



Province of the
EASTERN CAPE
COOPERATIVE GOVERNANCE
& TRADITIONAL AFFAIRS

COGTA *Newsletter*

2ND ISSUE JULY - SEPTEMBER 2022

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EDITORIAL *Comment*



Editor: Ms Thando Sonjica

The theme for this year's July Mandela Day was Do What You Can With What You Have, Wherever You Are and CoGTA joined hands with the leadership of Amahlathi Local Municipality to practically honour this vision by organising a Youth Expo in Stutterheim.

On this day various companies and government departments which promote entrepreneurship highlighted opportunities available for young people and offered advice on study opportunities. Former Cogta MEC Xolile Nqatha through his keynote address urged the unemployed young graduates to take full advantage of opportunities created by government to support aspiring young entrepreneurs by establishing Small and Medium Micro Enterprises (SMMEs) to employ other young people.

Also of significance in this quarter was the swearing in of new members of the legislature which saw Member of the Provincial Legislature (MPL) Zolile Williams becoming the new MEC for our department in August 2022.

MEC Williams has a vast experience in the local government sphere as former Municipal Manager (MM) for the Joe Gqabi District Municipality for more than ten years. We welcome MEC Williams and wish him well Cogta. Read more about his profile on page 3.

September is celebrated as a Heritage Month, and we bring you a story about the official installation of Nkosi Mqalo of Amakhuze Traditional Council in Alice as well as a five-day training of traditional leaders. This is in line with the department's commitment to restore the dignity to perform their duties and contribute to the betterment of their communities. These heart-warming stories are on pages 4 and 7.

As the Western side of the Province is experiencing severe drought, we bring you stories about projects to alleviate the situation on pages 5 and 7.

Please take time to read other stories and view our pictorial collection on the back page. Enjoy the read.

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MPL ZOLILE WILLIAMS OUR *New* NEW MEC

By Mr Pheello Oliphant



Born in a small town of Lady Grey, from a working-class family with strong Christian values, Zolile Williams, was recently sworn in as Member of the Legislature and later on as a Member of Executive Council (MEC) responsible for the department of Cooperative Governance and Traditional Affairs (Cogta).

MEC Williams cut his political teeth at a young age in his hometown of Lady Grey under the tutelage of the late Tshidiso Nkhaphe and Moeketsi "Mentho" Lebelo who were former United Democratic Front(UDF) activists.

In 1986, he was recruited into what he thought were Karate classes by Tshidiso Nkhaphe but the classes soon proved to be political education classes.

"Each training session would soon be replaced by formal sessions covering political topics like, Free education, Release Mandela Campaign, the Pillars of the liberation struggle as well as the questions like, why black people were living in conditions of squalor and renting in the backrooms. These underground classes led to Tshidiso Nkhaphe's arrest for 18 months," he said.

Whilst Nkhaphe was in prison, explained MEC Williams, Mentho took over and was particularly fond of explaining the causes of the social inequalities, poverty, and the suffering of black people. He explained it in simple terms in a captivating style.

"Mentho's emphasis was on black consciousness and how as learners we must not allow anyone to undermine our being based on the colour of our skin," he said.

He explained that the political consciousness gained at school permeated to the whole township. He was part of the team of young pioneers who founded the Lady Grey Youth Congress (Layco) in 1989.

MEC Williams explained that after matriculating with a Bachelor pass, he applied and was accepted at the Universities of Fort Hare and Cape Town to study law but could not enrol due to financial difficulties.

"My sister who was the only breadwinner at home advised me to enrol at Cape College of Education for a Teacher's Diploma, the education she could afford to pay. He counselled me to take one step at a time and build from there and I completed the Secondary Teachers Diploma (STD) in record time in 1996," said MEC.

He said while studying at Cape College he continued with his activism and his leadership qualities shined. The political consciousness which was implanted in his mind by Tshidiso Nkhaphe germinated and within a short space of time he was deployed by SASCO to be the Students Representative Council (SRC) President in 1995. At the end of his term in 1996, he was regarded by the college community as the best SRC President in the history of Cape College.

Afterwards MEC Williams started his teaching career at Egqili Secondary School in Aliwal North.

"During this period, I was elected to the Branch Executive Committee (BEC) of the South African Teachers Democratic Union (SADTU) and served as the Education Convener and later as Branch Secretary," he said.

