

TRIBUTES *2014*



HONOURING EXCEPTIONAL SOUTH AFRICAN WOMEN WITH DISABILITIES

Celebrating 20 Years of Democracy



*27 - 30 August 2014
Durban, KwaZulu-Natal*



social development

Department:
Social Development
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA



premier

Department:
Office Of The Premier
PROVINCE OF KWAZULU-NATAL



The Witness



VALHALLA ARTS

PUBLICATION (2014)

Ethekwini Mayor's Tributes Statement



The eThekweni Municipality recognizes that people with disabilities have the same rights as any other citizen. We are aware that people with disabilities continuously battle exclusion and restrictions in their full participation in society, facing discrimination and many forms of abuse. As eThekweni Municipality we want to create an environment where citizens with disabilities have confidence in our service delivery in various areas of social life. This has seen us working hard in implementing inclusive employment policies, launching an accessible public transport system and creating a barrier free environment that all aim to promote and maintain their development and dignity.

It is against this background that we have always been the first to support initiatives that uplift the standards of the lives of people with disabilities. We are proud that over the years we have initiated and supported special programs that assist in raising disability awareness, promoting integration, and laying the foundations for their socio-economic empowerment. Back in 1998 we were amongst the first municipalities in South Africa to launch a bus system (3 busses named 'Sukuma', which in English means 'Stand Up') that catered for the full accessibility and mobility needs of people with disabilities particularly in previously disadvantaged communities. To further improve and sustain our efforts in providing more accessible transport systems for those passengers who cannot make use of mainstream public transport modes, 3 new Sukuma buses

were again launched in 2010. Today the Ethekwini Municipality has 23 People Mover buses which cater for people with disabilities; this is a service that runs within the CBD, as well as a dedicated Dial-A-Ride mini bus service which was also introduced during National Disability Month in November 2010. There are 10 such vehicles and they service people in the entire eThekweni Municipal Area (EMA).

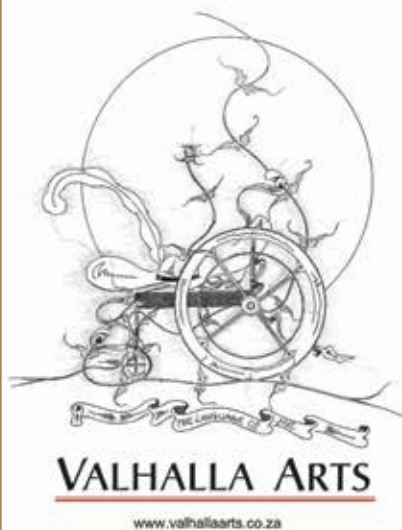
In 2009 we were one of the first partners that worked with Valhalla Arts, INDIMEZULU Trust (two local organisations managed by people with disabilities) and the KwaZulu-Natal Department of Economic Development and Tourism in launching the first Disability Economic Empowerment Program (DEEP) Expo in KwaZulu-Natal. The purpose of this initiative is to mobilise people with disabilities and offer them an opportunity to interact with different stakeholders and providers of services that have direct empowerment implications for their livelihoods and development. The DEEP Expo has now become a permanent feature in our annual calendar.

We are also mindful of the fact that women with disabilities have had to face more barriers than most other vulnerable groups in our society in their quest for personal development. Our development, employment and procurement policies recognize the need for accessing opportunities to women with disabilities in order to bridge the divide that has only been widened by years of discriminatory stereotypes towards this gender sector. Our systems are designed to redress the present imbalances that have seen them at the bottom of the social hierarchy. This is why in 2010 we again joined forces with Valhalla Arts in supporting their TRIBUTES campaign that seeks to celebrate and honour women with disabilities that have achieved excellence in their various life fields. It was with pride that one of our own, the late Dudu Mokoena, Manager in our Vulnerable Groups Unit, was selected as one of the Tribunes in the year 2011.

People with disabilities have an equal need for our respect, honour and admiration. Most of them, as represented by the Tribunes that have been honoured in TRIBUTES, have been inspirational role models that have demonstrated tenacious spirits to work, survive and achieve. As Ethekwini Municipality we have made it our mandate to be supporters of this mission that seeks to promote and embrace their rightful sense of dignity. We believe that it is in service of this course that we can all be proud to say we have had a hand in building a 'society for all'.

