



Creatives Magazine

Issue 7 | September 2023

BaTonga Trailblazers in the Creative Arts



QUEEN OF BATONGA

The Curator

Desire Siamukulule

Raswater Monison

Maikoro Mujapan

Jah-Nomz

Mukuli Noah

Fe-Abakwesu

Mdala Sigebe

Insiku Ya BaTonga Association

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Issue 7 September 2023



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PUBLISHER'S NOTE

We are super excited to publish issue 7 of the Creatives magazine, the first issue covering Matabeleland North province. The past 6 issues have been focusing on the creative and cultural industry in Matabeleland South where the brand started

We are pleased to announce that through our online magazine podium for creatives we are now covering both Matabeleland South and Matabeleland North provinces of Zimbabwe. Our

vision is to become an online magazine powerhouse platform for creatives in Africa's marginalized and remote areas where creatives receive limited coverage in as far as their works are concerned.

Get ready to embark on an exhilarating journey, exploring works by the BaTonga Creatives. We managed to get in touch with 9 BaTonga artists who are involved in various areas of specialisation. They have made great strides in contributing to the arts industry in Zimbabwe

The Creatives magazine team had an opportunity to interview Insiku YaBaTonga Association, organisers of the BaTonga Cultural Festival to be held in Binga town from 28 to 30 September 2023. The event will be running

under the theme, "Unveiling and Enhancing Economic Strides of Arts and Culture in Marginalised Communities"

Most of the profiled creatives in this issue have expressed their interest to partake in the BaTonga Cultural Festival being organized by Insiku YaBaTonga Association.

Happy Reading



Creatives Magazine

MEET THE TEAM



Sithokozile Sibanda
Founder and Arts Journalist



Makwelo Dube – Graphic Designer





An Inaugural, Massive BaTonga Cultural Festival on the cards.

The Matabeleland North province of Zimbabwe promises fireworks in September as the organizer, Insiku YaBaTonga Association is set to hold a three-day inaugural BaTonga Cultural Festival that will be running under the theme “Unveiling and Enhancing Economic Strides of Arts and Culture in Marginalised Communities”

The festival, an annual event, will in its inauguration, run from 28 September 2023 to 30 September 2023 in Binga

The Insiku YaBaTonga Association was established on 26 March 2021 and launched at Binga town on 6 October 2022. This is an association that is also registered under the National Arts Council of Zimbabwe (NACZ). The board is made up of David Mungombe (Director and Chairperson), Teresia Leach (Vice Chairperson), Monison Mleya (Secretary), Matabbeki Mudenda (Treasurer), Lastane Tshuma (Programs Manager) and Irene Muleya (Committee member). “This is a board that works tirelessly in ensuring a successful festival, we coopt artists and stakeholders in the buildup of works that promote the Tonga culture and to help promote those who partake in the creative activities that focus on Tonga language, arts and culture”, says Mungombe.



Mungombe states that the BaTonga Cultural Festival is important in the BaTonga history as it seeks to ensure that it stands as an event that markets and promotes the Tonga lifestyle. The festival is an open event that seeks to bring people together to celebrate who they are and share their culture with other language groups and individuals that put up time to come and enjoy and learn from each other. Mungombe also emphasizes that the “BaTonga” is just a title meant to embrace the language and culture, they are inviting everyone from different cultures from all corners of the world as they believe in diversity. Mungombe mentions that there have been a lot of misconceptions and myths regarding the BaTonga people and what they do,

“This event will help clean off such anomalies and put up the correct information and educate those that want to know about BaTonga people correctly because people will be getting the information from the source, from the baTonga people themselves seeing some of the lifestyles of the BaTonga people live on stage and through interactions, talking to each other and through storytelling”.

Mungombe mentions some of the misconceptions about the baTonga people lifestyle, “There is a misconception about the baTonga smoking pipe (nchelwa/ mfuko/ ndombonda), commonly used by old women that is made up of dry gourd, reed, sticky-stuff and clay”. He says that this is a refreshment that unstrains the body when it is exhausted though it can also be smoked luxuriously and people



who are not baTonga think that it is used for smoking marijuana yet it is not. Mungombe says that in the smoking pipe there will be water as a neutralizer, cleaned sorghum as smoking stuff sometimes self-farmed tobacco called "dambuleni and chikolwani" and burning charcoals". He states that the sorghum provides energy as it is a starch then the tobacco is for luxury and can also be used for medicinal purposes.

He further emphasises, "This is why it is the best for women as they can spend more than 8 hours gathering food and doing house chores for their families"

Here is another myth that Mungombe reveals and clarifies on, he looks forward to having people learn and appreciate the baTonga culture during and after the festival. "In baTonga culture women were removed the four front teeth (kubangwa menyo), this is their other practice that other groups say degrades someone's beauty, yet the baTonga would tell you that it is how a beautiful woman should look", Mungombe explains. He further elaborates on this practice saying that there is a secret behind that which was meant for protection from adaptation by the Portuguese during slave trade and by King Mzilikazi's adaptation operation. He reveals that this practice was meant for easy identification that they belong together when they are taken for slavery.

