Nqubeko Mbatha influenced your music career? I mean, he's your husband after all.

He is so amazing at what he does. It's such a blessing being able to work with some-one who knows his stuff and this isn't just because he's my husband but I believe he's the best in our country. He has influenced great growth in my music career.

Do you always see eye to eye musically? and if not, how do you ensure that you draw a line between professionalism and family?

Lol... We don't always see eye to eye but because I trust his musical judgement, I go with what he says or we try both ideas and see which one works. And whichever ideas works, we go with that one, and this isn't an attack on anyone, we both understand that and since we're all working towards a common goal, we decide together to go with the idea that get us to our common goal. Its fun, I love working with my husband.

How do you strike a balance between being a mother, wife and a celebrated gospel artist?

I find my balance in God. He's the one that guides me through His spirit. Its not easy but I found that when my relationship with God is intact then my other relationships blossom.

CHORUS

You're in the line up for the Mzansi Gospel Festival on the 3rd August in Cape Town with Nqubeko Mbatha. What can we look forward to?

OOOH its gonna be explosive time of praise & worship. I'll be doing new material from my latest album as well so its gonna be happening. You don't wanna miss this.

ENDING

Watch out for Ntokozo's upcoming album Filled. It's one album that has set a very high standard in terms of production, arrangements, compositions artistry and above all, it's Filled with so much of God's anointing. It definitely has an international flare with a local flavour.

INTRO

Who is Ntokozo Mbambo beyond what we already know?

Ntokozo is a God-fearing woman, wife, mother who loves laughing and having fun.

Where did your career start?

Yoh, it started at a very young age singing in church and joining gospel groups at 10 years of age.

What's the highlight of your music journey?

It would have to be the moments where I got to meet international gospel artist like Donnie McClurkin, Yolanda Adams, Cece Winans, Kirk Franklin and being their opening acts for their tours in SA.

You've been a vocal trainer and arranger for many gospel outfits, including Joyous Celebration. How did that come about?

I was actually inspired by my husband and he was the first person who said you can do it so I went ahead & learnt more about it and discovered that I really do want to be vocal coach.

VERSE

How important is it for people singing gospel music to be born again and walk the talk (or should I say singing)?

Its very important, we need to sing about a God we know. It would be quite sad to preach to so many and then at the end, you get disqualified as Paul says in 1 Corinthians 9 verse 27.

What's your take on musical skill vs anointing Praise and Worship teams in churches to recording artists? Is the one more important than the other?

I strongly believe that the two should go hand in hand because at the same time we're selling products to people so anointing accompanied by skill will take you far, they're both important.

VERSE OF THE WEEK

Psalms 100:1-5 1 Shout for joy to the Lord, all the earth. 2 Worship the Lord with gladness; come before him with joyful songs. 3 Know that the Lord is God. It is he who made us, and we are his(a); we are his people, the sheep of his pasture. 4 Enter his gates with thanksgiving and his courts with praise; give thanks to him and praise his name. 5 For the Lord is good and his love endures forever; his faithfulness continues through all generations.

GRADUATES IN JESUS

BY: MIKE NKALANE

CLAD in their academic regalia, graduates transformed the Holy Church in Khayelitsha into a careers fair at a youth day conference.

Career desks with course brochures were available for interested learners and pupils. Phumeza Makile, a Social Worker urged them to take positions in the society and obtain all the qualifications they can to uplift the kingdom of God. She said nothing is impossible if one has a will. "Even Jeremiah broke the walls of Jerusalem."

LLB graduate Boloti Mbulelo told the youth education is the key to success. He encouraged them to acquire it so they can get out of street life and its influences. "You can make a difference in life if you have education. Worshipers like yourselves will be richly rewarded." He urged them to get rid of perceptions regarding his career. "Lawyers are there to uphold and maintain justice," he explained.

Pastor Zoleka Majola urged fellow parents to revive the old African values. She said today's generation's success depends on the upbringing they get from their societies. "My child is your child. Whenever I see children fighting I beat them. But then parents will come and demand to know why I beat their kids. That is not a proper way to raise a child," she said adding that they must refuse temptations. "When Abednigo, Shadrack and Daniel were invited at Banquet in Babylon they refused delicious food they were served. Because they understood their purpose of being there."

Pastor Xola Mafilika encouraged them to be faithful to succeed in life. "God's gift is nurtured through faithfulness. Whatever happens make sure you remain holy."



CHEERED SIPHO MAKHABANE HAD GOSPEL LOVERS EATING ON HIS PALM DURING THE FESTIVAL

BIG FISH MAY SING AGAIN

BY: MIKE NKALANE

EVEN THOUGH he has decided to call it quits after a long career spanning more than two decades, Sipho Makhabane aka "Big Fish" might reconsider his decision.