During the same period, he was elected to the ANC Aliwal North region, and served the African National Congress (ANC) in various capacities for a period spanning from 1997-2013, first as the Deputy Regional Secretary for the then Aliwal North Region, Regional Secretary for the then Ukhahlamba Region and Chairperson of Joe Gqabi Region.

"During this period, I also served in the Provincial Executive Committee of Cde Makhenkesi Stofile, Stone Sizani and Phumulo Masualle," said MEC.

MEC Williams furthered his studies while teaching and obtained a Further Diploma in Education followed by Bachelor of Education Honours (Hons) both from the University of Free State.

In 2002, he joined Senqu Local Municipality as the Director for Corporate Services.

At the same time, I continued with my studies and obtained a Masters Degree in Governance & Political Transformation in 2006. He was nominated by his lecturers as the best student in his class for his M Thesis.

On 01 January 2007, MEC Williams joined Joe Gqabi District Municipality as the Municipal Manager where he proved to be a solid administrator.

"I took over a technically bankrupt municipality which within a short space of time turned around and transformed it into a well-run municipality. Before I took over, the municipality was plagued by successive disclaimers of opinions from the Office of the Auditor-General," added MEC.

After stabilising the situation, he said he began to lift the administrative capacity of the municipality to high levels. "This has been evidenced by the fact that for the past eight years the municipality maintained unqualified reports with four clean audits. The performance is a testimony of his administrative acumen and his ability to work well with people and get the best out of their talents.

YOUTH EXPO AS PART OF *Mandela* MONTH CELEBRATIONS

By Siphokazi Nonyukela



In realising that many young people remain unemployed and not doing anything to develop themselves, the department of Cooperative Governance and Traditional Affairs (Cogta) in collaboration with Amahlathi Local Municipality (ALM) this quarter organized a Youth Expo at the Mlungisi Community Hall outside Stutterheim town. The event was part of the Nelson Mandela month celebrations.

“This Expo seeks to help young people realise employment opportunities that exist both in government and academic institutions,” said Councillor Onke Mgunculu, the Mayor of the local municipality. He added that the target group for the Expo was the youth out of school, unemployed graduates and youth in business.

Delivering the key note address MEC for Cogta, Xolile Nqatha said that the Youth Expo took place when the world was celebrating the Nelson Mandela Month under the Global theme: Do what you can with what you have, wherever you are.

“The Mandela month comes at a time when we are still busy helping our people to recover from the devastating floods. We call upon all our people to come together as one nation to support fellow South Africans who are in need of our support,” he said.

MEC Nqatha also highlighted that the event is also convened after the tragic death of 21 young people at Enyonbeni tavern in Scenery Park in the Buffalo City Metro. “What is disturbing us is that these young people died as the country commemorates the 46th anniversary of 1976 student revolts.”

He encouraged the youth to keep themselves busy by participating in various sporting activities and community development programmes and refrain from alcohol and substance abuse.

“The youth of 1976 were fighting for access to better education. As you are gathered here today, I am challenging all of you to follow in the footsteps of the youth of 1976 as

you endeavour for a better future. I hope that this Expo will assist learners to choose wisely the right careers as you are on a journey to success,” added MEC Nqatha.

He urged the unemployed young graduates to take full advantage of opportunities created by the government to support aspiring young entrepreneurs and Small Medium Micro Economies (SMMEs) by establishing companies that will employ other young people.

“This youth Expo is a step towards addressing the ever-escalating unemployment and challenges confronting our youth.”

During the expo, various companies and departments which promote entrepreneurship highlighted opportunities available for young people. The leading educational institutions in the Province offered advice and study opportunities to the attendees.



Attendees of the youth expo



Exhibition stalls at the youth expo

TRADITIONAL LEADERS *Attended* 5 DAY TRAINING ON SOCIO ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

By Vuyani Sibene



Twenty-four (24) traditional leaders from various Districts of Eastern Cape attended a five-day training workshop on Socio-Economic Development of Traditional Communities. The programme was held from 29 August to 02 September 2022 at the Manderson Hotel in Stutterheim. It was run by the National School of Government (NSG) working with the Directorate of Traditional Leadership and Capacity Building (TLCB). Other stakeholders included the Industrial Development Corporation (IDC) of South Africa and Rance Timber to share information.

