



Creatives Magazine

Issue 6 June 2023

#IMBUBE IN THE LIMELIGHT

INDOSAKUSA
The Morning Star

Black Umfolosi

Great Stars
"Ijongosi"

SUNDUZA
DANCE
THEATRE

AMAQAQA

IBUTHO LIKAKRISTU

INKANYEZI
ZEZULU

IKHWEZI LOKUSA

UBUNTU BOMUNTU

MTUBA
THULISA
BROTHERS

IMBIZO
PERFORMING
ARTS

AMABHUBESI

ABANQOBI
BEZITHA

UDONSI LWABAPOSTOLI

MEN OF INFLUENCE



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EDITOR'S NOTE

The Creatives Magazine team welcomes you to your favourite read!

This issue details Imbube giants, who through cultural song and dance purpose to preserve cultural heritage for both the present and future generations. Widely referred to as Imbube, is a classical, highly traditional woven music genre originally called Isicathamiya/Chothoza Mfana/Ingoma Busuku as revealed by some groups featured in this issue. Imbube was popularized by renowned, well-established Lady Smith Black Mambazo, a group that marked the dawn of other Imbube groups. Black Mambazo has been highly described as having played a key role in inspiring creatives who later ventured into this kind of music. In Zimbabwe, Black Umfolosi is regarded as a pioneer of Imbube music as evidenced by their immensely attractive profile revealing the works they have done in pushing this genre and serving as a yardstick for many more groups in existence in Zimbabwe. In Zimbabwe, Imbube is largely embraced by the people from Matabeleland South, Matabeleland North and Bulawayo. This is where several groups have been established.

To resuscitate and revamp Imbube music, Thobela Arts Foundation (TAF), under the leadership of Oscar Siziba will hold a highly prestigious event honouring Imbube music under the theme, "Celebrating Imbube Milestones" where more than 10 groups that in-



clude, Indosakusa, the Morning Star, have confirmed participation. Oscar is calling everyone to come and experience the flamboyancy and the richness of Matabeleland culture pioneered by the Imbube art genre. We acknowledge the support we received from TAF in coming up with this issue, as they provided us with contact names for all the crowd thriller groups featured. As the Creatives magazine, an online creative industry powerhouse platform we thought it wise to present to you brief profiles about Imbube groups, some of them will participate in the TAF event. Most of the groups that have been featured revealed that they are spiritually founded, something that keeps them highly attached to Imbube. Imbube has been referred to as a "forgotten genre", and "old fashioned", yet it is a "heritage to African societies", hence the need to ignite it for people to have an appreciation behind the formation of this music. This is exactly what we pride ourselves in doing as a talent publicity podium for creatives.

Enjoy yourselves as you interact with our unique and culturally rich content. Your invaluable support will always be cherished.

Creatives Online Magazine Team

Meet The Team



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BLACK UMFOLOSI



This is a group that has travelled all parts of the world, touring and representing Zimbabwe in international arenas where they impressively presented their art in a unique way highly rich in African flavor. They specialize in African traditional dances and music that they immensely teach those willing to learn, they are widely referred to as the cultural ambassadors. One of their goals is, "to use the Arts as the drive for promoting social harmony and understanding amongst people of different backgrounds"

Black Umfolosi is a Zimbabwean imbube music pioneer, the reigning group that inspired all the other imbube groups that were established later. This is the longest serving group, the first one to be established in Zimbabwe in the year 1982. Sotsha Moyo is the founding

member of Black Umfolosi, he explains that some of the members have left the group and focused on other areas of life while others have been laid to rest. The group currently has the following 8 members, Ms Luzibo Tabona Moyo, Ms Bouitumelo Phuthi, Ms Lulamile Q Moyo, Mr Austin Chisare, Ms Thando Moyo, Mr Zenzo Hlaseka and Mr Fortune Ndebele.

Moyo explains that they did not really have intentions of starting the group. At the time they were at J Z Moyo high school where he explains that the school was new and had no electricity then. As students they did not have any lighting system to enable them to study at night so they used to make fire outside the school dormitories where they used to sing well known community songs.

He reveals that one night when they were singing, one of them, the late Samuel Mzwanyana Ndlovu, suggested that they form a choir. He then

started writing down names of those who were interested to be part of the group. Moyo indicates that on that night he was not with the group but was later approached by Ndlovu who asked him to be part of them as he knew that he was also passionate about singing, tracing this back to his rural home in Plumtree where he used to sing. This is how the group, Black Umfolosi was started, that is, by school friends. Moyo proudly mentions that they remained friends to this day.

A lot of people registered their interests to be part of the group. After school Moyo says he took the leadership role of the group where he started directing the group since then. He also mentions that "The main reason for this initiative was to preserve and revive the African dance culture which was at the time invaded by Break Dance and Western Culture and was now facing elimination/extinction"

The group was named after Black Umfolosi, a river found in South Africa, Kwazulu Natal Moyo remembers while at school reading about the history of some of their group members at Black Umfolosi, the Zimbabweans who came from South Africa especially the Nguni speaking people, they then named their group, Black Umfolosi. Moyo also reveals that they also noticed that umfula (river) signifies life “Nxakugeleza amanzi izinyamazana ziyahamba ziyenatha khona, abantu bayahamba bayekukha khona amanzi wona ayimpilo, lezihlala eziseceleni zitholakala ziluhlaza, kusitsho ukuthi akulalutho oluphilayo olungafuni amanzi. He mentions that this was an appropriate name for their group as it stands for good deeds that serve to delight and excite people and be welcomed like water that offers life to all living organisms. As a group, Black Umfolosi has enjoyed a lot in their 41-year journey in the creative and cultural industry. “I have made a lot of friends through imbube, I have expressed myself through imbube and it’s just so enjoyable, I have seen all continents of the world through imbube, presenting what I know and love the most”, says Moyo.

The following are highlights of some of the noteworthy world tours that the group has embarked on

- 1987- Swaziland International Trade fair (Manzini)
- 1988- Maitisong Theatre, Gaborone, Botswana
- 1990- Zimbabwean 10th Anniversary Celebration, Glasgow, Zimfest, London,
- Birmingham, Coventry, Nottingham
- 1991- Australia and Europe (Denmark, Switzerland, Germany and Holland)
- 1992- Europe Tour (UK, Germany, Switzerland and Holland)
- North American Tour (USA and Canada)
- 1993- Europeans Tour (Germany, Holland)
- North American Tour (USA, Canada)
- Southern African Tour (Botswana, South Africa)
- 1994- European Tour (Holland, Switzerland, France, Hungary, Austria, Spain,
- Belgium, Slovenia, Germany, Italy and UK)
- 1995- European Tour (Germany, Switzerland, Italy and Spain)
- North American Tour (USA and Canada)
- 1996- Europe (UK and Germany)
- North American Tour (USA and Canada)
- Southern African (Botswana and Zimbabwe)
- 1997- North American Tour (USA and Canada)
- Europeans Tour (Sweden, Finland, Germany and UK)
- 1998- North American Tour (USA and Canada)
- European Tour (UK and Portugal)
- 1999- North American Tour (USA and Canada)
- European Tour (Spain, Ireland and UK)
- African Tour (Morocco and Zimbabwe)
- 2000- European Tour (Netherlands and UK)
- Asian Tour (India)
- 2002- The Rainforest International Music Festival (Sarawak, Malaysia)
- European Tour (UK)
- North American Tour (Canada)
- 2003- European Tour (Netherlands and UK)
- North American Tour (Canada)
- 2004- Asian Tour (Malaysia)
- Europeans Tour (UK)
- North American Tour (Canada)
- 2005- The Rainforest International Music Festival (Sarawak, Malaysia)
- European Tour (UK)

- 2006- African Tour (Botswana, Zimbabwe)
- European Tour (UK and Canada)
- 2007- Malaysia, Italy, Canada and UK
- 2008- European Tour (UK and Barbados)
- 2009- European Tour (UK and Italy)
- 2010- European Tour (UK and Norway)
- 2011- European Tour (UK)
- 2012- European Tour (UK, Estonia and France)
- 2013- European Tour (UK and Ireland)
- 2014-2018- (UK, Canada, USA)
- 2020-2021- COVID 19 restrictions
- 2022 – UK, USA, Canada (40th Anniversary Tour)