**His Worship, Ethekwini Mayor
Councillor James Nxumalo**

When Tributes Are Truly Deserved



One of the cornerstones of the South African Constitution is its call to us to recognize, protect and celebrate our diversities and rights. Our Constitution further emphasises and enjoins all of us in safe-guarding that vulnerable groups and marginalized sectors of our population, including people with disabilities, also enjoy these freedoms and protections, are given space and opportunity to participate equally and succeed in activities of their choice – and that their achievements are celebrated.

People with disabilities, especially women folk, have over the years played a vital role in the South African socio-economic and political agenda. There are scores of women with disabilities in our

midst that are actively involved as leaders in socio-economic development initiatives and systems of governance. Women with disabilities have also helped in shaping the current landscape in gender equity, leaving a legacy of icons and heroines that have added their own voices in the struggle for and ultimate realization of women's emancipation in our maturing democracy. People with disabilities are naturally an integral part of our societies and should be accorded the opportunity to have their experiences, talents and capabilities recognized. Recognition is a basic human need which when met fulfils the quests of the soul. It empowers not only those that are being accorded the honour, but also those that still seek glory for the empowerment of their own souls. It is against this background

that in 2010 Valhalla Arts launched the TRIBUTES initiative, a special ceremony that honours women with disabilities who have left a lasting legacy in various forms of social development and our other freedoms. The TRIBUTES Excellence Awards have been staged as an annual event ever since. Each year the public is asked to nominate women with disabilities, whose works have impacted on social development, and hence truly deserve recognition.

An adjudication panel, comprising individuals from various disability organizations, sifts through these nominations to identify 12 Finalists in 12 specific categories (visit www.tributessa.co.za). The Finalists are invited to KwaZulu-Natal for three days of fun, learning and honour (from the 29th

to the 31st of August which is Women's Month). Each is awarded a TRIBUTES Statuette at a Gala Dinner held on the final day that is attended by the Premier of KwaZulu-Natal together with representatives of local and national government, members of the private sector and civil society. During the past four years (2010 – 2014) that Valhalla Arts has staged TRIBUTES, South Africa has seen a total of 42 women with disabilities identified from all over the country for these awards. The TRIBUTES initiative also comes with a posthumous nomination category reserved for disability heroines who have passed on.

Valhalla Arts would like to pay tributes to everyone that has been a part of TRIBUTES right from the

start. It has always been easier to manage and implement these annual celebrations because of the generosity and support of our many sponsors in the public and private sectors (local, provincial and national). We have always been inspired by the enthusiasm of the many women of South Africa that have embraced TRIBUTES as a real red-carpet event, always attending in their numbers to support and cheer their sisters, mothers, colleagues and friends that have graced the stage as TRIBUTES Finalists in the past four years. The government of KwaZulu-Natal has been exceptional with the Premier of the Province, accompanied by the First Lady, always available without fail to attend the Gala Dinner and give a Keynote Address every year. We would like to thank the former First Lady

of KwaZulu-Natal, Dr May Mkhize, for her active participation and leadership as TRIBUTES Patron during her term in the KZN Spousal Office. Hers and the Premier's Office have always been with us in planning and coordinating other provincial departments to participate. This year we would like to welcome the new Premier as our Keynote Speaker, and the First Lady, Ms Mchunu, as the new TRIBUTES Patron. It gives us great motivation to see that the First Lady is starting with her role in a way that complements the growth that we would like to see with TRIBUTES – where local KZN Municipalities actively go out to nominate their local women with disabilities for this Award.

For the first and only time in 2014, and as part of

celebrating the 20 years of democracy in South Africa, a total of 20 women will be celebrated at the TRIBUTES 2014 Excellence Awards. This will yet be another opportunity for our country to give well deserved TRIBUTES to women that have helped in shaping ours and their lives' destinies – and giving testimony to the fact that our disabilities can only be our abilities if we tap into their potentials.

MUSA E. ZULU
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The beginnings...



From the 29th to the 31st of August 2010, Valhalla Arts proudly hosted the Inaugural TRIBUTES event in celebration of women with disabilities in KwaZulu-Natal. This event was planned and positioned as the 'final-curtain-call' to all the celebratory events that had marked Women's Month in the Province – and also as a 'curtain-raiser' to the ultimate realization of all the many possibilities by people with disabilities in general.