Mungombe says that the BaTonga Cultural Festival will be attended by different people doing different things, performing artists, crafts people, writers and many others. There will be theatre and local film viewing, the music Galla, pungwe with D.T. Bio Mudimba and other local bands

"There will be a lot of movement in terms of what will be happening, we will have different venues for different activities, we will have exhibitions like the crafts, books by Tonga writers and other exhibitors", says Mungombe. He also adds that people will be treated to great adventures such as visits to the hot spring, Chibwatata and getting stories and enjoying Crocodile viewing at the Croc farm. People are also encouraged to visit the Zambezi river to view and see what activities are there, that include boat cruise, house boats, kapenta rigs. He also mentions that the sand beach is also another entertainment venue where people will learn how and what happens there. "There will also be some home visits so that visitors can have an experience, a great feel of being in a Tonga home and interact", says Mungombe.

When asked why the event takes place in Binga town instead of Binga rural, Mungombe justifies their selection, "We had different feelings to say we push the event right into the rural but we noted some challenges of some people coming from afar where accommodation might be difficult, we later finalized that the event will take place in Binga centre and spread out to the nearest rural communities where it is easy to drive there and back in a very short space of time, otherwise all the activities will be administered from Binga town".

For accommodation Mungombe mentions the following facilities that people can consider, Journey's End lodge, Kabila lodge, BaTonga villa, Lake view, Masumu lodge, Tusimpe guest house, Binga council guest house, Abangane and Catalina house boats and other house boats, Rest camp hotel and Camping sites among other places.

The Insiku YaBaTonga Association acknowledges that the business community are such an important stakeholder in this event because it is a crowd event that needs food services, accommodation, transport, therefore they need the business community to partake.

The festival offers free and paid activities. "We have a full ticket for 3 days at \$10. A \$2 ticket is for Theater plays, comedy and poetry. A \$3 ticket is for Theater plays, sand beach partying, bio scope and musical show, the \$5 ticket is for a live band", reveals Mungombe. He also adds that there are many activities such as boat cruise, dinner cruise, crocodile view, village tours, hot springs tour, museum tour and others where the audience will have to pay a certain fee to gain entry.

The Creatives magazine team had the privilege to interview some of the creatives whose works have a Tonga cultural background. Most of the interviewed artists promised to attend the festival, the first of its own kind recognizing the BaTonga people. They expressed so much zest for this is an important event in their lives as it helps in educating people about their various traditional and cultural practices they embrace with so much love and digni-

ty.



Tambala, Sckekela, Yendelezwa Tausiyantsiya



Against all odds, the Queen of BaTonga remains audacious.

The Queen of BaTonga, born Marvellous Tshuma is a song writer, singer, actress, poet and a former Radio and TV producer and presenter at the Zimbabwe Broadcasting Co-operation. She is also a philanthropist, an audacious goal getter and a multi-talented lady who is the deputy director of the Noble Hands Zimbabwe Trust and an Albinism Konnect Ambassador.

The Queen of BaTonga is a finalist in the Voice2Rep Campaign where she received commendable mentorship training in line with the challenges faced by her community as well as strategies or ways that can be used to ensure that people with albinism are well taken care of and wholly accepted by the community.

Marvellous has been in the creative and cultural industry professionally since 2014.

This is an industry she loves so much as she describes, "It's something that's natural for me and I really love that I grew up loving arts and actively participating". She proudly mentions that she loves singing more than anything else that she is passionate about. She also mentions that at first her mother was not happy with her choice of being an artist, however she later understood her passion and supported her in all that she did in as far as her love for the creative industry was concerned. She describes her mother as a great source of inspiration,

her role model who has been there for her since she was born, she understands her more than anyone and with her by her side she is able to continue working hard to make her happy and have awesome accomplishments.

The Queen of BaTonga says that she draws her inspiration, locally from Mai Charamba and internationally she is inspired by Dumi Mkostadi, she admits that the two played a key role in shaping her to be what she is today in the music industry as she grew up listening to their works. She mentions how she used to watch a lot of television especially Mai Charamba videos, during school holidays while she was in Bulawayo, away from her village and her mother will discourage her from watching television for a long time as this could badly affect her eyesight.

Her love for the arts industry dates to her early years when she was a little girl who used to sing at church and at school. She describes how she used to act and interpret Shona language to Tonga language while at school. She says that singing was involved in almost all her chores, even when washing dishes she says she used to do it while singing, hence this explains why she describes being a musician as her favourite occupation she loves so dearly. The Queen of BaTonga proudly mentions the late Cont Mhlanga as one of the arts industry legends who groomed her in such a way that she developed a very strong interest in filming, theatre. He taught her how to perform and how to write a drama and stage plays.