Ms Nomsa Mabanga, the Director for TKCB said the training was part two of the programme which started in February 2020. Part two that had been initially scheduled for May 2020, had to be postponed due to Covid 19 pandemic, she said.

The purpose of the programme was to capacitate Traditional Leaders in an experiential, hands on and participatory manner of learning about partnering with their communities and other stakeholders to utilise opportunities available for their own socio-economic development.

The Chairperson of the Eastern Cape Provincial House of Tradition and Khoi-San Leaders (ECHTKL) Nkosi Mpumalanga Gwadiso in his welcoming remarks said, it is key for traditional leaders to embrace the efforts that are given to them.

“We need capacity to lead our communities with confidence in building a capable developmental state,” said Nkosi Gwadiso.

Dr Sal Muthayan from the NSG said, “The programme broadly supports a range of people who are willing to develop their communities. Furthermore, it aims to build active citizens who know their rights, promote societal progress through engagement with government, holding government accountable and participating fully in the economy.”



Traditional leaders of the Eastern Cape

MEC WILLIAMS SET TO Repurpose COGTA AND LOCAL MUNICIPALITIES

By Mamkeli Ngam “Makhe sithi qoko boSodolophu,” MEC Williams.

CoGTA MEC Zolile Williams made his intentions clear to ring in some groundbreaking changes to the local government space to become strategic functional development centres in the Eastern Cape Province to attract much needed investments.

Delivering his opening remarks during the first face to face MuniMEC meeting post Covid 19 pandemic, MEC Williams said his focus will be on socio-economic development and planning, legislative compliance, prudent financial management and systems, leadership resilience and management issues and catching up with the Fourth Industrial Revolution (4IR).

MEC Williams said his approach will be to seek a collective view of key stakeholders including the business sector, Non-Governmental Organisations (NGOs), Traditional Leaders thus leaving no one behind. That consultation process will culminate into a Local Government Summit with clear plans for execution.

“We need collective wisdom to change the negative face of local government to become an investment destination of choice. This is not far-fetched given the depth of capacity we have as a Province. No individual wisdom will succeed given the huge responsibilities at our disposal,” said MEC Williams.

He decried the “weak service delivery capabilities” in municipalities thus eroding the legitimacy of many municipalities due to the inability to perform their functions resulting to the state of decay. There are sewerage leaks, uncontrolled refuse sites, potholes that remain unattended to in the municipalities.

The MEC added that some of the challenges include the bloated municipal organisational structures that lead to unaffordable wage bills, absence of consequence management due to interference politically and administratively, criminal networks, management inefficiencies and poor management continue to destabilise municipalities.

“The state of decay is discouraging investors including taking long to approve business plans from investors. Soyiswa zizinto ezingafanelekanga ukuba zisoyise. The closing of pot holes would seem small but has huge impact on investor confidence as an indication that the municipality is not functional. Beautifying our cities and towns has been put on the back banner. I encourage Mayors to conduct physical inspection of our towns to determine the bad state of our areas. Our employees must do their jobs and action taken against non performers. It cannot be business as usual.”

He added that there is a great need to professionalise local government to do away with the “shameful and squalid environment” they find themselves in. “Municipal leadership invites unnecessary attention by allowing wrong things to happen. “Mayors must stop being pleasant in the face of municipal decay,” Makhe sithi qoko boSodolophu. (Mayors must jack up their acts and be in control),” he said.

Meanwhile, MEC Williams said Cogta must redefine its mandate to be strategically poised to support municipalities meaningfully. This include defining its role and reasons for its existence and become an “appendage of other departments.”

“We need a department that provide practical training to municipalities on local government imperatives like the execution of bylaws, analysis of budgets. We need a department that is organised better to discharge its mandate profoundly,” said MEC Williams



Mphashe LM Mayor Janda



Mr Maki and Ms Tutshana

KOUKAMMA MUNICIPALITY RECEIVES R6,8 MILLION Drought FUNDING

By Thando Sonjica



Koukamma Local Municipality (KLM) received an amount of R6,380m funding for drought intervention measures from the Municipal Disaster Relief Grant (MDRG) within the Department of Cooperative Governance and Traditional Affairs (DCoGTA) through the National Disaster Management Centre (NDMC).

