



KWAZULU-NATAL PROVINCE

SPORT, ARTS AND CULTURE
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

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**SPEECH BY MEC FOR SPORT, ARTS AND CULTURE DR NTUTHUKO
MAHLABA ON THE OCCASION OF THE CELEBRATION OF THE
INTERNATIONAL MUSEUM DAY 2024 AND HANDING OVER OF
KWADUKUZA MUSEUM
18 MAY 2024
KWADUKUZA, ILEMBE DISTRICT**

Programme director;

Head of Department; Dr Thobile Sifunda

Ilembe District Mayor; His Worship Cllr T Shandu

KwaDukuza Mayor; Her Worship Cllr Lindile Nhaca

KwaMaphumulo Mayor; Her Worship Cllr Matozi Khuzwayo-Dlamini

Ndwedwe Mayor; His Worship Cllr S Mfeka

Mandeni Mayor; His Worship Cllr TP Mdlalose

All councillors present

All officials present from province and local government

Amakhosi

Izinduna

Othisha nabantwana besikole

Good morning, sanibonani;

Mphathi woHlelo, allow me to greet all those who have made means to come out and celebrate this international day with us.

We celebrated this day last year in Ncome, eNquthu under uMzinyathi District. This is the day that sees the gathering of millions of heritage enthusiasts, museum workers, scientists, tourism community and communities all over the world converging to celebrate the International Museum Day.

Therefore, there was no way we could miss celebrating such a critical day in the international and national calendar with you, the beautiful people of KwaDukuza.

On that note, I would like to warmly welcome you all to this occasion where we are hosting this unique event this event about Museums. Needless to say that this is an occasion that seeks to reaffirm the important role of museums in preserving our heritage for future generations.



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Today is a good day in the district and region of General Justice Gizenga Mpanza, iSilo saKwaDukuza iLembe eleqa amanye amaLembe and President Inkosi Albert Luthuli, the erstwhile ANC President who single-handedly demonstrated great passion and bravery in the struggle for the liberation of our people.

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

Before I start with my speech, I want to implore all of you to also visit the Luthuli Museum in Groutville, which is not far from here. KwaDukuza is truly blessed to have these two museums. 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;

Silapha singuHulumeni kaANC sithunywe uMongameli uCyril Ramaphosa, uMatamela kanye noNdunankulu wethu uMama uNomusa Dube kanye neNhlango ebuseyo, iNhlango yabantu uAfrican National Congress ukuzonikhumbuza ngemisebenzi emihle loHukumeni aqhubekayo ukuyenza.



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This day is important in many respects. This day, 18 May, is the day that in 1977 the International Council of Museums (ICOM) declared will be the day that the whole world will come together and celebrate the International Museum Day (IMD). It is for that reason then that we have come together in KwaDukuza on this special day.

Now, ICOM did not only declare the day, but they also prepare for the day every year by choosing a theme that will help the museum communities the world over, to think about how museums can continue to be in service for the people.

This year the theme we are to reflect upon is, “**Museums for Education and Research.**” In ICOM’s submission they said, “*For IMD 2024 we want to invite people to rethink education and imagine a future where knowledge sharing transcends barriers, where innovation unites with tradition.*”

Isihloko esithi, “**Izigcina Magugu, Imfundo kanye noCwaningo,**” sikhuluma siqondise kulokho Izigcina Magugu zesifunda saKwaZulu-Natal ezikwenzayo,

Decades ago when the Nelson Mandela Museum was officially opened in Qunu, Mthatha in the Eastern Cape, uTata himself said: ***[Museums] should not just be a static collection of artefacts but a living memorial to our values and collective vision***”.

In KwaZulu-Natal the first museum was opened in 1904 in Pietermaritzburg on Jabu Ndlovu (Loop) Street. That is 120 years ago, yet we have people who have never visited a museum. We cannot shy away from the fact that museums were established mainly to celebrate White European colonial culture and heritage. The first museum in a black township established before 1994 was the Hector Peterson Museum in Orlando, Soweto.

Meya Nhaca;

This is why we are excited this morning because today is anchored not only on the display of indigenous artefacts full of historical triumphs, but because this museum itself is a reflection of the struggles of black people.

Our museums exist to preserve rare and valuable artefacts so that such can be used to educate the community for a long time to come. The museum experts display and exhibit artefacts in ways which will convey important messages and lessons to those who come to museums. In places where there are no museums, the museum employees go out to set up displays in schools, in the malls and in places where people gather in large numbers to educate them using the artefacts. Unless such artefacts are curated in a manner that makes sense, those artifacts will remain pieces of cultural items created for use in the past.