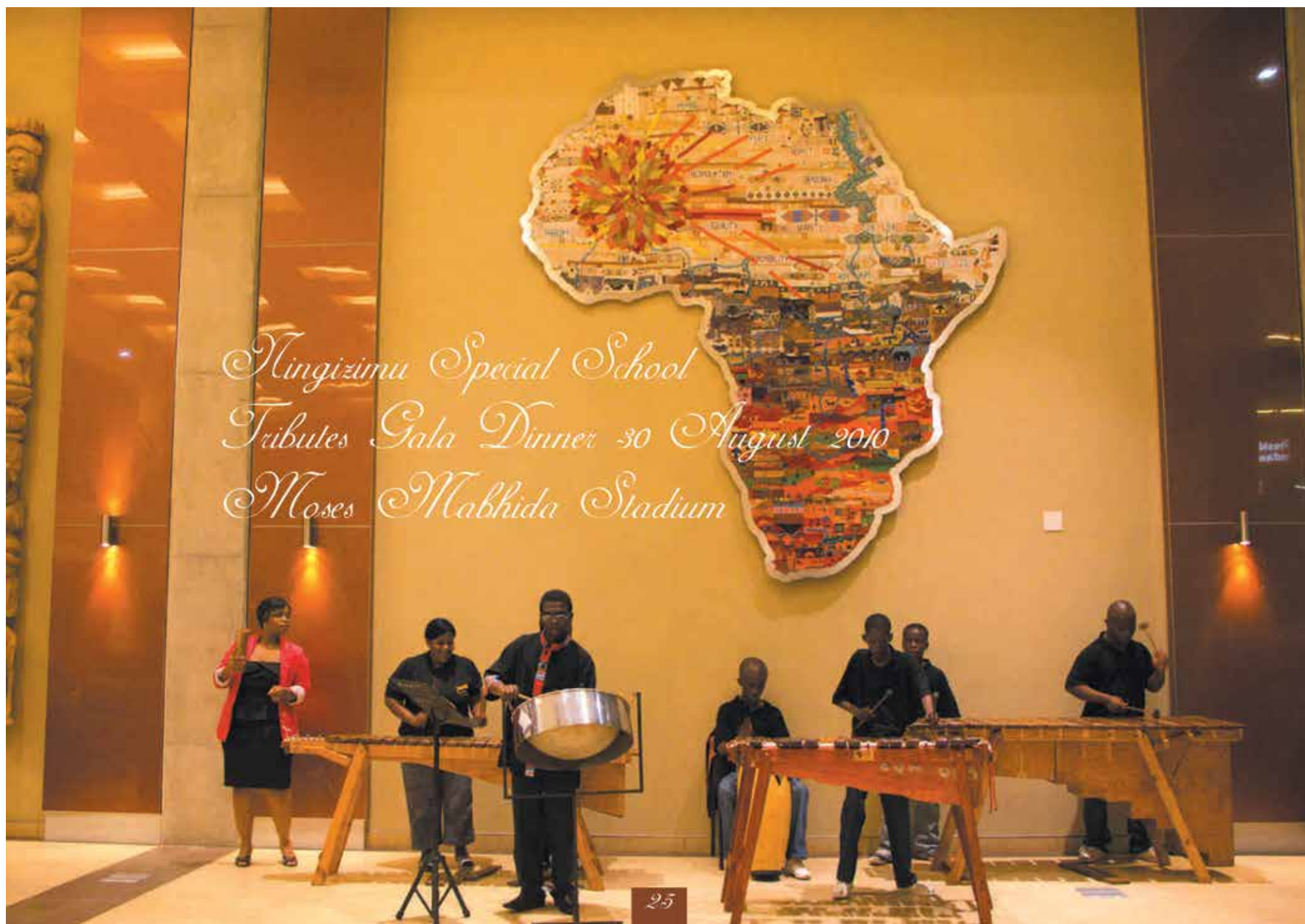
TRIBUTES saw 12 high-profile and successful women with disabilities from all over South Africa coming together to take the central platform on a tour to pay tribute to their life experiences and achievements. This tour, which unfolded over three days of fun-filled adventure, saw these women invited and flown into the KwaZulu-Natal for a Breakfast hosted by the Honorable Ms. Noluthando Mayede-Sibiya: former National Minister for Women, Children and Persons with Disabilities at the Sun coast Casino in Durban. Later the ladies were transported to Hluhluwe Game Reserve for a stint that included an over-night stay and a mid-morning game drive. Their tour also included a night at the Midmar Dam and a drive up the Midlands Meander – all this exciting journey was taken in disability accessible modes of transport in recognition of the 'Tribune's' dignity, convenience and pleasure.