The following are the recordings that they have released so far:

- Unity World Circuit Label, 1990 (WCD020)
 - Festival-Umdlalo, World Circuit, Label 1993 (WCD037)
 - Soze Sifike Vibrant Label 1993 (WCD1601)
 - Zilungisele-ZMC Label 1995 (L4BU001)
 - Stofotofo-ZMC Label Label 1996 (ZBU02)
 - Xoxani-Lixolelane One Voice BU Label 2001
 - Shosholoza-BU Label 2003
 - Amen Amen-BU Label 2003
 - Konyana-BU 2006
 - Khulumalami (Talk to me BU Label) 2008
 - Summertime (The best of BU) Arc Music Label -2010
 - Washabalal’ Umhlaba (Earth Song) 2020
 - Reason to Believe -2021
 - A Thousand Ways to Love the Careless Moon – 2023
- The Black Umfolosi group has performed in several international arenas that include the following venues;
- JF Kennedy Center, Washington DC, USA
 - Commonwealth Games, Victoria, Canada
 - Image of Africa, Copenhagen, Denmark
 - The Globe (Royal Shakespeare Theater) London
 - UK, Schools, Colleges
 - Lemon Tree, Aberdeen, Scotland (Twin City with Bulawayo)
 - The Rain Forest Festival, Sarawak, Malaysia
 - Queen Elizabeth Hall, London, UK
 - Expo 98 Lisbon, Portugal
 - All Africa Games, Zimbabwe
 - Honolulu University, Hawaii,



USA

- Vancouver International Folk and Children Festival, Canada
- SADC Music Festival, Harare, Zimbabwe
- Museum of Civilisation, Ottawa, Canada
- Sidmouth International Festival, UK
- Albuquerque Festival, New Mexico, USA

When asked whether they will be part of the “Celebrating Imbube Milestone”, an event organized by Thobela Arts Foundation (TAF), expected to take place in September 2023, Moyo reveals that he is already in talks with the organisers and he looks forward to supporting them in any way they can and that if they do not have any tours they will be available for the event. “Oscar from TAF mentioned that

event to me and the wish yikuthi ibese Black Umfolosi’s Enkundleni Centre for the Arts. I am yet to confirm our events calendar of the year with both our local and international tour agents”, concludes Moyo ●





INDOSAKUSA THE MORNING STAR

The group, Impumelelo Shinning Stars, that later rebranded to Indosakusa the Morning Star was formed on the 7th of May 2001 at Enqameni, Mapane in Gwanda. The group got established when Costa Lungisani Neube approached Oscar Siziba, in church, Zion where he worships and suggested that they start a group focusing on Imbube. Currently, Indosakusa the Morning Star is made up of 7 members, namely, Oscar Siziba, as their leader and senior member, Thembelani Ndlovu, Kwanele Moyo, Innocent Sibanda, Nomore Allah Sibanda Trevor Dube and Atiambiwi Shoko. When asked why they rebranded from Impumelelo Shinning Stars to Indosakusa the Morning Star, Oscar explains, "God spoke to us to rebrand so that our name has an identity of our culture, of who we are, ubuntu bethu, isintu sethu, hence we came up with this all-encompassing name that explains widely that we are a star, we are no longer following many stars but we are now an Indosakusa, which is the Morning star, not shinning



His passion for imbube dates back to his early years when he was at Impumelelo Shinning Stars where he performed several roles as a senior member, lead singer and a composer/song writer. The group was established for the sole purpose of preaching the gospel of Jesus Christ while at the same time imparting traditional and cultural knowledge and wisdom through imbube, a genre largely associated with the Matabeleland provinces of Zimbabwe. He vividly remembers how his father used to bring the Lady Smith Black Mambazo LPs at home while he was still a child, this inspired him to venture into imbube as he has been widely socialized into the genre.

Oscar explains what imbube music is all about, "Isicathamiya music/imbube is all about harmonious music that teaches a lot, ngumculo ozithobileyo, omdala kakhulu esingathi is a mother genre in Matabeleland and in South Africa, uthandwa ngabantu, uyahlabusa, uhlatshelwa ngabancane labadala njalo uculwa ngabantu abangamadoda kuphela. He reveals that this is the kind of music that was sung by males only. He further explains why this kind of music is associated with males from the mines, "While in the mining areas, men used to imitate women using small voices such as tenor, alto and soprano, we are aware that obaba bahlabela ibass, but because they were at work while the women were at home they used to miss their wives so much that they imitated them hence this sound of harmony, isicathamiya".

Siziba also reveals that the music that they sing nowadays is called imbube but the correct name is isicathamiya/ chothoza mfana/ingoma busuku. Imbube came as a result of the song sung by Solomon Linda, called imbube and this spread all over hence the adoption of the term imbube and this kind of music is now widely referred to as imbube. Siziba also mentions the origins of this music genre "Lumculo weza eZimbabwe lenkosi uMzilikazi ehamba lebuthe lakhe iMbizo bevela eSouth Africa bawuhlanyelake lumculo wamemetheka iMatabeleland yonke, uyaculwa eMat South, Mat North lakoBulawayo". Oscar explains that their music is not limited to a particular group of people as it appeals to both the young and old, "Umculo wethu waziwa ngokuthi ngowabantu abadala kodwa sesiwutshintshile wenza ukuthi labancane bawuthande, sesifake ama "spice", lokhu sikwenza ngokuhlanganisa imbube lamanye ama music genres athandwa ngabancane anjenge house music lamapiano ukuze kube le flavor".

Imbube is a classic music that has an international appeal as it can be sung worldwide, well understood with its great harmony that makes one sit down and listen to be informed, educated and entertained. It is different from other music genres because, "Iculwa njalo ilandelwa ngabantu abahloniphayo, akukho ukulwa lapha okuyabe kuculwa khona njengalokhu okubonakala kwamanye ama categories awemusic," says Oscar.

He further gives details on the accomplishments they have received soon after rebranding, "When we were Impumelelo Shinning Stars for 14 years we only received one award in 2016 from Botswana but under Indosakusa we have received several accolades, locally and internationally, this is the power of God opening up bigger and greater opportunities for us to flourish in the industry". Impumelelo Shinning Stars was rebranded to Indosakusa, the Morning Star in 2018. Below are the accolades they have received so far,

- 2018 Best Imbube group (Skyz metro FM)
- 2019 Best Imbube group (Bulawayo Arts Awards)
- 2019 Best traditional folk group (Zima awards)
- 2020 Best Covid 19 song (Zima awards)
- 2021 Best Imbube group (Bulawayo Arts awards)
- 2021 Best gospel group Mat.-South (Tesma awards)
- 2020 Best Covid 19 song on Radio African panorama (UK)
- 2020 Best Covid 19 song in South Africa (Khozi FM) on Third position



Oscar explains that he received his inspiration for music largely from God and the Zion church where he worships as well as from Ladysmith Black Mambazo and Black Umfolosi. So far Oscar says the group has undertaken a lot of tours locally and internationally and in each case their art improves for the better.

"We have performed in 33 towns and cities in our country and in more than 12 countries, we have showcased our creativity in the biggest African stadiums such as the FNB and Coca-Cola Dom stadiums in South Africa and National Sports stadium in Zimbabwe. We have also showcased at galas, the Harare International Festival of Arts, Intwasa Arts festival, Bulawayo Arts Awards and Choral Festival of Arts in South Africa, among other places.

The group has done several collaborations with the creative industry icons who include Robin Liepmani, Marthie Nel Hauptfleisch (South Africa), Dumi Right (United States of America), Joseph Shabalala (Ladysmith Black Mambazo South Africa), Jeys Marabini (Zimbabwe), Noma Nkwali Zimbabwe (Australia), Gazelinnyama (Zimbabwe) and Imbongi Voices for Africa (Germany).