The approved funding was meant for the two prioritised projects as per the request of the municipality namely the Groundwater Development in Kareedouw which involved drilling and equipping two boreholes and raw water abstraction for Storms River.

In an interview with Mr Philela Mabandla, Director for Disaster Management and Fire Services in Cogta, said JoJo Solutions was appointed by the KLM in February 2022 as the implementing agent of the drought relief projects. JoJo Solutions then appointed GlobiWell Borehole and Groundwater Specialists to carry out the necessary hydrogeological investigations and construction work started in March 2022.

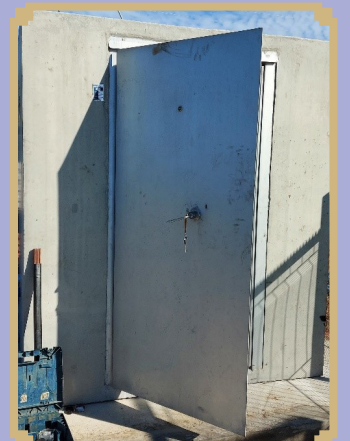
“The procurement of specialists and sub-contractors commenced, thereafter,” said Mr Mabandla. The anticipated time for the completion of the projects was end June 2022, however, this was

not possible due to vandalism which left the municipal infrastructure dysfunctional. Security measures have been put in place including the appointment of a security company,” said Mr Mabandla.

Mr Mabandla added that the approved projects were focusing on increasing raw water supply. “The current raw water abstraction to the Storms River Water Treatment Works did not supply sufficient water. It is anticipated that the new boreholes will provide an additional raw water to the Kareedouw area. Currently there are two operational boreholes in Kareedouw,” he explained.

There were three possible sites that have been identified for borehole development for ease of access to existing raw water reticulation systems. he said.

Mr Mabandla said the ground water development project in Kareedouw was 75% completed and the borehole drilling, sleeving, capping and pump testing, rising main pipeline installation and manhole which includes civil works were completed. The installation of all electrical and mechanical instruments required to operate the boreholes including certification were in progress, he said.



Borehole in Koukamma LM

TRADITIONAL COUNCILS ENCOURAGED TO REGISTER FOREIGNER NATIONALS AT THE POLICE STATIONS BEFORE THEY ENTER COMMUNITIES PROGRAMME

By Nowethu Goniwe



“Crime should be a standing item in the agenda of the community meetings,” Captain Spilka.

In July 2022, the Directorate of Traditional Leadership Rural Development Facilitation (TLRDF) in Cogta partnered with Imidange Traditional Council (ITC) to host a crime awareness session in Peulton, in the local Community Hall near Bhisho. The session was attended by various stakeholders which included members of the South African Police Services (SAPS), department of Community Safety, Eastern Cape Women’s Association and Department of Correctional Services.

Captain Zinatile Sipilka from the SAPS said that most crimes are as a result of drugs and it needs communities to stand up against it. He urged people to support one another by coming forward with information arrest perpetrators. They conduct awareness campaigns in schools about the dangers of drugs and they also conduct random searches.

Also speaking at the session Miranda Singqotho from the department of Community Safety said her department exists to oversee members of the SAPS and also “strengthen

relations between communities and the police and capacitate Community Policing Forums.”

Ms Singqotho emphasised the importance of Traditional Councils to register foreigner nationals at the police station when they enter their communities.

“Crime should be a standing item in the agenda of the community meetings. The safety of our communities is in our hands hence we need to revive the community patrols that we have been stopped long time ago.” said Ms Singqotho.

Outlining the purpose of the day Nkosazana Tembeka Kubashe of ITC said the day came about after the Council was visited by Cogta officials to find out about their developmental needs.

“We felt, among other things, a need to host a crime awareness session since there is crime and drug abuse that lead to killings and rape in our communities,” explained Ms Kubashe.

She added that the department assisted the Council to develop development plans for

that community to reach out to different funding institutions for financial help.

Ms Nozizwe Somfongo, the Director for TLRDF said her department conducted the meetings to empower communities and encourage them. She commended the relationship that exists between Councillors and traditional leaders.

“I encourage you to take ownership of development in your area. Traditional leaders should form a partnership with the Department of Home Affairs to look for people who are in their communities illegally,” said Ms Somfongo.