She is actively involved in the arts industry as she has been part of highly noteworthy events and have contributed her knowledge in various institutions. She is truly an icon who exists to inspire other people especially those with albinism whom she encourages to believe in what they do in order to be successful.

In 2014 StarBrite competitions, the Queen was one of the contestants, she showcased her immense talent and managed to get to the semifinals. She has worked at Amakhosi Cultural Theatre under the leadership of the late Cont Mhlanga. She has also been at the Music Cross Roads Academy, Amplifying

Voices for young girls in Acting and Voice2Rep Zimbabwe as well as at the Accountability Lab in collaboration with Magamba Network.

The versatile creative is thankful for the love and support she receives from her fans which she describes as uplifting as the reception for her music is highly commendable and greatly appreciated and it gives her so much energy to keep on releasing

great projects.

The Queen of BaTonga has done several collaborations with various artists who include Zayaan Mail, a Reggae Artist, Seku Bee, Centre Party, Maskiri, Mzoe 7, Bovas, Nyasha Bothwell, and the Voice2Rep Zimbabwe Artist, that is Rudo Amor, Bryn_Awah and Pastor Vee Moyo.

The following are some of the projects that she has released, singles that consist of Milimo yaTata, Ndiudzewo, Takachilwi pe, Kumusha, Tuyosikalili, Dada nezvauri and the following three albums, One people with Albinism Konnect band, Tulemekane and the V2R album where Nyasha Bothwell is featured.

As a person with albinism, the Queen reveals that she faced a lot of challenges while growing up where some of her family members and the villagers did not accept her for who she is. She is the only person in her family who has albinism and this even brought tension between her parents that later caused them to divorce. She faced a lot of discrimination

and stigmatization from her close relatives and she could notice that while other children could be taken to the hospital for treatment, this was not done to her when she was not feeling well and that made her inferior to her other siblings.

The Queen of BaTonga vividly remembers how on a particular day while coming from school with her friends they were chased by men who were riding a motorbike and they had to run for their dear lives. One of her friends mentioned that they wanted her head, this made her very unsafe in the village as she was in a high risk of being killed for rituals.

Marvellous mentions some of the myths surrounding people with albinism, "I remember how people used to ask me to give them my hair once I cut it because they wanted to take it to traditional healers who will then perform some rituals that were expected to give them good luck. She also mentions that there are some people who used to say that when you sleep with a person with albinism you can be healed from any sickness that includes, HIV and AIDS. These are some of the misconceptions that are still widespread in our society with regards to people with albinism.

Despite all these challenges she faced, the Queen of BaTonga proudly acknowledges her mother as a huge role model, an inspiration, a loving and caring mother who has always been there for her since day 1, cheered her up, made her believe in herself to make sure that she accepts her condition and learn to live with it.

"I am thankful for the motherly love I received and that I continue to receive even today from her, I am what I am today because of her, she is surely my pillar of strength and is very supportive in all that I do".

The Queen of BaTonga wishes to collaborate with the following renowned female musicians,





Felli Nandi and Amara Brown in the near future as she admires their works and knows that she will be able to grow professionally in her music career once the collabo sails through.

When asked about her availability at the BaTonga Cultural Festival, the Queen of BaTonga says that this is an event that she cannot miss as it defines who she is and she is eagerly looking forward to perform during the festival. “I will be there and I promise fire to the fans and also we are looking for a sponsor as a band so that we can go as a full band and do flames”.

Their band is called Albinism Konekt Music Band formed in 2021 by a group of young women with albinism and is made up of 12 people including the players.

This powerful lady destined for greatness strongly believes that she is a true diva, who does not wait for anyone to do anything for her, she is a hard worker as evidenced by her works especially in advocating for people with albinism. The Queen believes that when you love yourself, people will also love you, she says what she puts out in the world is what she gets. She passionately says, “I am white and I am a Tonga and people love me”.



Marvellous encourages people with albinism to love themselves and work hard in order to become what they want to be, “Love yourself, use your talent, do you and do not mind anyone”. She also encourages communities to treat them equally like any other person, “We need love, include us in community activities”.

She mentions that people with albinism are very intelligent, most of them are not educated because of discrimination and eyesight challenges where their condition is not considered in some schools where for example they need large font texts, these are not available and this is highly exclusive in contrast to the inclusivity that is expected to be adhered to in education.

“People discriminate and that's a fact but the way you present yourself changes their mindset, sometimes you will find that when there is a show and you're not invited and you try to fit in they will judge you thinking that a person with albinism or disability cannot do anything meaningful, we are marked as people who can't do anything in life because of how we look or because of our condition, that's what pushed me to be the person I am today to show the world that people with disabilities can do something and be loved”, says the Queen. “As people let's love one another, embrace who we are,” she adds.