So far, the group has released the following 12 albums: (1) Emthonjeni 2001 (2) Umhlaba uyajikajika 2003 (3) Uhlaloleni 2004 (4) Ngeke ehluke 2005 (5) Unomalanga 2006 (6) Love one another 2010 (7) Amaqhinga Aphelile 2013 (8) Avulekile Amazulu 2016 (9) Gospel volume 1. 2017 (10) Indosakusa 2018 (11) Gospel volume 2. 2019, (12) Isililo sentandane 2022 and several singles.

The following are some of the projects that Oscar has established; Indosakusa Juniors, Indosakusa Teenagers, Omkantshobomvu Mbaqanga band, Touch of Class Hair Salon, Thobela Arts Foundation and many more businesses.

One of these projects, the Thobela Arts Foundation, (TAF) a non-profit making organisation established in 2020, is set to host an inaugural and prestigious event in September 2023 running under the theme "Celebrating Imbube Milestone".

Oscar explains that TAF seeks to "support, promote and improve the lifestyle of our local artists, teaching, preaching and spreading the gospel of our own cultural identity".



He further elaborates on their aim, "Our goal is to see artists spreading wings through art and our new generation being taught widely about our own indigenous cultural practices and beliefs".

"We are Celebrating Imbube milestone because it is our mother genre in Matabeleland, we want to express our heartfelt gratitude to our God for taking us this far since its existence (Imbube) decades and decades ago". This is a national event that they intend to hold every year in September. Oscar is calling everyone to come and experience the flamboyancy and the richness of Matabeleland culture pioneered by Imbube art genre. "This will be a 2-day event, the first day will be dedicated to workshops and exhibitions, empowerment training sessions concerning Imbube/Isicathamiya". He further reveals that the first day will also focus on exhibiting all their works since their existence in the arts industry, items such as gallery videos, outfits and many more branded merchandise will be displayed. "The second day will be for crowd pulling and crowd thrilling performances from

from various creatives across Zimbabwe and beyond, many more exciting details will be availed in due course as we seek to make this a memorable occasion", says Oscar. Oscar explains that so far people welcome their initiative and they look forward to receiving support of any kind to make this event a success. "So far we have met different Imbube groups in Bulawayo and Matabeleland South and they have expressed interests to be part of this foundational event". Oscar also mentions that they have all their paperwork ready to distribute to the business community and sponsors to support them in whatever means they can. The registration process for groups that wish to partake is ongoing. He reveals that they are about to officially launch the branded products that will be used during the event. "Preparations are all set on a high note", says Oscar.

"The event will ensure that we achieve the following among other areas; spread our imbube identity, give imbube groups more recognition and to help teach the young generation about this genre, a back

borne of our culture as the Matabele people, all this will be done to

preserve our culture”, he says. We urge you all, our fellow Zimbabweans, locally and abroad to come in numbers to support this noble initiative, we call for partnerships and sponsorships in various areas

areas necessary to hold a fruitful event”, concludes Oscar Khutshwekhaya Siziba ●





GREAT STARS

“IJONGOSI”



Highly inspired by Black Umfolosi, Lady Smith Black Mambazo and Indosakusa is a Bulawayo based 8 member Imbube music group well known as Great Stars ‘Ijongosi’.

The history of this group is traced back to Silobela in Nkayi district where it was formed under St Elizabeth Anglican church. The founding member is Philani Donga who reveals that the group was established in 2011 and it consists of males drawn from the Matabeleland regions, these are Philani Donga, Samuel Donga, Ronny Ndiweni, Lawrence Ndiweni, Honest Nkomo, Tymon Njiba, Mthokozisi Moyo and Mhlanganiso Mzizi.

The group is known for their exhilarating gum boot dance moves and the stimulating isitshikitsha style of traditional dance moves, which he says, were passed on to them from previous generations. Donga reveals that they specialize in Southern African dances with culturally embedded meanings.

When asked to explain the meaning behind the name of their group, Philani stated the following in detail, “The name is an appreciation of the amazing light provided by stars at night. Our music brings life to souls as it entertains, educates and conscientizes. It stands like light that overcomes darkness, hence the name “Great Stars”. The group “Great Stars” is nicknamed ‘Ijongosi’, this is a description of a young energetic male cow. The nickname came from our audience, who watched and marveled at our vibrant dance activities on stage, hence the name ‘Ijongosi’. Philani also mentions that their aim is to ensure that Imbube music lives forever and is highly embraced by the present and future generations. Preserving Imbube music as well as employment creation for sustenance are some of the reasons that necessitated the formation of Great Stars “Ijongosi”. Through their music they managed to depend on their art for survival. The group has performed in several events locally that include wedding ceremonies, corporate functions, birthday parties, graduation ceremonies, funeral services, festivals, competitions

and promotions where they have always left the audience in awe, beaming for more.

The Great Stars “Ijongosi” has released 6 albums with the following tracks:

- 1) Umadewa 2013 - lalalani, uthando, umadewa, izwilika, Jesu, emazulwini, umonakalo, balomvuzo, dont drink and drive, tholakele.
 - 2) Ithaya 2016 - udivasi, ungumtonjani, ithaya, mbongubaba, khuzuvalo mfana, usandirase, usgcebhezana, amacala, amathambo
 - 3) Lindiwe 2017 - usipho, umadewa, ulindiwe, unodumo, ithaya, I love you.
 - 4) Ithempeli 2018 – qaphelani, wozamoya, ngicela baba, rock of ages, ubani loh?, mwari wangu, montrose studio,
 - 5) Konke kulungile 2019 – Lindiwe, ulazaro, Thandekile, selimathunzi, konke kulungile, mzwawwa, isalakutshelwa, egibhithe, uxhophomunyumuntu, usipho, ucikilicane
 - 6) Ijongosi 2023 – gomora, hamba, ijongosi, caroline, amagwala, dumazile, amalanda, emambale
- The group has worked with several



groups and artists who include the following: Black Umfolosi, Jeys Marabini, Indosakusa the Morning Star, Sandra Ndebele, Vusa Mkhaya, Khayisa Dance Ensemble, Thandanani Women's Ensemble, Gazi Elimnyama, Zinja Ziyamluma as well as the Maskandi artists. They are proud of such collaborations and stage sharing as they believe this goes a long way in enriching and further empowering them in line with their area of speciality. Their music is widely played on local and international arenas including the broadcasting and online/digital platforms.

Philani mentions iThokazi leJongosi as a lady that they work with on some projects. Her name is Thithibebe Phiri who also expressed so much appreciation for the assistance she receives from the group.

The Great Stars "Ijongosi" will be one of the groups to perform at an event organized by Thobela Arts Foundation under the theme "Celebrating Imbube Milestone". Donga expressed great appreciation to the organisers for coming up with such an awesome occasion that he highly regards as one that will go a long way in publicizing and preserving imbube music. He says, "Siyabe sikhona, sizakholisa sibili ngoba we will be celebrating our imbube milestone yithi abembube, Siyabonga kakhulu" ●





IKHWEZI LOKUSA

CULTURAL ENSEMBLE

Ikhwezi Lokusa Cultural Ensemble (ILCE) is an imbube music group that was started on 25 February 2022. This is an 18 member group that was established by Gwanda State University employees who are based at Epoch Mine Campus in Filabusi. Most of the members have past involvement in Imbube under various groupings including Izinkanyezi ZeZulu Performing Arts and this is where the group draws their motivation and inspiration from. When asked to explain this unique number of group members, Mthuthukisi Mxilankatha Neube (aka Kamneube), Music Director of ILCE says, "Sanquma ukuthi lizazhlehle lodwa inani once the group stabilizes and as we professionalize".