Community of Peulton

CURTAIN CLOSED ON THE FNB Incubation PROGRAMME

By Vuyani Sibene

The curtain has finally closed in the Incubation partnership programme between CoGTA, the Department of Economic Development Environmental Affairs and Tourism (DEDEAT) and the First National Bank (FNB) which was launched in July 2019. CoGTA MEC Xolile Nqatha addressing the official closing ceremony expressed his delight to “an endeavour to grow the local economy.”

He said the Memorandum of Agreement (MoA) was signed by the three partners to nurture up and coming business-persons in the Eastern Cape Province. The MoA emanated from the Local Economic Development (LED) Partnership Summit hosted by Cogta in 2017.

MEC Nqatha said the Small Medium and Macro Enterprises (SMMEs) were “a vital cog” in the operations of the economy.

In South Africa SMMEs employ about 47% of the workforce, contribute more than 20% to the country’s Gross Domestic Product (GDP) and pays about 6% of corporate taxes.

“The National Development Plan (NDP) envisions that by 2030 SMMEs will contribute between 60-80% to GDP, generate 90% of 11 million new jobs and this programme is building towards the achievement of these targets,” said MEC Nqatha.

MEC Nqatha added that the Province targeted various historically disadvantaged SMMEs that ranged from micro-

enterprises to those enterprises that were beyond start-up but not necessarily at an advanced level of capability.

“The total number of those who accepted is twenty-six (26), those who opted out were five (5); having a total number of twenty-one (21) incubates. Due to circumstances beyond our control, eighteen (18) participated in the programme,” said MEC Nqatha.

He was delighted that eleven (11) women had successfully participated in the programme and expressed his “gratitude to FNB for creating the incubation programme for our SMMEs.”

“I hope that FNB will continue to support our communities and our SMMEs. Undoubtedly, this partnership could go miles in addressing the triple challenges confronting our country.” said MEC Nqatha.

He congratulated all SMMEs that successfully participated in the programme. “We hope that you will utilize the skills and knowledge gained from this programme to create jobs for our people, particularly young people and women.”

MEC Nqatha said the provincial government had created some opportunities for SMMEs such as Isiqalo Youth Fund which is designed to create jobs and eradicate poverty.

“In 2021 (financial year) the we donated millions of rands to various youth-owned enterprises through the Isiqalo Youth Fund,” said MEC Nqatha.



Former MEC Nqatha



FNB
First National Bank

NKOSI MQALO *Officially* INSTALLED

By Vuyani Sibene

It was a proud moment for Amakhuze Traditional Council (ATC) that for the first time in fourteen (14) years their leader, Nkosi Khayaletu Mqalo was officially installed and anointed by King Vululwandle Sandile of AmaRharhabe Kingdom. This monumental event took place on Friday, 16 September 2022, at AmaKhuze Village in the Raymond Mhlaba Municipal area, in Alice. Taking place during the Heritage Month Celebrations, the event was last seen in 1966.

The event was graced by the presence of amongst other dignitaries, the MEC for Cogta Zolile Williams, MEC for Sports, Recreation, Arts and Culture, Nonceba Khontsiwe, the Mayor of Raymond Mhlaba Local Municipality and Councillor Zingisa Rasmeni, members of the various royal families in the Eastern Cape as well as traditional leaders from afar as Swaziland.

Delivering a Heritage message, MEC Khontsiwe she said Gender Based Violence (GBV) remains a "serious scourge and that government, traditional leaders and communities cannot remain silent any longer."

"Nkosi Mqalo you must play your part and lead campaigns against GBV. You have a duty to report perpetrators of these acts (to the police) in all your surrounding villages," said MEC Khontsiwe.

King Sandile when performing the installation said, "Young as I am, it is my first time to install Inkosi as it is my duty

as the King of AmaRharhabe Kingdom. I install you amongst your people of Amakhuze Traditional Council. I hope that you will listen to them, respect them as you have already done in the past years. It is not easy to lead people, however, with dignity and diligence you will succeed. Do attend community meetings," said King Sandile.

As the guest speaker for the occasion, MEC Williams said there is a need to build the capacity of traditional leaders to "resolve their own issues and minimise intra-conflicts."

The greatest challenge before them is to work together with government to create a better life for all people in their communities.

