



**KWAZULU-NATAL PROVINCE**

SPORT, ARTS AND CULTURE  
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

**DIRECTORATE:**

Ministry

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**REMARKS BY KZN MEC FOR SPORT, ARTS AND CULTURE DR  
NTUTHUKO MAHLABA ON THE OCCASION OF THE ILEMBE  
DISTRICT SUKASAMBE**

**ILEMBE, KWADUKUZA LM,  
STANGER HIGH SCHOOL**

**28 APRIL 2024**

*Programme director;*

*ILembe District Mayor; Cllr Thobani Shandu*

*KwaDukuza Local Municipality Mayor; Cllr Lindile Nhaca*

*Mayors and councillors present today*

*Head of Department; Dr Thobile Sifunda*

*Your senior management*

*Amakhosi*

*Izunduna*

*Inter-faith leaders present*

*Senior Management;*

*All chief directorates*

*Ladies and Gentlemen;*

Good day,

I greet you all,

*Ngiyanibingelela nonke. Sanibonani nonke eLembeni*

*Naze nabahle.*

Today is a good day in the district and region of General Justice Gizenga Mpanza and President Inkosi Albert Luthuli who single-handedly demonstrated great passion and bravery in the struggle for the liberation of our people.



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Inkosi Albert Luthuli, a Nobel Peace Prize Laureate, was the epitome of what aspiration of freedom is. His blood on those railway tracks was not shed in vain. As we celebrate this **Freedom Month and 30 YEARS OF DEMOCRACY**, we dip our revolutionary flags in honour of his gallant spirit and bravery.

Before I start with my brief address, I want to implore all of you to visit the Luthuli Museum in Groutville, which is not far from here. You may go alone or take your family, friends and kids and teach them what uMadlanduna did for this nation.

However, I would like to tell you a abridged story about General Gizenga, uThabekhulu to paint a picture of how our FREEDOM did not come easy.

Justice "Gizenga" Mpanza was born on 5 September 1937 at Groutville Mission Reserve. His father was one of Chief Luthuli's izinduna (advisors). Mpanza went to school at Groutville, but was forced to leave after completing Standard 6 because he was 'too old'. In 1954, he went to Durban looking for employment.

When he first arrived in Durban in 1954, he went to Lakhani House, where the trade union offices were situated. Here he met Stephen Dlamini who was holding discussions about the struggle for liberation. After finding work he attended evening classes on politics from Monday to Friday and mass meetings that were held at Beatrice Street. As a result, he joined the ANC.

Inspired by the Mpondoland Revolt, Mpanza and 13 thirteen others began by burning sugar cane whilst others went to burn forests at kwaNgubomnyama at Harding, Natal in a campaign that lasted between 1957 to 1959. The campaign was stopped by Walter Sisulu who argued that their actions would force the government to target the ANC and that people were not prepared for a protracted violent battle with the state.

This is to show you how this was never easy fighting for this freedom we have. We had to use every tactic and every resource to force the apartheid government to atone on its stance.

Khansela Shandu;



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Silapha singuHulumeni kaANC sithunywe uNdunankulu wethu uMama uNomusa Dube kanye neNhlangothi ebusayo, iNhlangothi yabantu uAfrican National Congress ukuzonikhumbuzisa ukuthi kuyini ukuphila ngaphansi kweNkululeko.

Silapha ngohlelo lukaSukasambe ngoba lokho kusho **INKULULEKO** esesinayo. **This is FREEDOM!**

Izolo besilaphayana kuMaspala waseRay Nkonyeni, oGwini lapho njengoHulumeni wesiFundazwe besigubha khona uSuku lweNkululeko nokuqeda iminyaka engu-30 yeNtando yeNingi. Sikhumbuzile abantu bakithi okuningi esesikuzuzile okufana nokuletha intuthuko, ukunikezela izibonelela ezinganeni, kwabadala.

Namhlanje inkululeko isho ukuthi izingane azisakhokhi ezikole ngisho eNyuvesi futhi ziphuma emakhaya lapho zihlala ezindlini ezizikwe uHulumeni wona lona kaKhongolose.

Inyanga lena yeNkululeko – **FREEDOM MONTH** – isikhumbuzisa okuningi osekwenziwe uHulumeni kaANC ukubumbanisa abantu. Ukuhlangana nje kanjena sizojabula kwakungabakhwekazi ngezikhathi zobandlululo lapho sasingavunyelwe nhlobo ukuhlangana sibe abantu abayiqoqo ngaphandle kokuthola imvume ngaphansi **kweGATHERING ACT**. Sasihlukaniswe nawumthetho **weGROUP AREAS ACT**.

***Kulendawo yaKwaDukuza sikwazi kangcono lokho ngoba yindawo enomphakathi omniki wabomdabu baseNdiya.***

**INKULULEKO** isho ukuthi siyahlangana sense okungokwethu okuhlanganisa thina kuphinde kujabulise thina. **INKULULEKO** isho ukuthi siyagqoka kanjena imifaniswano yethu ngaphandle kokuqalaza ukuthi ubani uzothini – lokhu esithi phecelezi **FREEDOM OF EXPRESSION**.

Ngithanda ukudlulisa umyalezo kaKhongolose sisaya okhethweni othi sonke masiphume sigqogquzele wonke umuntu nemindeneni yethi ukuthi baphume bayovota.



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Njengoba lisavulekile ithuba lamavoti ayisipesheli asilisebenzise uma sazi ukuthi ngosuku lokuVota angeke sikwazi ukuba lapho sifisa khona

### ON SUKASAMBE

First and foremost, I want to express my heartfelt gratitude to each and every one of you for making **SUKASAMBE** a really workable and resoundingly successful government programme.

I really must state from the onset that while Sukasambe – ward-based intervention programme has its primary root in the identification, unearthing, developing and promotion of raw talent from a ward level, it is also geared to bringing to the communities a basket of services.

I am pleased that the **ANC GOVERNMENT** uses infrastructure to deliver quality of life to our people. Recently, I have been informed that the department delivered infrastructure projects which include libraries and combo court amounting to millions of rands.

*Ladies and gentlemen;*

Some of the basket of services brought by SUKASAMBE to the communities include e-sport, coaching clinics by sports legends, music masterclasses, mobile recording studios, talent search in a form of music competitions and performances featuring big artists. We want **NO ONE TO BE LEFT BEHIND** including the people of ILembe

Let me remind all of us that, beyond the usual government jargon surrounding the vision and mission of our department, our primary responsibility is a significant one, but it is not insurmountable.

As a collective in the fields of sports, arts, and culture, our mission is to uplift the spirits of our nation through sports and the arts. Sports have the remarkable power to unite people from all walks of life, regardless of their circumstances or backgrounds.



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The same unifying effect can be found in the arts, be it performing or visual arts. Let us never lose sight of that fact. I have been in this department for four months now, and upon careful observation, it is clear that despite our efforts to merge our functions, we still do not operate as a cohesive family.

I have recognised the need to initiate something that will unite us and help us move forward purposefully. Hence, I proposed the creation of a Ward-based Intervention Programme that will enable all of us to work together with a clear sense of purpose. We have given this exercise the moniker, **SUKASAMBE** which demonstrate our urgency in hitting the ground running.

Let us savour the fruits of FREEDOM and remember where we all came from, from the doldrums of the brutal and unforgiving APARTHEID MACHINERY.

Ngiyabonga.