The thrust of all this experience culminated in a Gala Dinner at the Moses Mabhida Stadium on the 30th of August 2010. The former Premier of KwaZulu-Natal, the Honourable Dr. Zweli Mkhize, gave a Key Note Address, highlighting his Office's and government's strategies and commitment to the empowerment of people with disabilities in our society. The Gala Dinner was attended by scores of other women with disabilities from all over South Africa; representatives of civil society, academia and disability groups, members of the private sector and government. Here, the 12 Tribunes were introduced, given time to address the audience, entertained and celebrated.

Some of the acts that took the stage in song and dance in celebration of TRIBUTES, included a choir from Open Air Special School for children with disabilities in Durban. The Green Berets, a Scathamiya group featuring a string of men in crutches, also entertained the crowds in collaboration with Joe Nina, rendering two new songs that they had composed especially for the TRIBUTES Gala Event. Judith Sephuma lit the night with renditions of melodies that pay tribute to the spirit of all women at this special occasion whose symbolism and message are bound to be remembered for a long time to come.

Professor Meer, who passed on in 2009 after a long fulfilling life of family, community, academic and political achievement, was confined in a wheelchair because of poor health in her late, elderly life. She was remembered this night, and along with the other 11 Tribunes handed a TRIBUTES Statuette (a symbol specifically commissioned for the TRIBUTES campaign). The statuettes were handed to the Tribunes by the former First Lady of KwaZulu-Natal, Dr. May Mkhize, assisted by Mrs Ngidi, the wife of our esteemed Director General in the Province of KwaZulu-Natal.

TRIBUTES was an event meant to inspire and spurn new and diverse initiatives towards the recognition, dignity and contribution of women with disabilities in our developing socio-economic landscapes.



PAST TRIBUTES 2010



Versha Rowjee

Versha is one of those economic activists who are successfully making apparent the relationship between an enterprises' positive bottom-line and the presence of disabled people within the environment. Never in the business of debunking stereo-types, her life is the story of never judging the proverbial book by its drapery.



Rulani Baloyi

If hindsight were twenty-twenty vision, insight the gift of intellect, and foresight the gift of the God's, then all of the above would be true of Rulani's expression of life. She has sought and mastered the art of being heard. Simultaneously exhibiting the characteristics of the art of listening. Never the one to throw caution to the wind, she is a true tribune to life.



Beatrice Ngcobo

Only a few can claim the title stalwart. Fewer still play that role with as much distinction as Beatrice has done, and still does. Her actions in the arena of the integration of the disabled into mainstream society are the stuff of legends. True to what life calls for in every human being, a legendary existence. An apt description of Beatrice, the life and times.



Simphiwe Mkhize

If adventure were to be the definition of the human spirit, then Simphiwe would be the embodiment the incredible lightness of being. Her physical disability has allowed her to climb life's ladder rung by rung. Without fear of favour, and with the gusto that in itself is a tribute to living. A tribute to life.



Masingita Masunga

If beauty is in the eye of the beholder, may we present Masingita for you spiritual satisfaction. Her beauty radiates from within, which in any form of expression, is contextually correct. Her beauty resides in her spirit exemplary how life intended our spirits to be. Rising above our limitation. It is absolutely no surprise that this tribune of life was crowned Miss Confidence.



Hendrietta Bogopane-Zulu

They say when life throws you with a lemon, make lemonade. Hendrietta's is the classic example of her alchemist self. A person who epitomises rising above adversity and in the process, becomes a champion for the contextualising of the living of life. Her being is a tribute to life.



Karen Smit

If there were a wish list made on who to reach out to for entrepreneurial activism, Karesn's name would definitely feature prominently at the top of that list. She has almost single-handedly revolutionised the world of mobile communication to the benefit of the disabled. Deliberately and notably so. A quintessential "do as I do and not as I say" persona who thusly describes herself "Look at me...". We are tempted to add onto that...."and look no further".



Zama Bhengu

Zama is no stranger to firsts. Now the differently abled person at BidFreight Port Operations, an appointment she tackles with fervent gusto characterised by a spirit best described as joke de vivre. An expression of living only the likes of Zama all of us could achieve



Mandy Latimore

Mandy is the epitome of living life without limits. Similarly, life has responded to her without reservation. A relationship with life that has seen her apply her leadership self at every opportunity. It is therefore no surprise that she lives by the words "Nature restores the soul". For it is in her soul that we discover the nature of living.



Thuli Matlala

Some say it is better to discover the true nature of your calling than to never to discover it at all. Thuli's expression of life is quintessential of a discoverer of self purpose. Thuli is true to who she is. Unambiguous about what is true to the expression hers and life in general. A few months spent with her underscores why her being is a tribute to life.