Makhabane produced his last album in 2010. During his stint which started in 1989 he has produced more than 20 albums. He has then decided to concentrate on producing hence he formed the Big Fish Music. But due to the cries from his fans whom he has touched and changed through his music, he told the Uplifting Star he is starting to reconsider.

"I get calls and smses at night from my fans begging for me to sing again. People stop me in malls asking me to get back on stage. Not to mention countless emails. If my people are calling I must listen."

Asked what has prompted him to take that decision he said: "Eish mfana ngilikhehle manje (I am an old man). I thought it is high time I groom others. I formed my stable because music stores do not understand Gospel. They are not keen on selling it."

THIS IS THE YEAR OF FULFILMENT

AT the beginning of this year, Bishop Fino Dlamini, founder of Rapha Fellowship Centre (RFC) stated that 2012 is a year of fulfillment.

As a visionary, God has told me and my wife to help people become victors. I am committed in ministering healing, salvation, deliverance and restoration to God's people.

The water has broken and RFC is giving birth:

"We have in the past been hearing

testimonies from those that Bishop Fino has ministered to, who received healing and deliverance at RFC. However, the last Prophetic Conference held in May 2012, where Bishop Edwin Ewusie Brookman was a guest, opened the womb of RFC and healing has been taking place in a tremendous way. People with arthritis, asthma, HIV positive were healed.

Then community of Gugulethu started to believe more on the existence of God.



PASTOR FINO DLAMINI ADDRESSING CONGREGATION DURING THE CONFERENCE.JPG

SPIRITUAL CLEANSING PRAYER RESULTS IN TRUCE SIGNING

BY: MIKE NKALANE



PEACE PRAYER PASTOR STAGE STAGE PRAYING FOR PEACE AT NOBANTU PRIMARY IN GUGULETHU

FOLLOWING a widespread of gang-related fights that claimed innocent lives in Gugulethu, a concerned church hosted a peace prayer at Nobantu primary school.

Baalperazimastote and founder Stage Stage told youth and parents he believes the perpetrators of violence are possessed. He said the purpose of a prayer was to cleanse the community of "demons".

Preaching from Matthew 15:13&14 "We are the light of this world and the salt of the earth" Stage said: "I have brought the light to this community ravaged by demons. Devil sends ghosts to sell drugs to your children. That is why gangsterism is rampant here. I am here to provide spiritual counselling."

He promised the light will wipe out darkness so the area can be liberated spiritually. Stage pleaded with churches to fulfil their

mandate stated on Romans 13:7 "Governments were ordained by God". "We must ask ourselves as churches. What do we owe the government they deserve our spiritual support and intervention in dealing with this Satanism the bible states clear church involvement is essential in effective governance. If we can do that we will be helping our society," he said.

After that the rival gangs voluntarily signed truce at a local hall.

BUILDING CHURCHES

HONoured MINING MOGUL PATRICE MOTSEPE ACCOMPANIED PRESIDENT JACOB ZUMA AND MRS SIZAKELE MAKHUMALO TO THE SALVATION ARMY CHURCH IN NKANDLA, KWAZULU-NATAL. THE CHURCH WAS BUILT BY AFRICAN RAINBOW MINERALS (ARM) IN PARTNERSHIP WITH THE JACOB ZUMA FOUNDATION.



A TRUE MESSENGER PASTOR ALSO WRITES FOR AUDIENCE

BY: MIKE NKALANE

THERE are many talents behind that collar. A man of cloth and the founding pastor of the Salvation Church of the Revival of Faith is indeed a true messenger.

Pastor Khaya Maseko has been a theatre director and script writer since 1993. During that writing stint, he has groomed many established actors including Andrea Dondolo. His latest theatre production which took him only a month of research and three days to write, "Justice is justice" chronicles a phenomenon of disregarding of justice and its dire consequences. "Other people have a tendency of doing what they would not like others do unto them," explains a dynamic man of God.

The aim of this American commissioned production is not only to inculcate the processes of justice, but to groom local role models as well, he says. "Look at Soweto, it used to be one of



PASTOR KHAYA MASEKO

crime-ridden areas. But today it is known for producing celebrities like Zola and Mandoza. Why can't we do the same. There is talent in abundance here just need to be unearthed."

Taking us to the scene for a preview two main characters Irene Memani "Goniwe" and Mimi Ngxangana "Lindiwe" whose non-existing love triangle sets the tone demonstrated the disregard and consequences of justice. Lindiwe escapes from forced polygamy in rural areas. She ends up in Cape Town where she meets Goniwe, a successful business woman. Goniwe's insecurities get the better of her when she suspects Lindiwe of having an affair with her husband. She then hires hitmen to kill Lindiwe. Instead, the killers end up killing her for mistaking her with Lindiwe. Goniwe gave the would-be killers of Lindiwe a description of a woman dressed in a certain way. Goniwe herself dressed that way on the day.