The following are the current members of Ikhwezi Lokusa Cultural Ensemble; Sehlule Ntabende Moyo (Chairperson), Lovemore Sipepa Nkomo (SG/Treasurer, Nkosilathi Nsingo, Jetro Mdluli Nyathi, Mthokozisi Ngwenya, Paul B. Manyabi,

Talent V. Mandianike, Tafadzwa Sibanda, Butholenkosi Maduna-Mafu, Nhlanhla Gabula Ndlovu, Danisa Mtotobi Mlilo, Maqhawe Hlomza Masuku, Bhekizwe Nsingo and Mziwakhe R. Nyathi. When asked to explain what imbube is all about, Neube reveals the following, "Imbube is a social commentary expressed through cultural lenses, this is done to educate and preserve cultural identity while entertaining folks at various fora, including but not limited to gatherings for cultural rites, traditional celebrations like Intwasa and Inxwala Festivals where men of articulate talent express themselves through choreographed song, dance and poetry enhanced by traditional attire". He further narrates that, "Imbube is the genre that combines song, dance and poetry, and is well able to embed cultural/traditional, social and religious commentaries within its broad based mother genre. It can be done with instruments such as a drum". Neube reveals that imbube is largely played at gatherings such as "Weddings/Emthimbeni, Traditional Ceremonies

like UkuColwa, imicimbi yesintu enjengeInxwala and Intwasa (after harvest and the first fruits festivals". On airwaves imbube is played largely by Khulumani FM although other stations periodically do so, iKhulumani FM ngeyolimi lwesiNdebele promoting the language and culture yesiNdebele, hence the wide coverage of imbube music by the station. This is where the genre niche and that of the station for both young and old generations, school going children who need to learn about what, how and why the Ndebele identity and culture believes what it does is covered, Neube explains. Neube illuminates that "Imbube imelana lokungaziphathi komphakathi jikelele ifundisa (society at large addressing social challenges facing local communities) ngobudlwangudlwangu (Gender Based Violence and other forms of violence), ubugebengu (crime), ukugcina lokunakekel' imvelo (environmental conservation), ukutshumayel' ivangeli lokholo lwesiKristu (Gospel music) verge".





Neube brings out some of the accomplishments that they have been honoured with since the establishment of the group, "Ukuhlabelela phambi kukaMongameli welizwe ngesikhathi enikeza abaqeqeshwe eGwanda State University izicoco zabo mhla zingu 18 November 2022 eEpoch Mine Campus, eFilabusi". "Sesike sathola ukuxhawulwa ngesama semali nguMongameli wezwe ngemva kokuhlabelela okutholakala kuYouTube ngaphansi koluhlu oluthi "Gwanda State University Graduation 2022", he adds.

Neube mentioned that the group has not yet toured widely because most of the group members involved are employed on a fulltime basis making it hard for them to be always mobile as they will be expected to be at their work stations. He however says that they look forward to touring now that they are registered under the National Arts Council of Zimbabwe, NACZ ●

AMAQAQA



Amaqaqa is an imbube group which derived its name from the word 'Amaqaqa' which means a group of people climbing a mountain, abantu abaqaqela intaba/ abantu abakhu-phuka intaba. The group was established in 2018 by Khulekani Mkandla who also happens to be the group leader. This is an 8-member male isicathamiya group made up of the following: Khulekani Mnkandla, Mohau Sibanda, Mlondolozzi Dube, Madodana Dlodlo, Njabulo Moyo, Jabulani Nyathi, Stanely Mpofo and Andrew Gumbo.

Khulekani has been in the industry focusing on isicathamiya since 2004, he has been in the Imvuselelo group, Flaming Arrows, Ilinqe Elimnyama and Insika Yesizwe. All these groups closed due to economy related challenges. From these groups that have folded, Khulekani mentions that he is the only one who is still pushing imbube.

In 2010, Khulekani joined the then Impumelelo Shinning Stars which is now called Indosakusa the Morning Star.

He reveals that due to differences in opinion, in 2017, he left and went to join Izinkanyezi ZeZulu in South Africa and this is where his level of music upgraded but still he felt he needed to fulfill his spiritual thirst when he says, "Kwakuculwa sibili kamnandi kodwa ngingaphili emoyeni".

He shared his feelings with a friend Zamani, explaining how much he was stressed about how he felt so detached spiritually when he sang, he expressed that he was even failing to pursue his career. Zamani encouraged him to

stand on his own and form a group, this is where he is today, as the founder and leader of Amaqaqa group. When I received the name of the group I told myself that I have to look for people so that we have a group that can share my vision. He had to come back to Zimbabwe and went back to Indosakusa the Morning Star. "Ngatshayelwa ihlahla njalo ngama laphana". Khulekani



- 2022 Outstanding Imbube Isicathamiya group at the Roil Bulawayo Arts Awards
- 2022 Best traditional Ezomdabu group at the Zimbabwe Music Awards

prayed to God for a breakthrough. Before he finished the prayer sessions, he already received 5 members who wanted to be part of the group.

One day a miracle happened, he explains "Ngezwa izwi livela entabeni lisithi kumele ngihlabele ngithwele induku, ngeke ngitsho ukuthi kulomuntu owakhulumayo kodwa ngezwa lokho many times laloba ngisendlini ngingekho entabeni". Khulekani explains that while relaxing at home by the veranda he saw an old man selling 5 knobkerries, he asked him if he is in the business of selling these but he said no, he had just started on that particular day when he saw these and decided to sell them in case someone needed them. Khulekani bought these and they still use them in their group. Khulekani recoded Isiphofu seJericho and Thulisani umntwana uyakhala and took these to Khulumani FM where they were widely played. He says he also requested them to ask for people who can be part of the group. Mlondolozu called during the radio show to express his interest to join Amaqaqa and he thus became one of the group members. "Our music is blended with African traditional songs, social songs, love songs to gospel Evangelic sounds and our aim is to accommodate every corner of the World with our universal music, we sing in many languages such as Venda, Swahili, Ndebele, Shona, English, Zulu and Sotho", says Mnkandla.

Khulekani explains his understanding of imbube music genre, "Imbube is all about unveiling authentic natural creativity, uqalise emuva ngabo 1930s ngamadoda lawana ayethi nxa ezilibazisa ezi mine, kungela omama betshaya imbube, ngumculo wamadoda kuphela lapho ababegida usiko. It's highly connected to traditional and cultural things, authentic natural things. This is the kind of music where we use our heart not the notes, it is a spiritual kind of music".

Imbube has been taken higher by legendary creatives like Lady Smith Black Mambazo whom most of the imbube groups that evolved draw their inspiration from. Imbube is well known internationally and has been

spread by quite a number of groups who have been on successful tours. Amaqaqa seeks to spread its identity and reach out to every corner of the world locally and abroad.

The group has performed in several functions at public and private events that include the following, Bulawayo theatre, Zimbabwe Music Academy, Botswana Gabs at Isintu Festival, Victoria Falls at Chinotimba Hall, South Africa (Hillbrow theatre) and Emalahleni Civic Theatre.

The following are the noteworthy award recognitions that the group has received since its establishment, a great indication that they are counted among the well-established groups as far as Imbube music is concerned:

- 2022 Outstanding Imbube Isicathamiya group at the Roil Bulawayo Arts Awards
- 2022 Best traditional Ezomdabu group at the Zimbabwe Music Awards
- 2023 Best Traditional Imbube group at the Zimbabwe Community News Awards

Amaqaqa have collaborated with Jeys Marabini, Hwabaraty, Mazula music, uDonsi lwabapostoli and Adoe music among other creatives ●



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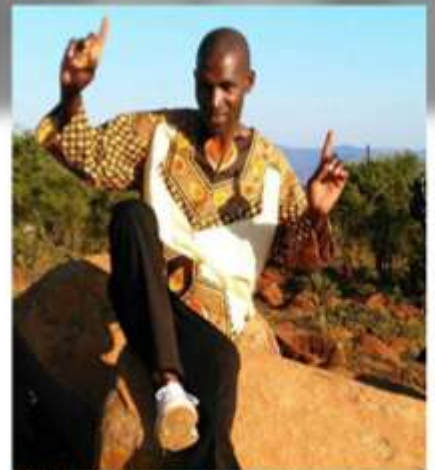
his is one of the groups with highly qualified and suitable individuals who share the same passion and vision in as far as the Imbube music genre is concerned. Inkanyezi zeZulu is the name of the group and it has a very rich history in its formation. The spokesperson of the group, Clement Ndebele is from Chitete village in Lupane. The group was formed in South Africa in 2010 with all its 9 members, coming from Zimbabwe's Matabeleland regions, these are Clement Ndebele, Philani Moyo, Nqobile Ndlovu, who are the leaders and Mduduzi Moyo, Mlungisi Moyo, Rodger Ndlovu, Mxolisi Nkomo, Gertmore Moyo, and Trust Dleyakhe Neube who are part of the group.