Ladies and gentlemen;

That education that the museums pass on to the visitors through displays and exhibitions, can only be possible if continued research takes place.



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Makhosi aseNdlunkulu;

Ngithanda ukusho ukuthi, iningi lethu uma libona imikhonto namahawu, sibona izikhali zempi. Kodwa ngabacwaningi abakuZigcina Magugu zethu abazosho ukuthi empeleni abantu bakithi mandulo kade benobuchwepheshe nomqondo ojulile. Siyazi ukuthi kuScience iqiniso litholokala ngokuqaphela into isikhathi eside nokubona ukuthi ngaso sonke isikhathi isiphetho sayo siyafana.

Kanjalo, isibonelo somkhonto sihle uma sithi kukhethwa uthi oluqinile kodwa olungasindi. Ukuze umuntu acibe anembe kuyasiza ukuthi umphini uqonde ngqo.

Zimeya zakithi;

Besides the Education and the Research that goes with it, there is one more thing that makes this day important. The KwaDukuza Municipality has in collaboration with the provincial Department of Sport, Arts and Culture upgraded the old museum into a brand-new museum at a cost of R25 million. This municipality used to have a museum in a building on King Shaka Road. But the building of that museum was so old that it was no longer safe to house the precious artefacts and the people who worked there. You will all be invited to visit the museum and see how it has been transformed as soon as it is ready for public visits. You will all be proud to have this museum as part of your heritage in the town. Most of you I believe, have already seen the magnificent building from outside. Wait until you go inside to see how beautiful it is!

As I conclude ladies and gentlemen, I wish to draw your attention to the fact that this month of May is Africa Month. May is celebrated as Africa Month because many years ago, in 1963 to be precise, African leaders came together to form the now defunct Organisation of African Unity (OAU) with the intention to unite the continent.

The continent was divided into colonial pockets created by European powers in Germany, Berlin, to come and go as they please and to take back to their countries whatever they chose. In Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, at the formation of the OAU, the sons of the continent decided that it was time to take the path of self-determination in a united force that included prosperity and peace.

This year ladies and gentlemen the OAU which is now called the African Union (AU) chose the theme, **“Educate an African fit for the 21st Century.”** I think the theme is relevant as we have entered the new Industrial Revolution. An African fit for this century is the one who is clever and understands their environment that is directly connected to the world.

The world has in the 21st Century turned into a village because of the Science and the development of technology. For that reason, ladies and gentlemen, we have to take seriously the theme from AU and interrogate the relevance



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of all education wherever it is happening. To what extent we should ask, is this education carrying relevance to advance the vision of an African fit for the 21st Century?

The museums of Africa, including the two, KwaDukuza and Luthuli, have an obligation to educate and research. As we plan to re-open the KwaDukuza Museum, we challenge those who are charged with the responsibility of operating it, to take education seriously. People of the community and the learners from the many schools from around KwaDukuza and elsewhere, will come to your museum to be educated. Please rise up to the occasion and teach. You have new and beautiful space and artefacts, use them to teach. Ladies and gentlemen, those few points bring to me great delight today. I so hope that you will also be delighted beyond this day and make use of the museum to learn. Enjoy this day.

Ngenxa yosuku olubhizi sisadlulela phambili eDondotha kwelaseMfolozi kumanje lapho siyovula khona iDondotha Sports Complex ebize R48 million ngayo futhi esizohlonipha ingqalabutho yethu kwezikanobhutshuzwayo, uSiyabonga “Nsimbi” Sangweni.

Ngingakahlali phansi ake nginikhumbuze ukuthi lo nyaka ka 2024 sigubha iminyaka ewu 30 izwe lakithi lathola inkululeko yentando yeningi ngokuvota. Lenkululeko yatholakala kanzima kabi. Abenumzana bashiya imizi bawela izilwandle nemingcele ukuthola indlela yokuthi abantu bakithi bahlonishwe. Izintombi nezinsizwa zalandela zayofundela impi zahloma zanyakazisa izwe kufunwa lenkululeko.

Abanye balengiswa abanye babulawa namanje akukaziwa ukuthi aphi amathuna abo. Ngokusho njalo ngithi phumani ngobuningi benu niyosebenzisa lelolungelo lokuvota nokukhetha abameli benu kuhulumeni. Asikwazi ukuhlala singavoti. Umhla ka 29 May useduze.

Phambili ngenkululeko Phambili!

Phambili ngokuzigqaja ngobuAfrika Phambili!

Phambili ngeziGcinamagugu Phambili!

Phambili ngeMfundo nolwazi phambili!

Ngiyabonga.