In order to realise their full potential, the Queen of BaTonga highlights some of the items they require as people with albinism, sunscreen lotion, she also mentions that these creams are not effective alone as they need to apply a foundation and a moisturizer then a sunscreen cream in order to fully care for their skin. She also includes special spectacles, lip balms, books with large fonts, long sleeved clothing even at school, always. She emphasizes the need to educate communities about albinism in order to stop the stereotypical attributes that are used to characterize them. “We need to educate our community, everyone with or without albinism so that we are understood and catered for in order to be successful in what we do”, says the Queen of BaTonga.






One of her plans include forming a vibrant crowd puller choir that she likens to the Joyous Celebration choir where only people with albinism will be part of it. They have already made great strides under the Albinism Konnect Music Band where in April they launched an album called 'We are One people', made up of the following 7 tracks, Real life, Dada nezwauri, Gwenhure, Am ok , One people , Ubuntu and Different.

If there is anyone with albinism who needs to be assisted in order to lead a healthy and happy life with adequate sunscreen lotions and other creams required, among other necessities, the Queen of BaTonga says that they are free to get in touch with her on [+263783098732](tel:+263783098732). She also appeals to those who would like to make donations of whatsoever form that will assist people with albinism to also contact her. She reveals that there are a lot of people with albinism especially in Matabeleland North who do not want to come out in order to be assisted, she is encouraging them to be in touch with her.

want to come out in order to be assisted, she is encouraging them to be in touch with her.

In conclusion, the Queen says, "I love the fact that I am different, I am happy, I have accepted and I embrace myself for who I am, I am proud of my upbringing, that made me stronger, I was a bully, very tough and ready to fight anyone who wanted to make me feel uncomfortable because of my condition".

*I love the
fact that I
am
different,
I am
happy*



A GUITARIST WITH A HUGE POTENTIAL TO FLOURISH

Desire Siamukulule is an artist who has been in the music industry for 4 years. “I grew up with an interest in playing guitar and singing, I have been inspired by other big artists such as Alick Macheso among others”, says Desire. He also mentions DT BiO Mudimba as one of the creatives who have greatly ignited his interest in the music industry as he is one of the most celebrated musicians from Binga where he also comes from.

Siamukulule was born and bred in Siabuwa under Dundumungwala village in Binga on 6 February 1996 in Binga hospital. He went to Siabuwa primary school and Siabuwa secondary school where he completed his ‘O’ Levels before moving to Bulawayo for his ‘A’ Levels at Luveve High school. He is currently based in Bulawayo where he is still furthering his education while at the same time focusing on his brand as a musician with a high passion to excel in the industry.

Desire is pursuing a Bachelors degree in Operations Research and Statistics at the National University of Science and Technology, NUST. When asked whether he has any future plans to do a programme related to music, Desire says he looks forward to do a course on sound engineering that will help him in his music career, “Yes I would want to know a lot about sound engineering so I will definitely enroll for that kind of a course in the near future”


In recognition of his works, Desire holds a certificate of becoming the best artist of the year on JORS FM in the year 2021. He has been widely involved with other artists helping in playing the guitar. He has released an album called Matalikilo (the beginning) which is a collection of the following single tracks, Luyando, Twabajaya, Mubuzyo mutaanzi, Camutukuta, Tuba supporte and Kukomena temulandu.

Desire explains that in his Luyando track, he talks about the issue of appreciating love especially for married people. He advises parents to acknowledge the coming together of two people in marriage and urges them to accept them as they are as he notices that at times parents intervene and fail to appreciate what children have chosen.

In this song, Twabajaya, Siamukulule says, “Twabajaya simply means spoiling a child, this is where I was emphasizing to parents that they must be responsibility for their children, teach them about the good and bad things, they must not be left alone without their guidance. This is a way of equipping them for tomorrow so that they do not embarrass parents and those around them”.

“Mubuzyo mutaanzi is simply translated as the first question, it is a highly loaded track this song is more of a question to the elders where I was asking them why these days so many young people are dying. On my songs I normally ask a question then provide an answer to it, so for this particular question I noticed that our generation ‘loves things’ a lot and this is why they have to be careful, for example having many boyfriends or girlfriends is risky as the end result is fatal as they will just be digging their own graves. In this song I was also asking my late grandmother who was seriously ill not to leave me for I had many questions to ask her”.

Desire says that his Camutukuta track is referring to something that comes out of someone’s sweat, “this is where I was looking at the current way of making money where nowadays it seems like it’s a trend that those not academically gifted are making more money than those with qualifications”. He further explains that in this song he is ephasising especially to those who had no privilege to go to school that they must never lose hope as there are many opportunities that can come to them even if they did not go to school. “They need to work hard and earn a decent living using clean means instead of engaging in ritual activities that might destroy them, he says. “Work hard, try to come up with something that will lift you up, if you failed to go to school that doesn’t mean that it is the end of the world”, says Desire.