The group is based in Johannesburg, South Africa. Ndebele started doing music with Abathandazeli and later formed Amawombe, a group he describes as very powerful from Esigodini. During that time, the group had Ndebele, Thethelela Dube and Similo Ncube. They worked with legends such as Jeys Marabini where they featured in Ezinangeni album, they have also done productions with Christopher Nkomazana and Umzingwane Aids Network. Unfortunately, the group discontinued its activities due to unfavorable economic conditions. Ndebele says that another word for Imbube is Isicathamiya, this is the music where there are just voices, with no instruments, historically these groups were in full existence. "Emandulo ayekhona lawa ama groups" explains Ndebele. Growing up Ndebele mentions that they experienced this music from Black Umfolosi, Black Speare, Lady Smith Black Mambazo, Bright stars, Amabhubesi, Abanqobi Bomhlaba, Amahlosi and many more that introduced them to this art genre.

Ndebele indicates that Imbube is widely sang by males with a few females also coming together to form their groups specializing in this music category. In South Africa this kind of music is well known as chothoza because it is that kind of music that used to be played in hostels where blacks used to be afraid

of the whites and they will say, "ungatshayi kakhulu bazasizwa". Ndebele joined the then Impumelelo Shinning Stars in 2004, now rebranded to Indosakusa the Morning Star, he is thankful for having recorded with them 3 albums, namely, Uhlaleleni, Ngeke ehluleke and Love one another. "Ngabathola besasebancane, sayibamba kanjalo Imbube lamadoda lawana oSiziba until 2007 lapho engasuka khona sengisiya e South Africa", says Ndebele. "Lamanje vele Indosakusa kufana lokuthi sisebenza layo, we appreciate and honor them as they played a key role in equipping us in ensuring that we also excel in our group". In South Africa Ndebele says he met Sibusiso Casper Ncube whom he describes as one of the influential people he has walked this journey with since way back in Bathandazeli, Mawombe then he later followed him in South Africa, where they were later joined by Philani, Banele and Thandazani and they revived Nkazi-mulo Afro Melodies that they formed back home to a Maskandi genre mixed with Imbube. He also mentions Dumezweni Ncube who is currently based in Australia and Kwazinkosi Moyo as having played a pivotal role in the growth of their group. Due to some harsh economic conditions some gentlemen he used to work with in Zimbabwe at Impumelelo Shinning Stars followed them to South Africa, these are Thandazani, Philani and Banele. They then



met Msiwa, a cross border trader who had so much passion for music, they knew each other from Zimbabwe. They continued as Nkazimulo Afro Melodies. They faced challenges as they were working from different places and it was hard for them to meet, then one day they went to perform at ZAOGA FIF church, their former church from Zimbabwe where they were joined by some gentleman from the church. The group also recruited some members from the Black Shield, that is, Nqobile Mjeyi, Zola and Arsh who were previously from Ihawu Elimnyama, they united and Ndebele suggested a change of group name so that they can be one group, they then changed the group name from Nkazimulo Afro Melodies to Inkanyezi zeZulu. "Yavuthwa ke Inkanyezi zeZulu yaqhubeka kanjalo", says Ndebele. To date, Inkanyezi zeZulu has released 5 albums. The first album that gave them a huge breakthrough into the imbube music industry is entitled, "Mthethwandaba". This is an album that gave them a great publicity opportunity that landed them an award nomination recognition at the South African Traditional

Music Achievement (SATMA) Awards. Their music from the album started being distributed in online platforms and the tracks received commendable airplay especially from Ukhozi FM. The following are the other 4 albums that they have released; Bekezela, Liyothethwa Icala, Politiki and Amasiko Ethu. They received great opportunities for shows in Johannesburg and Kwazulu Natal. Ndebele pays tribute to the late Simon Ngubane who used to be the Chairperson for Isicathamiya in South Africa, he also had his own imbube group. They were introduced to him by Msiwa, then started appearing on posters and he got them involved in so many activities that aimed at promoting imbube music. Ndebele mentions that they recorded their second album, Bekezela, with Ngubane and this made it possible for them to be well known in South Africa. Izinkanyezi zeZulu is a well-established imbube group in South Africa and the group is thankful to Mxolisi (Zinja Ziyamluma) for spearheading the marketing and advertising initiatives for them to receive such recognitions, "Through Mxolisi we managed to receive a highly commendable media coverage

from electronic media, print media and digital platforms", says Ndebele. "Umuntu ubongwa esaphila, siyambonga kakhulu uZinja Ziyamlunga kuhle asenzela khona lalokho alokhe eqhubeka esenzela khona", he adds.

The group looks forward to grace the occasion being organized by Thobela Arts Foundation where they seek to support and be actively involved in the celebrations under the theme, "Celebrating Imbube Milestone". Ndebele says this will be a great opportunity for them to have a show in their home country. The group has done a lot of shows in South Africa but not outside South Africa because the group is made up of individuals who are also employed elsewhere. The group only manages to do their rehearsals when they are all flexible to do so, at least once a week, he indicates.

Inkanyezi zeZulu group has given rise to many groups that include Izinja Ziyamluma, a maskanda group. "Bafikela ezandleni zethu, we trained them until they became Izinja Ziyamluma". Ndebele mentions how broad Inkanyezi zeZulu has become especially considering





that there are similarities between them and Izinja ziyamluma, and Inkazimulo Afro Melodies. In conclusion, Ndebele mentions that when in South Africa it is very hard to take the profession on a full time, permanent basis, he is hopeful that oneday they will come back home and fulfil their initial vision of taking imbube as their permanent job. "Okwamanje eSouth Africa kumele sisebenze ngoba izidingo zinengi njengabantu abalemuli kusenza singabi permanent kumbube, ama rehearsals we do them once a week and we are satisfied with that because of the wide experience that we now have, we know that once we start a song, in less than an hour iyabe isivuthiwe then next week siyivuthise", concludes Ndebele ●



Sunduza Dance Theatre

The group was started in 1985 by the late founding member Simon (Rainbow Mahlaba) Banda. It started as a male group doing imbube under the name, 'Sunduza Boys the High Stars'. "Simon Rainbow Mahlaba Banda is my father, I'm carrying his vision," says Charles Banda, Director of the group who is also well known by his stage name, Mahlaba.



The group rebranded to Sunduza Dance Theatre and is made up of the following members, namely, Charles Banda Mkhululi Nqwele Khanye (mkhux), Khaliphani Ndlovu, Lyndah Talent Sibanda (Sonkomose), Brilliant Ntandoyenkosi Sithole, Memmory Mashudu Moyo, Baphi Mdladla (Fafaza), Progress Keswa and Clan Moyo. In his understanding this is how he describes imbube, "Imbube is all about the rhythm, sound created, chanting and motivation men used when gathering and preparing for different ceremonies, it is about the fancy footwork, the harmony and expressions on social issues". Through imbube, he explains that this is how their Africanness is brought out as this is a genre that originates from Africa. He further





reveals that this is the kind of music that does not make use of instruments but uses the mouth, clapping and stomping Banda explains that their music is largely supported outside Zimbabwe and this gives people that courage and willingness to want to visit and experience Africa. He is hopeful that through his group imbube will be revived, many people think that this genre is dead, "Our music is well received because of its originality on who we are, our music is unique you cannot find it anywhere else. Through imbube music, the group ensures the preservation of the African cultural heritage and safeguard it for the upcoming generations. "People really appreciate our music even if the music is sung in a language different from theirs they can relate to it. The group has received nominations from the Roil Bulawayo Arts Awards ●



Udonsi lwabapostoli



Udonsi lwabapostoli is a Bulawayo based Imbube and Acapella group made up of young people who have so much passion in preserving and showcasing culture through music to the general populace. This is a group with the following 9 members, Nqobani T Siwela, Lungelo M Ndlovu, Khonzani A Ndlovu, Mthokozisi Dube, Methembe Dube, Mengezi Ndlovu, Buhle-benkosi Ncube, Lindokuhle Ndlovu and Sengezo Ndlovu. Udonsi lwabapostoli was formed in August 2020 by Nqobani T Siwela. Siwela explains what motivated him to venture into Imbube, "I am one of the biggest Imbube/Isicathamiya music fans and this highly influenced my passion and career path into Imbube". He reveals that Thulani Manana and Mambo Dhuterere are his closest sources of inspiration.