Shelly Barry

Shelly is possibly South Africa's foremost go to people. Having advised various people, from one office of the President to those most downtrodden, women with disabilities, Shelly is not done yet. She has left the door open for all those on a quest for a fulfilling expression life... and will walk the path with them.



Fatima Meer

Meer, a women of great personal courage, drive, determination and enthusiasm is highly respected by most South Africans. She seems as comfortable in the presence of dignitaries like Nelson Mandela as she is with traditional Ulama (Muslim Priests) or the homeless. Meer's personality and work has dominated our political history for over six decades and nowhere is this more evident than within the people and the country she so loved, the beloved South Africa.



Bawinile Mdunyelwa

Despite her blindness, Bawinile has demonstrated a creative and versatile individuality that combines imaginative and social entrepreneurial abilities with an organized and business-like approach to life and its opportunities. This social activist is meticulous and conscientious to ensure she maintains high standard of work at all times.



Maria Rantho

As the country celebrates Women's Day the aim should also be to honor the strides by our leading female activists that have passed on. Maria

Rantho was a woman all South African citizens should have pride in. A qualified nurse, Ms Rantho became a wheelchair user after being involved in a car accident. The inequality she experienced as a person with a disability spurred her on to fight against the oppression of people with disabilities in our society. This pioneer later became the chairperson of Disabled People South Africa; an organization that was formed in the 80's to work towards the full participation and inclusion of people with disabilities in society. Maria was on the core team of people who drafted South Africa's disability policy, the Integrated National Disability Strategy, which was passed by Cabinet in 1997.



Chaeli Mycroft

Born in the year of freedom, Chaeli was diagnosed as being cerebral palsied at 11 months and at the age of 6 was diagnosed as also having a degenerative neuropathy, which causes wasting of the muscles in her arms and legs. Today, this resilient achiever has beaten the odds and become one of the most recognizable humanitarians of ability.



Jene Frost

How would you define a 'dare-devil' - an incredibly adventurous spirit? It is one that has jumped off Oribi Gorge in a 75m free fall swing, swam with dolphins in Sodwana Bay and discovered that the sky is not the limit and skydived. It is one whose next dream is to go shark cage diving. This is Jene Frost, a bike accident victim, who says courage does not always roar, but that sometimes it is the little voice at the end of the day that says; "I will try again tomorrow". This adventurer is able to encourage and touch people's lives by just being who she is. It is her belief that our disabilities will only disable us as much as we allow them to.



Lesa Bradshaw

Humility allows us to guide a child to success with a clear message and understanding that differences are only opportunities to be harnessed for the benefit of a society for all. This is Lesa Bradshaw's life philosophy. This Tribune in a wheelchair asserts that the process of empowering a person with a disability begins well before the individual seeks to join the job market. It begins in the early stages of schooling where children with disabilities should be encouraged to integrate into mainstream schooling wherever possible - not treated as a 'different cluster' that belongs in isolated institutions.



Mbali Wendy Nkosi

At times the quiet is simply too audible especially if accompanied by beauty so loud and clear for all to see. Mbali exudes the grace of a Queen. She touches life with the gentle tenderness of a lady and pushes herself beyond limits with the hunting instinct of a lioness. She is the first black winner of the Miss Deaf South Africa Beauty Pageant and what won her the crown was the bold consciousness she possesses of knowing that as much as we are all of different languages and expressions, we all still speak in one clear voice.



Fadila Ethne Lagadien

Some heroines were born to fight a good fight and Miss Lagadien is a dedicated foot soldier in a wheelchair that has ensured that in everything she does, disabled people are equitably integrated into the mainstream of society. With her battle cry of 'transformation', Fadila has waged her war on issues of labor legislation, good employment practice in the life market of equal access the provision of technical assistance on SMME development to disabled people's organizations in S.A.



Dudu Mokoena

Talk about leadership and you'll find its definition and qualities in Dudu Mokoena's life. This hemiplegic Tribune has been the consistent platform for people with disabilities to exhibit their work and identify business opportunities. Dudu has also spent her efforts in giving government and the private sector an opportunity to share information about their services designed for the disabled and establishes markets for those with disabilities.



Pravina Sukhraj-Ely

Justice would not be for all if the Lady wasn't blind. Research in litigation, legal advising, drafting of legal documents, court work in civil and criminal matters- this Senior Advocate has mastered it all. With her good communication, consultation and negotiation skills, coupled with a fine interpretation of the law on inclusive education in South Africa, no child with a disability can ever fail to realize their rights to equity and justice as long as Dr. Sukhraj-Ely still has her legal eye.