"To begin with, the new Traditional and Khoi-San Leadership Act of 2019 (TKLA) was unfunded, yet legislated (for implementation). This is a problem as it has serious budgetary implications both at strategic and operational levels."

MEC Williams added that the budget for the House of Traditional Leaders (HoTL) has gone down from R11 million to R4 million and that is a problem.

"As a result of the budget cuts, traditional leaders feel undermined as the budget cuts affects operations negatively," he said.

The MEC called for cooperation through the District Development Model (DDM) to change people's lives for the better.



Nkosi Mqalo officially installed

R6.7 MILLION *Approved* FOR DROUGHT FUNDING FOR DR BEYERS NAUDE MUNICIPALITY



By Thando Sonjica

Municipal Disaster Relief Grant (MDRG) within the National Department of Cooperative Governance (NDCoGTA) made available an amount of R6, 057m funding for drought intervention measures within Dr Beyers Naude in the Sarah Baartman District Municipality. The amount approved through the National Disaster Management Centre was transferred to the municipality on 08 February 2022.

"This was after the head of the National Disaster Management Centre (NDMC), had deliberations with national sector departments and Provincial Disaster Management Centres, and after assessing the magnitude and severity of the drought occurring in the Northern Cape, Western Cape and Eastern Cape. Also having considered the information and recommendations received from the respective Provincial Disaster Management Centres (PDMCs) the head of NDMC gave notice that on 20 July 2021, in terms of Section 23(1)(b) of the Disaster Management Act, 2002 (Act No. 57 of 2002) classified the drought as a national disaster," explained Mr Philela Mabandla who is the head of PDMC at Cogta.

Mr Mabandla explained that the approved funding was meant to augment the resources of the municipality with regard to prioritised projects as per the request of the municipality and supported by the PDMC.

"The prioritized projects were Groundwater developments in Rietbron, Jansenville and Klipplaat. The municipality needed to spend the funds within six (6) months from February to July 2022. The funds were to be solely utilised for the approved purposes and were not supposed to be used for any other purpose," explained Mr Mabandla.

Mr Mabandla further explained that the municipality appointed JOJO Solutions as the implementing agent for direct and indirect costs based on the budget allocation. "The consultant commenced with the procurement of sub-contractors through the three-quote system and construction work started during the month of March 2022," added Mr Mabandla.

He added that Consulting Scientists conducted a desktop ground water feasibility study for the town of Klipplaat, Rietbron and Jansenville. "The focus was to source and process existing data and information relating to the Geohydrology of the mentioned towns. He said the results of the study showed that the development of the additional 3-boreholes in identified areas would increase the raw water supply and it will provide immediate relief.

It also recommended that the projects be below ground to avoid vandalism (underground manhole with heavy duty iron cover). "The municipality's maintenance team would take

over the maintenance and operations of the infrastructure upon completion. The anticipated time for the completion of the projects are end June 2022," said Mr Mabandla.

The study further revealed that there was not a full water treatment facility in Rietbron and Jansenville and the water was treated with chlorine. "As such the existing treatment facility in Klipplaat is being upgraded with Municipal Infrastructure Grant (MIG) funding.

Mr Mabandla said Cogta was proud because the project implementation and expenditure occurred within the allocated timeframe and no rollover application was required.

"We are also proud because the project created jobs as the 'civil side' of the overall project amounted to 16-working days for local labour," said Mr Mabandla.



Borehole in Dr Beyers Naude LM

INSTALLATION OF *Amakhuze* NKOSI MQALO

Attendees of Nkosi Mqalo's Installation



San leader Ray Van Staaden and Nkosi Ngwekazi



L-R: Nkosi Jezile, Nkosi Mavuso, Deputy Speaker of Eastern Cape Legislature MPL Qoboshiyane



Traditional Healers



MEC Williams



L-R: Prince Burns Ncamashe, MEC Kontsiwe, Raymond Mhlaba LM Mayor Cllr Rasmeni



L-R: MPL Qoboshiyane, Nkosana Mqalo, MEC Williams



L-R: Nkosi Dlamini from Umzimkhulu and Nkosi Pokwana



L-R: Nkosi Ngwekazi, Nkosi Nonkonyana, Nkosi Matanzima, Nkosi Mavuso and Nkosi Jali