

WELCOMING ADDRESS DELIVERED BY HER WORSHIP CLLR ZUKISWA NDEVU DURING THE MASKHANDI MUSIC FESTIVAL IN KWABHACA ON THE 27th MARCH 2022.

Programme Director

Executive Committee Members

Madam Speaker

Chief Whip

[PROTOCOL OBSERVED IN ATTENDANCE]

Ladies and Gentlemen; I want to start by thanking you most sincerely for hosting this extravagant programme in KwaBhaca. This significance of this festival being hosted within Umzimbubu, resembles honour to the home of Maskhandi in the Eastern Cape Province. For that, we are truly humbled by this gesture. As Maskhandi musicians you have an important role to play in ensuring that religious revival in our society is not short lived.

This event is also partly significant in times like these, when we are faced with a range of socio-economic problems. These include the scourge of xenophobia, poverty, mass migration and youth unemployment.

Thus, your music should continue to bring us back from the cliff of gloom, giving hope to the hopeless, strength to those of us who feel too weakened by life's challenges. Such inspiring and motivating music is important, especially because as maskhandi musicians, you are traditional role models to society.



Programme Director, the new democratic dispensation has been a significant catalyst in bringing about social cohesion, reconciliation and nation building. And as government, through our programmes, particularly those relating to arts and culture, including music, we have played an important role in creating a platform for nation building and social cohesion.

It is for this reason that we have developed an annual programme called the ‘Masibuyelembo Cultural Blast’ hosted in KwaBhaca. The programme incorporates all local genres from Maskhandi to Amapiano and it has grown to be loved across the Alfred Nzo District. We intend on merging this programme with the Annual Provincial Maskhandi Festival, so that we may also heighten the level of exposure for our local artists whilst also strengthening our relations with the Department of Sports, Recreation, Arts and Culture in the Eastern Cape Province.

Since the inception of this programme in 2016, we have managed to create a developmental aspect in the form of a youth mentorship programme. The Masibuyelembo Youth Mentorship programme started on a very high note, as we were able to partner with Afrotainment. These relations gave birth to a local star from KwaBhaca by the name of Aphelele Ntando, who goes by the stage name of ‘Angelic’. She will be releasing her single with DJ Tira on the 31st of March 2022.

We are significantly proud of the strides that this programme has taken and we yearn to formulate more strategic relations with the private sector



and other departments, so that a bigger portion of artists are considered by record labels.

Ladies and Gentlemen, as I conclude, allow me to welcome you all to Umzimbubu and trust that you will have the most favourable experience in KwaBhaca.

I Thank you,

Delivered by the Honourable Mayor,
Cllr Zukiswa Ndevu