Maseko will fly to America within the next four months where Justice is justice will be first played.

SCENE AROUND AND ABOUT..

CONSIDER THE FUNDAMENTALS

BY: APOSTLE CEBISA MPETSHENI

WE are preoccupied with big things in life that we ignore little stuff which are fundamental aspects of life.

We want to be big even when people are referring to us we expect them to say big things about us. We want big businesses. We want small cars with big names. We want big names, schools, big everything etcetera.

What we forget is the fact that big starts from small and then grows. Consider small things, simple language, lifestyle and attitude. That will give us an opportunity to grow and see, appreciate and feel the difference as we develop. Let us learn to bite a chewable piece which we can swallow down easy. Once it reaches the stomach it will then be digested. If you are humble everybody will notice you. Then you tell them I bite a chewable piece. Your haste in going forward leaves you behind. Steady steps take you forward slowly but surely.

Shalom..



DAZZLED CROWD LISTENING ATTENTIVELY AS PASTOR NCANDA SANG



MS T, ARTIST AT THE UNVEILING



PROMOTERS GOSPEL PROMOTERS LIONEL MJAMELA AND A COLLEAGUE AT SEA SUNS LAUNCH-2



ZULU FLAVOUR DURBAN'S THOBEKILE SANG HER HEART OUT



NOSIZWE HOLOMISA, CHIEF CONTRALESA'S WIFE AND A FRIEND PINKY MVUNELWA AT THE UNVEILING



DAZZLED CROWD LISTENING ATTENTIVELY AS PASTOR NCANDA SANG



DAZZLED CROWD LISTENING ATTENTIVELY AS PASTOR NCANDA SANG



AKNOWLEDGED MAM NOMNGANGA DAZZLED BY GOSPEL SENSATION SIFISO NCWANE



LINDELANI MKHIZE OF JOYOUS CELEBRATION AND ROBBIE MALINGA AT THE UNVEILING IN LANGA



MOJALEFA THEBE, CHINA MPOLO AND ROBBIE MALINGA AT THE UNVEILING IN LANGA



CHORISTERS MIRACLE CENTRE CHOIR PERFORMED DURING THE GOSPEL FESTIVAL



LAUNCH C SUNS BRAND RELAUNCHING AND THE LISTENING SESSION AT WOODSTOCK OFFICE



VOCALISTS PHAKAMA OF MIRACLE CENTRE CHOIR PERFORMING DURING THE FESTIVAL



CHEERED SIPHO MAKHABANE HAD GOSPEL LOVERS EATING ON HIS PALM DURING THE FESTIVAL

CHURCHES TO GET GOVERNMENT 'RECOGNITION'

BY: MIKE NKALANE

A MEETING between religious fraternity and the government organised by the Uplifting Star has made a progress in churches effort to get deserved recognition as key stakeholders in government's communication.

In a peaceful meeting chaired by Government Communications and Information System (GCIS) in parliament earlier this month, bishops expressed their pain saying politicians only recognise them during elections. "We are used as condoms. Because you use it while it is required and then throw it away. That is what our government is doing to us during elections. They visit churches. After the elections you will never see them again," lamented Bishop Doro.

They gave the undertaking that they can help the society getting rid of rampant social ills. Bishop Peter Makude has attributed the escalating social ills to the fact that the "government has closed the word of God in schools". He suggested they must have an input when laws are drafted. "They must contact us when issuing liquor licences. As members and leaders of communities we know who qualifies for one. For example you can find six licenced shebeens in one street. But the moment you build a church the same government comes and destroys it. What kind of a country with no God but full of shebeens," Makude said.

Bishop Derrick Mtsolo suggested that each department must have a reverend so they get "deserved" recognition.

Bishop Thembinkosi Mngqantsa said they are used to advance a particular of which after that communication lapses. He said they are regarded as "outcasts". "We can't afford to be used. We are the face and heartbeat of the society. I wish the government can acknowledge our role," he said.

Responding to the complaints, GCIS provincial director Ayanda Hollow promised to forward their grievances. He conceded they are using men of God. "From now faith-based organisations will be one of our key stakeholders. We have realised there is no communication between us. There must always be a two-way communication. We are making a huge mistake by contacting you only during elections. I will take these complaints to the presidency," he promised.

Church leaders will ANC Chief Whip Mathole Mothsega at the end of this month



CHEERED SIPHO MAKHABANE HAD GOSPEL LOVERS EATING ON HIS PALM DURING THE FESTIVAL