Siwela explains the selection criteria he used in identifying the group members, where he had to walk around his church branches looking for those creatives with a passion and a huge potential to flourish in the music industry. He identified a family in Pelandaba and says this is a great opportunity as it makes it easy for them to coordinate their activities as they live in the same area "Ngahamba hamba kuma branches echurch yami lakwamanye ama headquarters we church, as we know ama church ehlukeni. Ngangizama ukuthola abantu abalepotential yokwenza engikufisayo luckily I found a family khona lapha ePelandaba West ababevele labo bethanda umculo lalobanje babeziculela okungela ikusasa. Iqembu lethu lilaboNdlovu, these are brother and sisters then there are also Dube brothers, Buhle-benkosi Ncube is my wife, she is

related to the Dube brothers, we all live in the same area".

So far they have released an 8 track album entitled, Ukuzisondeza Ebukhoneni that has the following songs, Ndiregerere, Ngena Nkosi, Qoki qoki, Ngisindise nami, Amadolo, Gomeri, Emthonjeni ongewele and Nnodana. They also have a single called Kwelisha Izwe. The group is currently working on their second album where they feature one of the members from a renowned Imbube award winning group, Amaqaqa. "In preparation for the second album we have recorded one track where Khabo from Amaqaqa is featured, the track is titled " We Msindisi " this track is already receiving air-play on radio stations", says Siwela.



Udonsi lwabapostoli have presented their artistic creativity on several platforms that include weddings, funerals, tombstone unveiling gatherings and at conferences. They have performed at the the Ubusiko Bomlomo show conducted by Amaqqa at the Bulawayo theatre, Madlela Skhobokhobo, Kwamu kwamu album launch at Kelvin, Tshisanyama and at the Amaqqa album launch at the National Art Gallery in Bulawayo.

Siwela mentions some of the challenges that they are facing as a group of young people when he reveals that mostly there are financial constraints that prevent them from realizing their full potential. He also states that most of them are very young where some are still at school some are unemployed.

"Lack of funds is our greatest challenge, all active members abalapha besides mina lonkosikazi wami ngabantwana, omdala ngoka 2003 abanye bancane ngoba silenkazana ka 2011, they are at school abanye asisebenzi so sirecorder okoku chancer lokhu kwenza lokuzi marketer kwethu kubenzima ngoba uzi-maketer nge content". Siwela believes that all these challenges can be overcome if they can produce quality projects that can attract sponsors who will be able to fund most if not all their initiatives ●



IButho likaKristu

IButho likaKristu is an Imbube music group that was started in 1996 in Letsholathebe, in Botswana at St John's Apostolic Faith Mission church by Edmore Mangombe. The group has (9) male group members, that is Mqhelisi Mguni, Edmore Mangombe, Sylvester Mangombe, Denzel Mangombe, Siphon Moyo, Nicky Sahara, Bukhosi Maseko, Tapelo Banda and Agenda Maphosa.

The songs of Joseph Tshabalala and Ladysmith Black Mambazo motivated Mangombe to venture into imbube because of the high interests and love he had for their music as he was one of their loyal fans. His dream started while he was at a church conference in Botswana while listening to the melodies of St Johns brass band, then he later formed the group, IButho likaKristu.

On his way back from the conference Mangombe is said to have composed 10 songs, unfortunately by the time he reached Bulawayo he only had words written on a paper the tunes were all gone. Mqhelisi explains that Imbube music is all about uniting families, entertaining and expressing themselves culturally through singing and dancing in different ways depending on the type of the song and in the process they receive love and peace. He further explains that Imbube plays a key role in ensuring that the spread of messages that remind people about where they come from, the lives of their forefathers and other traditional and cultural activities from long ago are disseminated.

Mguni comments on the uniqueness of this music genre when he says, "This type of music is very different from that done by others in that there are no instruments used in the production process as we heavily rely on the natural tool and talent from God in each one of us". Here he is referring to the lion sound like melody characterized by just the clicks and this he says has 4 parts that blend naturally, these parts are alto, tenor, bass and lead.

Imbube is widely played in Southern Africa because it was formed based on the Zulu tradition, the Zulu tradition is mostly practiced in South Africa and Zimbabwe but the genre is now spreading worldwide. Mguni says that they are thankful to Lady Smith Black Mambazo for pushing this genre.



IButho likaKristu targets the young and the old as evidenced by their songs that appeal to everyone and any occasion. "We have different types of songs that cater for everyone and any event".

IButho has so far enjoyed a lot in the creative and cultural industry. Professor, Stiff, Dan Tshanda and Amara Brown are some of the artists that they have worked with or at least shared a stage with. This is quite commendable and it is indeed quite an honor considering the journey they have taken in the industry. They mention the following as some of the artists that they have worked with or at least shared a stage with, which is quite a huge honor considering the journey they have taken in the industry, quite commendable. Professor, Stiff, Dan Tshanda, Amara Brown and many more not mentioned.

Mguni reveals that their group is thankful to the Lord for taking them this far, they have great accomplishments, some of these include the acquisition of microphones and the PA System, resources that enable them to work effectively and efficiently.

The group boasts of having released 3 thrilling albums,

Ntab'ovimbile and Ithuba lokumkhonza both recorded by John Lindemann at JSL production in South Africa. Their third album entitled Ubude abuphangwa was recorded at Velocity studios in Bulawayo. In 2017 they released a single, the Skyz Metro FM song called Umsakazo, a track that received an award nomination under the best Imbube song category on Skyzmaz in 2017.

The following are some of the awards that the group has won under the St John's Apostolic Faith Mission on choral competitions and conferences since 1996: best male group, best Imbube group, best Acapella, best choreograph, best uniform, best choir, best voices, choir of the year and he acknowledges that they always came first on choral competitions.

IButho has managed to tour some countries in Southern Africa that consist of South Africa and Botswana and their music has been received well in various platforms. The group is optimistic and hopeful to God that they will find all the strength that they require in order to continue spreading His word through Imbube music ●



Imbizo Performing Arts is a ten men group founded by Majahawodwa Ndlovu, popularly known as Jeys Marabini in the creative and cultural industry. The group was started on 16 May 1991 in Filabusi. Imbizo Performing Arts is made up

of the following members, the former Dekezi High School pupils and some members from Fort Rixon and Gwatemba, Nkosinathi Moyo, Ozias Neube, Newton Neube, Pilate Neube, Thobela Neube, Phuthumani Cele, Mbuso Cele, Lovemore Ndlovu, Gift Ndlovu, Lucky Ndlovu and Irvin Ngwenya.

They have so far enjoyed a lot in the creative and cultural industry, they have been touring the world from 1999 to 2003. They are currently based in South Africa where they are widening their reach in as far as their art is concerned.

"Imbube is all about a combination of voices that make a nice melody that sinks into people's hearts as it gives joy, happiness and comfort without using any instruments and this also distinguishes it from other music genres," says Nkosinathi Moyo. "Imbube music genre accommodates all ages it doesn't screen the age limit because it is clean from vulgar language, it is mostly played in Africa where it originates from and has spread to Europe because of its popularity with the British Broadcasting Cooperation, (BBC), during the years we toured Europe a lot", he adds. Imbizo has toured South Africa, Botswana, Zambia, Swaziland, United Kingdom, USA, Italy, Spain and Czech Republic among other countries.