Shakila Maharaj

How do you introduce one who has been recognized and acknowledged so far and wide - a multiple recipient of Best Achiever awards both locally and internationally? What more to you say about a pioneer that helped launch the first attitudinal training program in South Africa designed to create a paradigm shift in managers and employers towards the employment of people with disabilities? You call them forth by name and title. Ladies and gentlemen, open your eyes and sharpen your ears as I unleash to you the Industrial Organizational Psychologist extraordinaire, MS. SHAKILA MAHARAJ!



Vasan Pillay

It takes strength and courage for one to associate themselves

with, and also to identify themselves with what they have not yet necessarily become. In 2004, Vasan felt the first feeling of numbness down her arm - the first signs of progressive multiple sclerosis. Rather than wait, this volunteer now sits on both committees of Multiple Sclerosis KZN as well as Multiple Sclerosis South Africa. She has made it her aim to create awareness of the disease in the public as well as to bring light to the plight of those affected by Multiple Sclerosis and its needs. A phenomenal beauty of inspiration and versatility, Vasan is also a recognized Disk Jockey who has brought us music, love and beauty without end.



Nomasonto Mazibuko

Black or White: Does it matter? Albinism is a condition defined truly by what makes a person inside. Sonto Mazibuko is a goal oriented activist with a high level of initiative and innovativeness. She is the founder of the Albinism Society of South Africa (ASSA) and it is her ability to bring people together while leading them in with a clear vision towards a clear aim that compels us to rise and salute her as a true Tribune of note indeed.

PAST TRIBUTES 2012



NAME: Sandra Goosen (Posthumous Award)
DISABILITY: Paraplegic
 Sandra was the previous Director and Senior Placement Officer of the Association for People with Disabilities (APD) in the Free State. Responsibilities included the placement of people with disabilities in gainful employment and learnership opportunities. Her career highlights include liaising with the Premier's Office and Government Departments in the Free State while working as Secretary of the Provincial Director and Executive Secretary of the Assistant Director at APD Free State. She was also an accomplished wheelchair dancer. She passed away earlier this year. "Sandra, now you can dance in heaven - for always & without pain." - Miss Deaf SA 2009, Vicki Fourie



NAME: Joy Deyzel
DISABILITY: Mother of a Child with a Disability

ACHIEVEMENTS & SOCIAL OUTREACH:
 After giving birth to a child with a disability Mrs. Deyzel sought information and subsequently became involved in community disability awareness initiatives. Today she acts as a full time classroom assistant for severely disabled learners, is a driver of a bus (which she helped acquire) that transports children with physical disabilities and assists with the training of parents, teachers and care-givers of children with disabilities.



NAME: Joyce Mokgope
DISABILITY: Hemiplegic

ACHIEVEMENTS & SOCIAL OUTREACH:
 Joyce started Ndongas Riverside Production a company that trains and opens markets for people with disabilities in African Art Décor, upholstery and sewing.
 Since its inception in 2011, this business venture has seen a few local people with disabilities benefit in skills and knowledge on hand-works including dress making and beading.



NAME: Ontlametse Phalatse
DISABILITY: Progeria

ACHIEVEMENTS & SOCIAL OUTREACH:
 Ontlametse is the first black child diagnosed with progeria, a rare and fatal genetic condition that accelerates the aging process-one of the only odd 78 people in the world with the disease. She has become a household name and global Ambassador of this disease and has been featured widely in television programmes and stage/theatre performances. During school holidays, she flies to Boston University's Progeria Research Foundation, where scientists are trying to find a cure for the condition. She exudes the confidence of someone far older and her resilience and easy go humour makes her stand out.



NAME: Sheri Brynard
DISABILITY: Down syndrome

ACHIEVEMENTS & SOCIAL OUTREACH:
 Sheri has set new boundaries for people with Down syndrome - a qualified assistant teacher and International Motivational Speaker. She is the first and only person with Down syndrome in South Africa to receive a tertiary qualification. She is an international Ambassador for people with Down syndrome, a recipient of the Presidential Award and the Young Achiever recipient in the 2012 Checkers Women of The Year Awards



NAME: Bulelwa Mbolekwa **DISABILITY:** Blind

ACHIEVEMENTS & SOCIAL OUTREACH:
 Bulelwa works for the KZN Department of Health and is a leading figure in Disabled People South Africa (DPSA). She has assisted young people with disabilities access various learnership programs towards developing their skills and knowledge. She has also been vocal at lobbying for permanent employment of people with disabilities after completing their learnership. Bulelwa led from the front in establishing sustainable food security programmes for various organizations representing disadvantaged women with disabilities within the Ethekwini Municipality. She is currently completing her M. Phil studies.