“Nomatter where you have gone you must never neglect or forget your parents because your blessings come from them. At times things might not go well in your life then you suspect witchcraft activities yet it’s just a simple mistake that you made when you forgot to love, care and stay in touch with your parents”



Desire says in his Tuba support song he is reminding children not to forget their parents as their blessing can be unlocked by them. “Nomatter where you have gone you must never neglect or forget your parents because your blessings come from them. At times things might not go well in your life then you suspect witchcraft activities yet it’s just a simple mistake that you made when you forgot to love, care and stay in touch with your parents” he says.

Kukomena temulandu track touches on his real life situation where he decided to give emphasis in his own opinion where when one grows up they tend to be labelled as a bad person such as a witch. He explains, “Here I am telling especially young people that being aged does not mean that one is now a witch, the elderly just need our love and support”. He urges family members to desist from using derogatory terms in referring to old people as everyone will be old one day and it will not be good to be labelled using such undermining and embarrassing terms.

Desire reveals that he faces financial challenges to record his music, he also says that instrument acquisition is also a problem that he has together with that of marketing and promoting his works as he mentions that their music end up being consumed only on WhatsApp groups where there is no financial value. He is currently working on an album which he plans to release by the end of this year, 2023

Desire is thankful for the great support he says he receives from his fans, “So far my music is being accepted very well across different languages in Zimbabwe, many people are giving me positive feedback which is evidenced by the growing number of my followers on both YouTube and Facebook and on WhatsApp group, so far so good it’s satisfactory”, says Desire

He has done collaborations with several artists who include Mikoro Mujapani and they released Chakaipa chii/icibi niinzi and ndipeiwo chipo /mundipe Cipo. He has also worked with Nomia Munyunguma on a song titled Ndinyarewo, as well as a song called Carlos which he did with R.K.O.

Desire briefly explains how his music is unique when he says this, “I try to make my music by including a little bit of Shona and Ndebele lyrics and then Tonga as my main language that dominates in my songs, my music is mainly focused on real life experiences in different areas of life. It focuses on makkalilo a term he briefly describes, “Makkalilo means the way we live in a society, anything that happens in a society but I mainly focus on bringing the best out of those situations bringing out those questions and give my opinions”. Desire reveals that in

most of his tracks he uses question and answer technique where he asks the public a question that he also responds to in a way he believes offers great advice concerning a particular societal problem that he will be tackling in his music.

As an artist who is still growing his brand and so far he has made considerable progress in as far as his works in the creative and cultural industry are concerned, he believes in the power of collaborations “I would like to collaborate with any artist who is willing to work with me, I believe it is to my advantage for growth and high recognition and acceptance of my music if an opportunity could come to collaborate with big artists such as DT BiO Mudimba, Mark Ngwazi and Alick Macheso among others”, says Desire.

The Curator: Joshua Chikozho

Joshua Chikozho who is well known in the creative and cultural industry as The Curator is a prolific writer who specializes in the documentation, analysis and interpretation of artifacts. He is a professional, employed by the National Museums and Monuments of Zimbabwe in the BaTonga Community Museum.

The Curator is not a Tonga by origin but has been living in Binga for 18 years, a period that gives him enough time to explore the baTonga traditions and culture and a high ability to specialize in writing about the Tonga people and their ways.

He has been involved in this kind of work for 18 years and is highly passionate about cultural diversity and heritage subjects, 'I appreciate the intriguing diversity of culture'. Chikozho holds a Bachelor of Arts Honours Degree in English from the University of Zimbabwe as well as a Masters in Culture and Heritage Studies from the same institution.

He is a writer whose sources of inspiration include the works by African writers such as Chinua Achebe whom he proudly mentions.

The Curator has published books and research-based papers on the BaTonga culture and these have received a warm reception by readers from various nationalities. He wishes to collaborate with other authors in his areas of specialization. The projects that he has published are in the form of book chapters. His works mainly focus on the marginalized communities. "I have focused mostly at the Tonga people in my writings and to a lesser extent the Nambya", says the Curator.

