

# “Mpasha Mpasha” signs with Arrows

*The legendary former star player, Sibusiso Hadebe has clinched a lucrative deal. His signature has sealed his contract to his new outfit within the same vicinity. Born in Sakhile Standerton, he is affectionately known here in Mpumalanga as “Mpasha-Mpasha” where he started his soccer career at a very young age.*

**By Godfrey Mdluli**

'Mpasha' has achieved much in football as a professional player. Now he is an experienced mid-fielder that is very creative and an excellent passer of the ball hence creating most scoring opportunities and is a good finisher as well. From a tender age, he was spotted by Jomo Sono from Ama-Tuks. He played for Jomo Cosmos F.C before being sent to ply his trade in Belgium, Europe. Prior to playing for Jomo, he had initially been

developed at Young Highlanders F.C (Amateur) and Ajax Cape Town. After that he never looked back. He has captained the under 17 national team under Solly Luvhengo and also played in the under 20 and 23 national team under Styles Phumo and Stephen Khompela respectively. Sibusiso shined with Thanda Royal Zulu F.C under Rodger Palmgren. He then joined Amazulu F.C, mentored by Clive Barker and Neil Tovey playing regularly until recently. He now moves to his new side, their neighbors Lamontville Golden Arrows F.C, where he will play alongside the likes of Thanduyise Khuboni, Katlego “Mahoota” Mashego, Collins Mbesuma and others.

'Mpasha' started training with Arrows on the 8<sup>th</sup> of January 2012 as training resumed after the mid season-Christmas break. He is very

much excited about the move because he is an adventurous character that likes challenges and he believes it is just a matter of time before he gets a call for the National Team Bafana Bafana. His track record indeed proves that he is deserving of a call up, because he has climbed up through the SAFA development teams except for a cap with Bafana Bafana.

“Mpasha is a very polite and humble person who even bought a soccer kit and is still buying soccer boots for Young Highlanders F.C in Standerton, the team he played for as a young player.” Said the Director



of the club Mr. Litheko Marago. Sibusiso 'Mpasha-Mpasha' Hadebe is the pride of Mpumalanga, Gert

Sibande district and Lekwa. Therefore we wish him all the best of success.

# 'Amangwane' targets promotion this season

*By Godfrey Mdluli.*



Director of the club Young Highlanders F.C in Standerton Mr. Litheko Marago.

Young Highlanders F.C affectionately known as 'Amangwane' has won 2-1 away from home in a very crucial game that made them stay 7 points clear as log leaders in Safa Gert Sibande SAB Stream A Regional League. It is now mid-way for them to finish the league in top spot in April. They would have to participate in the play offs to gain promotion and play in the Vodacom promotion league, Mpumalanga Province next season 2012-2013. The Director of the club, Mr. Litheko Marago believes they are in the right track and in top form and he doesn't see anything that will get on their way to Vodacom league. The team spirit is very high in the club players are very much dedicated and show tremendous commitment while playing attractive football and he believes that the wins

motivate the players too much. Highlanders has participated in the play-offs three times before missing last season so the experience will be a plus this time around, he said. Mr. Marago also mentioned the fact that they are doing well under very much challenging circumstances. The resources are too limited and the club is huge. At the moment the first team in the SAB League has registered 24 players of which 5 of them are provincial under 21 players who were part of the team that took 3rd price in the National finals and produced a goalkeeper of the tournament with Mr. Litheko Marago as a coach (Provincial Coach) that was a tremendous improvement for Mpumalanga. Despite that the club consist of 161 players all in all including the ladies team who are 2nd on the log under 10 boys, under 14, and under 17. All these teams are in the development structure of the club. They have been managing without a sponsorship or any business partner being the club of this size. All the

finances come from the sacrifice of Mr. Litheko Marago (Director) and his partner Mrs. Rockya Khoza from their own families' money earned as a salary from their place of employment. That is one big challenge for the club which has produced professional players like Roy Mahamotsa of Orlando Pirates, Sibusiso Hadebe who has signed for Golden Arrows from Amazulu F.C, Patrick Tshabalala of United F.C in the NFD league and Oupa Radebe who was playing for Celtics and Platinum Stars and also Goldrion Coetzee who is now with Free State Stars. Those are the highlights of the team with limited financial resources. He also mentioned the zeal and commitment of the coach Mr. Sibusiso Tshabalala who is always there for these players, looking after the first team and the development also and appreciate the help of the team doctor Dr. Zaid Abdul who is behind the club with expertise. Mr. Marago said he would like to have the community of Lekwa supporting the club and fans should come forward joining the supporters club to raise some



funds as the club also have a netball team. He pleads with the Lekwa Municipality to help with improving facilities because they share the stadium with rugby and there is a lack of training fields. He would welcome any support from the local companies financially and training equipment. The club has Mduduzi Sibeko at the School of Excellence who 14 years and is doing well and Musa Shabangu is a top goal scorer with 14 goals in the league and 2 in

Nedbank. The provincial Under 21 players are Nathi Khumalo, Mbuso Nhloko, Sabelo Madi, and Thabang Selepe. Mr. Marago can be contacted at 082 098 9967 or 079 520 4472. His vision is to see players being successful in their career and well developed. He hope Young Highlanders will stay consistent until gaining promotion next year.

**SAFA Gert Sibande Fixtures; SAB League Stream A; Sunday 29 January 2012**

Harmony F.C	vs	Zone Mavo F.C	Embalenhle Stadium	13.00	146
Siyathemba Liverpool F.C	vs	United Motors F.C	Siyathemba Stadium	13.00	150
Sasol Juventus F.C	vs	Secunda Stars F.C	Embalenhle Sasol Club	15.00	145
Sakhile Stars F.C	vs	Inspection F.C	Siyathemba Stadium	15.00	147
Leandra F.C	vs	Mzinoni All Stars F.C	Sidingulwazi Open Ground	15.00	148
City Boyz F.C	vs	Mazola F.C	Embalenhle Stadium	15.00	149
Chelsea F.C	vs	Young Highlanders	Show Ground Stadium	15.00	151
Argentina F.C	vs	Sasol Thistle Grove F.C	Vukuzakhe Stadium	15.00	152

**SAFA Gert Sibande Fixtures, SAB League Stream B, Sunday 29 January 2012**

Stone Breakers F.C	vs	Bad Boys F.C	Chesismeer Stadium	15.00	145
Lushaba Future Stars F.C	vs	Breytan United F.C	Magudulela stadium	15.00	146
Young Pirates F.C	vs	PG Bison F.C	Fernie B Stadium	15.00	147
Al Hally F.C	vs	Shooters F.C	Thuthukani mine Ground	15.00	148
Ravens F.C	vs	Golden Arrows F.C	Elukwatini Stadium	15.00	148
Silence F.C	vs	Ratanang F.C	Mooiflower Stadium	15.00	149
X1 Experience F.C	vs	Red Lion F.C	Vaalkoop Stadium	15.00	151
Honey Cosmos F.C	vs	Barcelona F.C	Thuthukani Mine Ground	15.00	152

## YOUNG HIGHLANDERS NETBALL TEAM



Left to right: Nusi, Dineo, Suzan, Manana, Puse, Sebolelo, Sesi, Lulama  
Sitting L - R: Mbali, Zaza, Neli, Palesa, Thuli, Gugu, Swabiseng, Rokeya (Coach)