NAME: Sebenzile Matsebula **DISABILITY:** Paraplegic
Executive Chairperson: Divuseni Trading & Investment (Pty). She evaluated the 1st African Decade of Persons with Disabilities for the African Union and has conducted research to inform development of policies to mainstream disability and uphold human rights of people with disabilities. Worked in the Presidency as Director in the Office on the Status of Disabled People. Currently serves on the boards of Action on Disability and Development, the African Decade of Disabled Persons, the Centre for Alternative and Augmentative Communication, Disability Empowerment Concerns, plus numerous NGOs. The United Nations has shortlisted her for nomination for the UN Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities



NAME: Jennae Tachea **DISABILITY:** Deaf
 Jennae and her husband, who is quadriplegic, own an inclusive tourism company Access2Africa Safaris. Jennae has actively promoted Universal Access among tourism service providers to make accommodations and activities accessible and inclusive for everyone. She was also instrumental in developing The Declaration of Universal Access in Inclusive Tourism signed by the South African government at the Tourism Indaba in 2012. She networks with local community, QuadPara Association of South Africa (QASA) and local newspapers to provide assistive devices and assistance to the disabled. Together with her husband, they support Khulani Special Needs School in Hluhluwe, KwaZulu-Natal with various initiatives.



NAME: Binila Omparsad **DISABILITY:** Quadriplegic

ACHIEVEMENTS & SOCIAL OUTREACH:
 Member of the Management Board at QuadPara Association KZN (QAK)-1994 to present.
 Executive Committee Member with QAK 1994-2007
 Fundraising Chairperson QAK -1999-2001
 Vice Chairperson of Ashley Village- 2001
 Vice Chairperson QAK 2006-2007
 Secretary QAK 2007-2008
 Holds a National Senior Certificate in Business Studies and currently works at Eskom. She intends to further studies in Information Management



NAME: Undere Deglon **DISABILITY:** Paraplegic

ACHIEVEMENTS & SOCIAL OUTREACH:
 Ms. Deglon is a highly qualified executive with more than 10 year in the South African private and non-profit sector. She is currently the Chief Executive Officer of Disability Workshop Development Enterprise (DWDE) and has used her knowledge in human resources development to lobby and advocate for the rights of the disability sector. As the national coordinator for Disabled People South Africa (DPSA) she also assisted with developing the Technical Assistance Guidelines (commissioned by the Department of Labour) on the employment of people with disabilities.



NAME: Faith Phala
DISABILITY: Albinism

ACHIEVEMENTS & SOCIAL OUTREACH:
 Faith Phala is an Advocate. She attended the University of the North where she completed her BProc and subsequent LLB. This former prosecutor spends time on outreach programs, educating the public on matters such as domestic violence, customary marriage, maintenance, child abuse and communicating the notion of restorative justice, where community and traditional leaders can involve themselves in smaller legal matters to resolve them faster, and ease the legal backlog facing our courts.



NAME: Natasha Moosa Ahmed
DISABILITY: Multiple Sclerosis

ACHIEVEMENTS & SOCIAL OUTREACH:
 Natasha is a University of KwaZulu-Natal Bachelor of Commerce graduate and works for the Ethekwini Municipality Metro Police Tracing Call Centre as an Agent. She has also achieved an Advanced Diploma in Business Studies and assists in raising funds for charity organizations and has volunteered in a Soup Kitchen. As part of her activism and representing issues of people with disabilities in both the workplace and social networks, Natasha is a member of the Muslim Students Association of KwaZulu-Natal.

PAST TRIBUTES 2013



Adeife Adeniran is South Africa's youngest blossoming authors, publishing a book at the age of 12. Being blind has not hampered this young lady's sense of imagination and burning ambition to achieve more in life. This Nigerian born, who is South African based and studies at Prinshoff Skool for the Blind in Pretoria, believes that it is important for young people to shape their worlds through self-expression. She is planning on writing more books in the near future. Her book 'Can You Imagine?' has also sold very well in the UK and in various other parts across Africa.



Leonarda Els, known as Narda started Miss Deaf South Africa with her husband Gert (who is also deaf). Together they manage the largest pageant for the Deaf Community in Africa and the 2nd largest for the deaf in the world. She's an extraordinary individual who has managed to proudly produce greats such as Candice Morgan (former Miss Deaf World), Mbali Nkosi (TRIBUTES 2011 Alumni) and Vicki Fourie.