IMBIZO

Performing Arts

So far the group has enjoyed the fruits of imbube that have led them to acquire properties in urban and rural homes, they enjoy flying to different countries, meeting and mingling with different people from different backgrounds showcasing their culture in some of the biggest festivals in the world that include the World of Music, Arts and Dance (WOMAD) and Glastonbury Festivals.

So far the group has released 6 albums which are, Lude loluhambo, Yeki Jerusalem, Amalombolombo, Wemakholwa, Umhlaba uyajika and Uhambo.

Among other accolades, the group has the Crossroads Award from a Gwanda competition organized by the National Arts Council of Zimbabwe (NACZ) and the Family Planning award received from NACZ in Harare while the Aids Award was received from the Zimbabwe International Trade Fair, ZITF ●



Mtuba Thulisa Brothers



Mtuba Thulisa Brothers
This is an 8 member Imbube group established in 1985 by Robert Ndima and it consists of the following members, Siyabonga Ntuli, Wandile Ngcobo, Njabulo Nene, Mfundisi Ndima, Mncedisi Ndima, Chwepheshe Ndima, Mpilo Ndima, Zakes Ndebele. They are currently based in Johannesburg, South Africa.

Siyabonga Ntuli reveals that the formation of the group was motivated by the love of Shameni, a Zulu dance. This encouraged them to do something different and they ventured into Imbube music genre.

The group acknowledges the role that was played by the late Joseph Shabalala, who was the leader of the internationally renowned Ladysmith Black Mambazo, who popularized Isicathamiya which is now well known as Imbube. Ntuli says that Shabalala played a pivotal role in the formation of Mtuba Thulisa Brothers, he is the first person whom the group members presented the group to, most of their songs were closely related to those composed by Black Mambazo. Shabalala took them to the studio where they recorded and released their first album called Chothoza Maskandi, where 5 songs were mixed with maskanda while the other 5 were purely Isicathamiya music.

The group has received the following accolades for their outstanding works in the creative and cultural industry, best Isicathamiya album in 1997, album called, Amabandla, the 1999 best isicathamiya album, Izinyembezi and the best album, Umgoqovimbe esangweni from the First National bank.

The following are some of the albums they have released, Impiyemkhonto, Chothoza Maskandi, Siyabonga baba, Amabandla, Izinyembezi, Umgoqovimbe esangweni, Insingizi, Live in New York City, Uthando lwabantu and Ubaba wendoda. "Imbube is about passing the message of love, peace, encouragement and joy to the people through music, regardless of age, race, gender, culture, religion or tradition", explains Ntuli. He states that this is the kind of music that is widely

played in the rural areas especially among the Nguni and Zulu speaking people in South Africa where he says it originates from. Mtuba Thulisa Brothers have toured and performed in several places in South Africa and they have also done international performances in New York, Washington DC, New Jersey, Cuba, Qatar Mozambique and Zambia.

They look forward to grace the Imbube Milestone Celebrations in Zimbabwe in September if they do not have any other commitments that might require their presence ●



A M A B H U B E S I



The name of the group is Amabhubesi Cultural Ensemble founded in 1984 at Sizane Secondary School in Bulawayo by the late Director Lameck Moyo. The group was initially called, Ukukhanya Kwelanga Izilwane Zenkangala and later changed to Amabhubesi in 1990.

The First Members of Amabhubesi were Lameck Moyo, Obert Ndhlovu Moyo, Themba Dube, Bhekimpilo Neube, Clopas Neube, Metro Sibanda, Shadreck Moyo, Life Magenga, Samuel Neube and Howard Dube.

From 1984 to 1989 the group was called Ukukhanya Kwelanga Izilwane Zenkangala and the following were the group members then whom he says he is the only member in the current group from the previous one; Lameck Moyo, Obert Ndhlovu Moyo, Shakespeare Ndlovu, Victor Neube, Thethelela Dube, Nkosilathi Dlomo, Miziram Moyo, Mabandla Moyo, Esawu Moyo, Godfree Mkandla and Mathias Moyo.

“In 1990, I and Lameck Moyo reformed the group out of these above members. I ventured in to Imbube music after being motivated by The Lady Smith Black Mambazo of South Africa led by Joseph Tshabalala, Amabhubesi have no other members, I’m the only surviving member. Most of the members died but bakhona abanye abasaphila kodwa basebephumile kuqembu ngoba iqembu laselilabantu abayisithupha kuphela” he says.

He reveals the following. “There is a group called Men Of Influence and Echoes of Mercy that back me when I am singing Imbube .

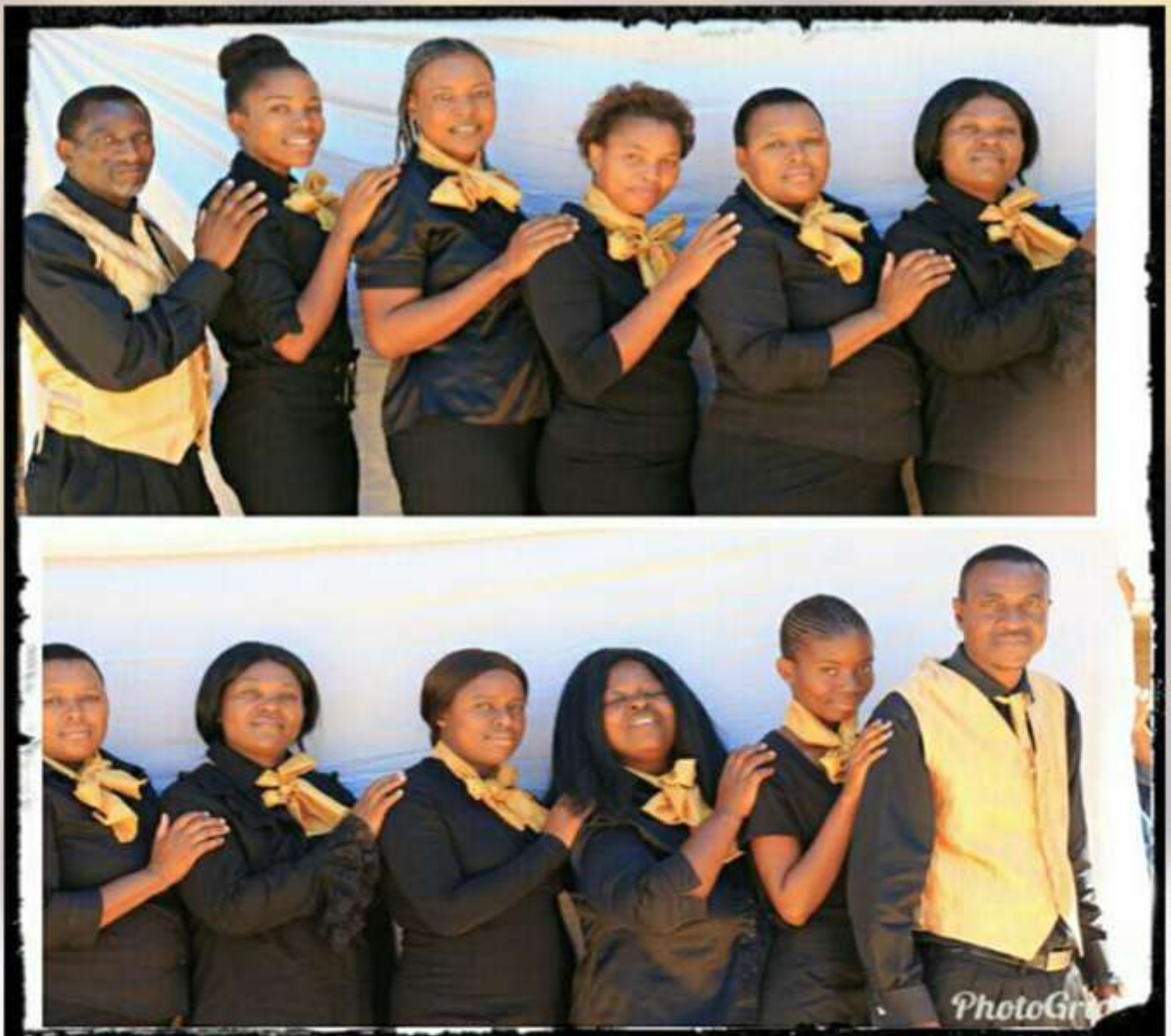
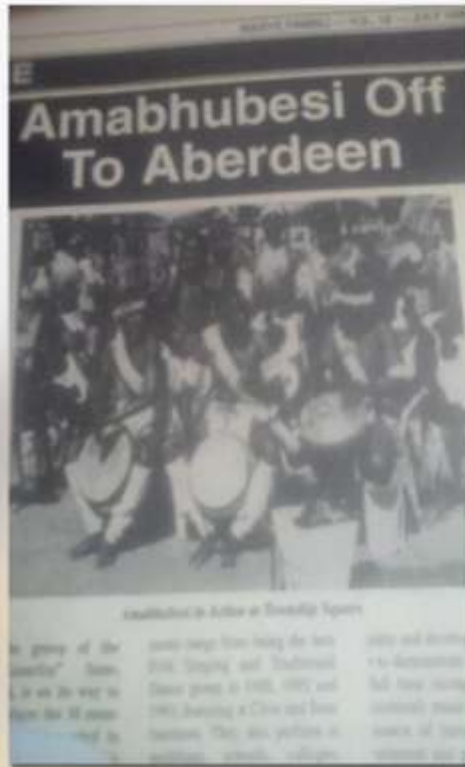
The following is a list of members from Echoes of Mercy who will be backing him at a function expected to take place in September 2023: Owen Ndlovu, Khulani Ndlovu, Emenes Ndlovu, Mmaculate Mpofo, Sethukile Neube, Lesley Munyikwa, Kareen Sibanda, Thubelihle Nyoni, Precious Machavangu, Nonsikelelo Neube and Thandekile Ndlovu.

