

COUNCILLOR SIBIYA BACK TO SCHOOL

By: Milton Malatse and Khethani Sibanda



It was a memorable day for Councillor 'uBaba' Sibiya, when he took his place on the desk where he last sat 32 years ago as a matric student. Councillor Sibiya, in an exclusive to the Khanyisa Media Back School Programme, narrated the history of his life during his student days at the school in the Thusi Township of Ermelo, Mpumalanga.

The school is one of the best achievers in the Gert Sibande District for the past 10 years. They managed to achieve a 100% pass rate in 2001 followed by 81% and 86.44% in 2007 and 2011 respectively. Perhaps they learned from their Principal, Mr. David D. Nkosi, an achiever par excellence who holds a Diploma in teaching from the Transvaal College of Education, a BA degree from the University of South Africa [UNISA], a BA Honours degree obtained from

the University of Natal and a Masters degree with the University of Pretoria. He has been honoured by the national Education Department with a trip to Japan where he shared the wealth of his experiences and achievements with other world renowned educators.

The Principal believes in the philosophy that learners, educators, parents, the community and local government authorities must all take ownership of the school and that team work is the true key to success. He keeps the doors to his office open; a policy which he says highlights that he too is part of a team of educators from whom he maintains easy, constant contact and prompt guidance.

He welcomed this team with great warmth, meekness and humility. The man carries an aura of excellence and his presence

exudes confidence and a passion for success. He opened the doors of the school to this team and allowed for free interaction with the matric students.

He spoke of many innovative measures the school has employed in the past such as matric camps where grade 12 learners study, stay and sleep at school in preparation for their examinations. The involvement of the community and police in maintaining peace and safety in and around the school has helped curb 'gangsterism' at school and the community at large. A gym, a computer room and a perimeter fence have already been secured from kind sponsors as a result of the safety the school has achieved. The comprehensive school is projected to transform into a technical school in the near future, with some of the art workshop buildings already built and functional.

The school has a collection of trophies highlighting their achievement in different sporting codes, athletics and choral. In sports, the school is proud to have produced high profile sports ambassadors in the country and abroad in the likes of Nkosinathi Nhleko, the former Jomo Cosmos and Kaizer Chiefs striker who is now overseas and Fanafuthi "Khehla" Ntozelizwe who is playing for Mologodi FC in Ermelo.

Khanyisa aims to honour all the top achievers in the Msukalegwa Municipal area in June at a gala dinner to be held with the

relevant stakeholders in the Province, celebrities, musicians, actors, the Executive Mayor, political figures, church leaders, sponsors and media [both electronic and print.] This is envisaged to motivate the learners to continue to excel in their final year exams. The event will give them exposure to potential sponsors as well provide them with a platform to mingle and network with key persons from the above listed persons drawn from a cross section of society.

Khanyisa had the opportunity to interview a grade 10 learner whose name has been withheld to protect his identity. The young man told of a shocking tale of his survival. Raised by his grandmother, he and his siblings of two and five years have spent countless days with no food except from what the schools hand out. In tears, he told of the shame that he has amongst his peers as he cannot afford stationery and books other than what the school provides.

He struggles to



find a uniform for his siblings and himself. The grandmother's pensioner's grant is not enough to support the family of four. He has never known his father and his mother, a lowly paid domestic worker in Johannesburg can only afford to visit them once in a year.

Although his circumstances are devastating, the courageous boy added that he had the resolve, strength and a dream to finish school so he can work and help uplift his family. He strongly emphasised that he wants to use his background as a stepping stone towards his success.



Heavy rains claim 7 in Mpumalanga

Staff Writer



This river kills men only and not women residents suspect there is a snake in the river.

At least seven people died due to heavy rains which left many people homeless in Mpumalanga. The latest were two young boys who drowned on Friday at

different scenes and a 50 year old man who drowned on Saturday morning.

A 16 year old boy who went fishing in the Mlapakgomo River with his friends allegedly drowned in the deep at 4pm on Friday.

The boy, Message Nyathi (16),

took out his clothes and swam to his death in the Mlapakgomo River in Ludlow near Thulamahashe, Bushbuckridge, Mpumalanga. The community searched for his body on Friday without success and on Saturday morning they used a fishnet to retrieve his body.

"It is a surprise to everybody because we know that Message could swim. I could not believe my ears when people broke the bad news to me that my nephew had drowned in the river." Alex Nyathi (28) said.

The community leader, Nicholas Ndubane told Khanyisa that there are a lot of problems around the area that need to be attended to urgently.

"We have a challenge of two villages; Phelindaba and Muhweni village; they don't have anything at all. There is no bridge which goes there, no pre-school, there is no primary or secondary

school, and there are no shops. Since the bridge was washed away by rains in 1994, it has never been repaired." Kumekile Mnisi (37) told Khanyisa that the community leaders must take drastic measures in order to find out what is really happening within their community. "I think there is a river snake which catches people every year. There should be some rituals to be conducted here for this snake to stop killing people. People used to see a snake around this river." Kumekile said.

The Ward Councilor of Ludlow ward 30, Busi Myanga also confirmed the dangers of the river. "I would appreciate it if people stay away from the river when it is raining. They must not attempt to cross when it is in flow. We have to engage other relevant Departments to meet the request. This river kills men only and not women."

Provincial SAPS spokesperson, Lieutenant Colonel Leonard Hlathi said, "Police have opened three cases of inquest in Bushbuckridge on Saturday 21 January 2012 only. The body of an 11 year old girl was recovered at the Mutlamugale River in Casteel near Bushbuckridge. The body of a 16 year old boy was also recovered at Mlapakgomo River near Thulamahashe, and a 50 year old man was reported to have drowned in the Nwandlamhari River near Thulamahashe on Saturday afternoon."

This adds up the number of victims to 7. Last week a 60 year old drowned at Hluvukani, and an old man was killed by his house in Tonga near Komatiport on Wednesday morning, two girls aged 2 and 5 drowned at Mashishini.

5 WAYS TO INCREASE YOUR EFFICIENCY

By Rich Schefren

It's easy to overlook some of the most obvious things that may be interfering with your productivity. To make sure you're making the most of your time at work, take a quick run through the following checklist:

1. The clutter in your office. If you're constantly looking for things amid the junk that's in your way, you're wasting

time. Get rid of it by either delegating or hiring a personal assistant. Even better, start an organised filing system! Give your self a full day or hours in the evening or weekends to do this.

2. The efficiency of your workstation set-up. The things you use often should be at your fingertips. For example, your file cabinet should be close to your

desk so you don't have to walk across the room every time you need something from it.

3. The way you organise your e-mail. Delete the messages you don't need and create folders and even sub-folders for those you do need. Delete ALL junk mail! That way, you won't have to filter through hundreds of messages to locate the one you're

looking for.

4. The way you organise your papers. Spend 10 minutes at the end of each day filing away the papers you aren't actively using. If you do need to keep some, put them in a stand-up file rack that will keep them organised.

5. Your calendar. Either a written or electronic calendar is

a must, but you'll run into problems if you have more than one. Before you end each day, take a look at the following day and week so that you can prepare your mind properly. By doing so you will also be able to avoid missing appointments or even worse overlapping appointments and schedules! Always work a week in advance.