The following are some of the collaborative research papers that he has published in reputable journals;

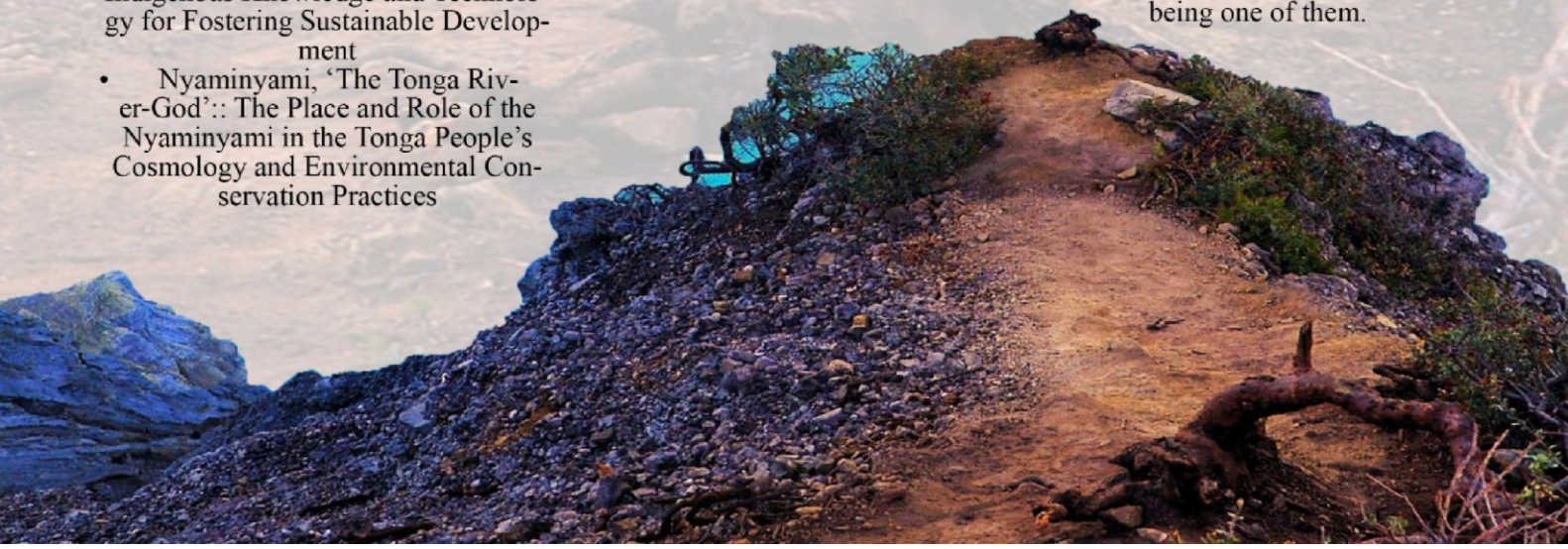
- The Unsung Dimension of Great Zimbabwe National Monument:: A critique
- Architectures, Technologies and Indigenous Knowledge in Africa:: The Impetus and Potential of the BaTonga Indigenous Knowledge and Technology for Fostering Sustainable Development
- Nyaminyami, 'The Tonga River-God': The Place and Role of the Nyaminyami in the Tonga People's Cosmology and Environmental Conservation Practices



- Cultural Harnessing Among the Tonga of North-western Zimbabwe:: Breaking out of the shell of stereotyping, reclaiming identity, and fostering sustainable development through craft
- Community museums in Zimbabwe as a means of engagement and empowerment: Challenges and prospects
Some of the challenges that he faces include financial constraints as he says that research needs funding and this is not easy to come by.

When asked if he will be part of the BaTonga Cultural Festival, Chikozho agrees, "Yes I am going to participate in the BaTonga Cultural Festival, I promise fans a thorough tour of Tonga culture". He also adds, "As BaTonga museum we will profile the Tonga culture".

This is something that everyone with an interest to come for the festival will explore, the richness of the BaTonga culture that is expressed in various forms, literally works being one of them.



Raswater Monison is a Binga based renowned creative who is a music writer, he also says that he composes and masters music instrumental beats, His birth name is Monison Mleya born and bred in Binga.

He ventured into the music industry in 1994 while he was in primary school at Sianungu in Binga. “At primary school this is when I realized that I have a passion in music, I made my wooden guitars and drums and formed a band called Kabbudu that was made up of myself and my sisters Judith, Nomsa, Morina and Happy.” He reveals that the band later dissolved as they had to separate from each other due to the search for employment, he then remained alone and could not take the band to the next level. He says that they used to perform in various functions that included wedding ceremonies and school events.

Monison mentions that he got serious with music in 2019 when he had a chat with BT BiO Mudimba who had interests in promoting his song called ‘take’ but it did not go well as he had no money to meet some requirements, that is, to buy data bundles. “DT BiO went on to release his first hottest hit called kuJatajata, If only I had data bundles , today I could be the famous singer”, says Monison, weepily.

Raswater went to Kariangwe high school and later moved to Bulawayo where he attained a diploma in teaching from the United College of Education, UCE. He is also a holder of a certificate in Information and Communication Technology from the Notation Private College. Monison is currently studying for a Bachelors degree in Local Languages at the Great Zimbabwe University, GZU.