Amabhubesi have walked away with national competition trophies and awards in folk singing and traditional dance between 1988 and 1996. They have performed at the official opening of the Aberdeen Alternative Festival’96 in Scotland, a show that was broadcast live on the British Broadcasting Cooperation, BBC at Lemon tree in Scotland.



He states that one of the greatest moments of Amabhubesi, is when they performed at the late president R.G Mugabe's wedding ceremony, an occasion that was also live on the Zimbabwe Television and watched by millions of people across the globe

"We have enjoyed a lot as a group touring around Zimbabwe and abroad", he adds
 Amabhubesi has enjoyed a wide publicity coverage in as far as their music is concerned, they have participated in local events such as the Independence Day celebrations, they have also performed in the presence of Queen Elizabeth II and John Pope Paul II when they visited Zimbabwe. They have also been part of the 100th year celebrations of Bulawayo. They have entertained the crowd at the National Railways of Zimbabwe celebrations and at the official opening of eNtumbane and Nkulumane complexes in Bulawayo ●





Men Of Influence

The name of the group is Men Of Influence. The group was formed in September 2010 by Brethren in Christ Church, Men's fellowship praise and worship team from Lobengula, Bulawayo. From the praise and worship team that was initially part of the group, Mlindeli is the only remaining member, some left the group due to work commitments some relocated to other places while others left because it was not their strong area of passion.

"Okwakhathesi iqembu libanjwe ngamadoda amahlanu agoqela uMlindeli Moyo, Polite Ntini, Obvious Ncube, Ibrael Moyo and Mbongeni Tshuma", says Mlindeli Moyo. When the group started, Mlindeli explains that the aim was to minister at their local church, 'sasizihlabelela lapho loba ngayiphi indlela sidobha lapha lalaphana. In 2015 they started to take imbube music professionally, they built their own brand, they started composing and they recorded their first album titled, Ngomhla wenjabulo which was released in 2016 and it has the following songs, Jesus the Author, Ngomhla wenjabulo, Zimbabwe shine, Ngembathise, Igama, Cover me Lord, Kanye nawe Nkosi, Umthombo wempilo and Inhlonipho.



The second album called Ligeziw' ihlazo was released in 2018 and comprises the following, Moy' ongwele, Ligeziw' ihlazo, Immanuel, Isambulo, Amadokodo, Esiqongweni, Inhliziyoyami, Isixwayiso, In times of loneliness and Mkhululi wami.

In 2018, Men Of Influence group was nominated for an award at Skyz Metro FM under the Best Imbube song category. "MOI have performed in various stages locally, so far kasikaze siye outside the country, sesihambe some towns and cities lasemakhaya khonapha eZimbabwe ●



Abanqobi bezitha



It is a 7 member Imbube group that was started in 2021 by Mpendulo Magutshwa, the other members are, Zamani Ndlovu, Si-phathamandla Ndlovu, Fortune Ndlovu, Wesley Sibanda, Thabo Thebe, Khawulani Nkomo. The group is based in Luveve youth center.

Magutshwa explains how he developed an interest to take up Imbube where he used to listen to a lot of works by Lady Smith Black Mambazo. "Ngikhule lawo since ngikhula bengiwuthanda

lumculo, ukhona ngaphakathi since ngikhula bengiwuthanda ngibukela iBlack Mambazo, ngangifisa ukwenza njengabo kwaba yinto ephakathi kwami ukuthi ngelinye lamalanga ngibizwe njengomculi wembube.

Imbube teaches people especially the young generation about where they come from. Imbube ngunculo oyenza isiko lakithi lingadiliki. In 2020 he worked with Indosakusa junior stars under

Oscar Siziba. He is thankful for the assistance that they received from the leader, Oscar Siziba who worked tirelessly in ensuring that they establish the group.

In 2022, Abanqobi bezitha received the Best outfit Award from the Best costume outfit Awards held in Matabeleland South, Umzingwane district ●



UBUNTU BOBUNTU

Ndabezinhle Sibanda is the founder of Ubuntu boBuntu group that specializes in Imbube music that is also referred to as Isicathamiya. The group was established in 1999 and it is made up of the following 8 members, Ndabezinhle Sibanda, Sibangilizwe Sibanda, Prosper Chuma, Lookout Dube, Emmanuel Sibanda, Denis Sibanda, Prosper Nkomo and Prince Bhkekuzulu Sibanda.

Sibanda reveals how he was inspired to focus on this music genre "When I was at school there was a group from Bulawayo called Ilifa Lendulo Arts that always entertained us, they inspired me a lot then I joined them in 1994 before leaving them to form Amahlosi Asendle Arts in 1999 and later relocated to Victoria Falls in 2001. Sibanda says that people failed to pronounce "Amakhosi" this is why they changed the group name from Amakhosi Asendle Arts to Ubuntu boBuntu.

Sibanda reveals this, "iMbube is all about umculo ohlatshelwa zinsizwa zodwa nje kodwa kulama voice amancane njengawabomama, It is music sang by men only, no instruments are used only voices and tip toe soft movements and dance". He dismisses the existence of imbube groups made up of females as he categorises them as falling under acapella or classic music not

imbube because imbube is meant for men only, no females.

In 2012, Ubuntu boBuntu group received the National Arts Merit Awards nomination under the Best Outstanding group category, a recognition that they forever cherish. It is also in the same year that they won the Chibuku neShamwari competition, it was the first group in Matabeleland North to get a prize for coming in third position from the competition.

The group has exhibited their skills in various functions that include: Public Service day, Conferment of the City of Victoria Falls Status, SADC Youth Festival, the 23rd International Union against Sexually Transmitted Infections (IUSTI) World Congress, Range Rover Tour, Bulawayo Arts Festival, UNWTO, Comesa, National Languages Conference and Nandos Official opening. Ubuntu boBuntu have released 2 albums so far, that is Africa my home and Ubuntu bethu/Our humanity and a few singles The group looks forward to record their third album by end of May at Dab 3 studio in Bulawayo. Currently the group has toured Zimbabwe and Botswana.