His music inspiration is traced to

his grandfather whom he refers to as Poto who used to compose what he calls ngoma buntibe songs. “My grandfather, was a great singer since the baTonga migration from the Zambezi valley, he sang traditional songs and composed so many educative songs. He could teach young boys from the community how to blow horns in ngoma buntibe,” says Raswater. Monison who also recognizes the works of the late reggae musician Lucky Dube as having contributed immensely to the passion that he has in as far as music is concerned.

A close-up portrait of Raswater Monison, a Black man with a short beard and mustache, wearing a grey and black striped beanie and a dark jacket. He is looking directly at the camera with a neutral expression. The background is blurred, showing an outdoor setting with some structures and people.

An academic with a music passion, Raswater Monison

Maikoro Mujapan promises fireworks at the BCF

Maikoro Mujapan promises fireworks at the BCF

Maikoro Mujapan, is how Mike Dube is well known in the arts and entertainment industry. He is a creative, a lead vocalist and a bass guitar player based in Bula-wayo. He has done several works with baTonga creatives where he says he has mainly been a bass guitarist for a number of artists who include D.T BiO Mudimba, Noah Mukuli and Desire Si-amukulule.

He has been in the music industry for over 16 years. His father, the iconic Alex Dube, a guitarist who used to work with the late music legend, Ndux Malax inspired his artistic works.

Maikoro reveals that he is being paid very well through music and this way he is able to make a decent living out of his passion as he reveals here, “I play with so many groups, I have recorded many albums with them, I can hardly rest, but because this is my passion, no matter how much pressure I have, I can still cope”. He has done collaborations with artists such as Desire Siamukulule from Binga on the following tracks Chakaipa chii, Ndipeiwo chipo, Mukandirova and a Tapi tapi track yet to be released.

Mujapan passionately states that he wishes to collaborate with D.T BiO Mudimba and he mentions that the reason why he needs to work with him is because of his unique music style that he finds attractive, “His Sungura is unique and very much different from that done by other creatives in the same music category”, he says.

Maikoro looks forward to perform at the BaTonga Cultural Festival (BCF) that runs from 28 September to 30 September 2023. “I will be there and I promise my fans nothing but the best, it is going to be all fireworks, vachaona zvavasati vaona”, says Maikoro.



Compare Munsaka a.k.a Mdala Sgebe

Compare Munsaka, well known as Mdala Sgebe got into the music industry in 2017. He is currently based in Bulawayo where he is pursuing his music career. He has released 4 albums.

The first album was released in 2017 and is made up of the following four songs, Mali, Luyando Iwa mali, Binga and Kubota kwa muntu.

In 2018 Mdala Sgebe released his second album with Mapenzi, Lleza ulandizundilaaa, Bulwazi, Chitamani chilalweza, Ninzecho and Fugama ukombe tracks. In 2019 the album that was released has these songs, Binga ya zwidilila, Munzi uyakwa kusyonipana and Zimbabwe ya yuma.

In 2020 Mdala Sgebe released his 4th album made up of, Basimbi bama zubaya, Basowa bana muma toilet and Samwana tracks.

He is currently working on a massive music project with Mlambosi Express Band and they look forward to release it this year. He started singing with Chase Skuza where he used Tonga language while Chase used Ndebele. He also made a collaboration with Madlela Skhobokhobo where they also mixed Tonga and Ndebele languages in their tracks.



COMPARE MUNSAKA
MDALA SIGEBE
& THE
LUSUMPUKO
EXPRESS BAND
2022

BAZYALI BANGU

1. BAZYALI BANGU
2. BAPATI BANGU
3. SAMWANA
4. MAPENZI
5. LEZA ULANDIZUNDILA
6. BULWAZI
7. CHITAMANI CHILALWEZA
8. NGANI WAKALOWA MUNSAKA
9. BASOWA BANA MUMATOILET
10. BASIMBI BAMAZUBAYA

+263 786 831 632





Mukuli Noah *and Kasambabezi Super Sounds*

Mukuli Noah is a Tonga musician who specializes in Sungura music. He plays with a band called Mukuli Noah and Kasambabezi Super Sounds. He made his breakthrough into the music industry in 2017 and had his first single track called Misalo released in 2019. He mentions Alick Macheso, Charles Charamba and Jah Prayzah as iconic musicians who have inspired him to be a musician. Mukuli says that he enjoys music with a Tonga traditional and cultural background and this is why his favourite music is Ngoma Buntibe, Mbira (tunkobela)

"I admired these kind of works and thought of creating my own music derived from such great works", says Noah. Since 2017, Noah says he has been performing along the Zambezi valley area and the reception of his music by the audience has been amazing. "I always have a lot of people attending my shows and this shows how much they enjoy my music, the way they imitate my dance moves and create their own in line with my tune is very nice".

He has so far released 2 albums, one called Kujata kwaleza released in 2019 with the following songs Misalo, Chipochangu, Tukkalane obotu, Kasimbi, Mogobelo and Tuzundile mapenz/mufundisi.

The second album called Bwebesi Bwazibotu is a 2022 production made up of these tracks, Lusumpuko, Musinsimi, Luyando, Jecmpuka, Musopole and Baba.

Noah believes that he is a unique professional musician who is eloquent in any language and he is able to sing perfectly without changing the language accent.

When asked about the challenges that he faces in his music career, Noah cites financial constraints as hindering him from achieving that which can make him a super star.

He looks forward to do collaborations especially with artists outside Zimbabwe as he is confident that by so doing his brand will be more visible and well recognized for possible great opportunities.

Noah says he is one of the creatives who will take part in the upcoming Ba-Tonga Cultural Festival to be held in Binga from 28 to 30 September 2023.



Fe Abakwesu, a Maskandi music pro

Sifelani Chuma is his birth name, he is popularly known as Fe Abakwesu in the arts and entertainment sector where he is a Maskandi musician, a song writer, a composer, lead and backing vocalist who also plays an acoustic guitar. He has been in the music industry for 6 years and believes that music is in his veins, it is something that he was born with.

He has managed to showcase his skills in as far as his music is concerned at Siachilaba and Malaliya shopping center in Binga.

He has so far released one album called *Lugwalo lwa mabotu* with these tracks, *Bamalayisha*, *Ipassport*, *Isimbi lyabaleya*, *Sinkondoma*, *Lugwalo lwa mabotu*, *Muya mubi*, *Yavula minyaka*, *Siazinkwa* and *Lwimbo lwesu*.

He has the following 5 single tracks, *Ku-Nabushome*, *Luzubo lwamataata*, *Syamusunse*, *Samantha* and *Bamucaala*.

He has done collaborations with *UMsakazi Wamanqampu*, *Intombi Yokukhanya*, *Gloria Muleya* and *Fezela Omnyama* among others and strongly believes that these collaborations are important. "Collaborations teach a lot of things in this industry, through them I am able to learn a lot from other artists and this means that I am also able to work towards perfecting my art.

Despite all the challenges that he faces especially those to do with finances, Fe Abakwesu says he ensures that he tries by all means to push in his music career with the little money that he gets.

In his final remarks, he invites people to come and experience his music at the *BaTonga Cultural festival* where he promises them great live performances.



JAH-NOMZ



December 30 2023 **LIVE SHOW** Gates Open @ 1400hrs Till Late

JAH-NOMZ . B.F.C BAND
Supported By
Fire Nigah/ Dj Tazoe / Star Lady/
Boss Killer/ Flex King/ Dj Mixy/
Dr Erase/ Lady P
Venue: Manjolo Shopping Center

aka Dj Nonoza & BFC band

Jah – Nomz, born Nomater Mwembe is part of the BFC band that was started in 2019. BFC stands for Binga Fishermen Crew. He got into the music industry in 2015 and had his first song called Nduwe ngundasala released in 2019. He says he used to watch television a lot especially music from Zimdancehall artists and was greatly inspired to get into music by Killer T, a Zimdancehall musician, the Makarova Ganaz hitmaker. He mentions that people love his music and this is why he is willing to work even harder in order to grow in the industry and be able to delight his fans in any production that he makes. “There is a show where I performed on Christmas day at Binga Siabuwa area where the audience was amazed by my presentation and that gave me high hope and a strong drive to keep up the standard as everyone was very excited when I was on stage”. He shared the stage with Nkhosy D,

Konks, Dj Mixy and T Man. Jah-Nomz aka Dj Nonoza & BFC band have done collaborations with artists who include Junior Blot, Star lady, King Deflexy among others. So far he has released one album called Ngundakasala with these songs, Bulozibwanu, Wakavunwa amwanikake, Nduwe ulamoyo, Mande, Lufu Iwandende, Ziyanda jesu, Bama bangu, Intamo, Musimbi wangu, Insoni, Mbandisimisywa, Bandisaiza, Zilagambya, Ndakomena and Batulangilila ansi. They have also released the following singles, Mulozi, mande, Kufwa kwandende, Nduwe ngundasala, Zikkombahobbo, Ndilakuanda, Tulayandana, Lady Nonoza, Main actor, Mugogani, Ma peteni, Kugodini, Urizvese kwandiri and Luyando lwako among others. Jah-Nomz understands the importance of having a music promoter as he believes that he/she can guide him accordingly in his journey to be a successful musician. He wishes to have one in the near future. He cites difficulties in

raising money to access recording studios in order to produce music. He has a wish to collaborate with Killer T, “His songs have a good message, he inspires me a lot and I wish to release tracks with him someday”. He promises fireworks at the Batonga Cultural Festival where he says he will be one of the performers.