Daphney Smith holds a Bachelor of Arts degree in Education and a Postgraduate Diploma in Media Studies & Journalism from Wits University. She has worked as a content producer and producer on two entrepreneurship television programmes 'The Enterprise Zone' and 'Vuk'uzenzele' that are popular broadcasts on SABC1. She has also worked on various outreach programmes, taking financial education and other awareness programmes to communities via radio and print media. In 2003, Daphney was on the Judging Panel of the Black Business Quarterly Awards (BBQ), an annual ceremony which recognizes extraordinary South Africans in different fields, and has also written articles that featured on various (BBQ) publications. She is an activist having served on the Albinism Board from 1999-2012.



Hilary Lane has not only learned to walk, but also to run. This adventurous 55 year old has endured the 42km New York

Marathon, proving that people with Cerebral Palsy can also complete a full-length marathon. Hilary is former CEO for the Western Cape Cerebral Palsy Association and is currently a Coordinator at Afrinead (the African Network for Evidence-to-Action in Disability) which is a flagship project of the Centre for Rehabilitation Studies in the Faculty of Health Sciences at Stellenbosch University. She is also a part of 'CapeAble' an initiative which holds disability awareness workshops for corporate business throughout South Africa.



Thulisile Xaba has managed to look beyond her disability, beyond her impoverished living standards and followed her dreams. This young student from Ningizimu Special School located in the south of Durban, South Africa, won Gold at the Special Olympics Figure Skating competition where she proudly represented South Africa. She previously took home the National Gold medal in year 2012 and had taken the Provincial Gold in 2011. Despite living with her unemployed grandmother, Thulisile has proven that she can achieve beyond her circumstances and background.



Julia Moloi was the first black woman with a disability in Africa to get involved in publishing as an entrepreneur. Julia launched her first magazine about disability-WE ARE CAPABLE- in 2003 and as a disabled woman she had taken pride in using the magazine as a voice for the many handicapped people in South Africa. The late Julia will be remembered for her philanthropy and humanitarian activity. Having left behind a legacy with her magazine that was published nationwide, six times a year, Julia was a phenomenal woman.



Nadine McKenzie is the first South African integrated dance teacher. Overcoming adversity that left her paralysed and a tragic car accident that almost wiped out her entire family, Nadine remains dedicated to her passion and love for dancing. She holds a unique qualification from Vienna, Austria and has travelled extensively on the international dance scene with the Remix Dance Company. She is a well-recognised figure within the performing arts community in South Africa. This year, she made it onto the Mail and Guardian most influential 200 young people of South Africa.



Liza Aziz is the founder of Action in Autism, a non-profit organisation that

provides support, information and an early intervention centre to people with Autism. As a mother of an autistic child she has had first-hand experience in dealing with autism. This has spurred to be more involved with the autistic community which has eventually led to her developing a communications system that works as the voice not only for children with autism but for the parents as well. She hopes after managing to lobby government, the private sector and civil society groups that she will eventually be able to set up more resource and schools that accommodate learners with autism.



Alison Swannack is the producer /director of 'Listen With Your Eyes', a deaf theatre production which made waves this year, putting Deaf Theatre on the South African cultural map. Alison has a profound love for theatre and has worked hard to make a name for herself in the industry despite her inability to hear. She is an educator and a passionate advocate for the Deaf Community and is a founder of the KZN Sign Language Academy. Her theatre production has just returned from France after performing at the Festival Clin d'Oeil (European Deaf Theatre).



Despite losing her sight at age eight, Shamila Surjoo has always shown remarkable leadership

qualities and a natural sway towards public service. It is these skills and traits that have led her to head one of the largest NGOs in the disability sector. She is the Director of the KZN Blind and Deaf Society and sits on the School Governing Body of the Arthur Blaxall School for the Blind. Shamila holds a Certificate in Public Relations from UNISA as well as the following Awards; The Director's Award - Aryan Benevolent Home in 1987, the Sunday Tribune Herald Personality in 2001 and the Standard Bank KZN Women Achievers Award (2007) in the category 'Public Stars' for her outstanding contribution to the welfare sector.



Thobekile Makhathini is the founding member and Chairwoman of Sukuma Sakhe Disabled Women WaterFarm and Tourism Point. This energetic lady hails from Welbadatch, a community located along Umlazi River in the East of Durban, and has been making big moves in Ward 77 where she lives. Together with a team of local women they have dedicated their time and savings to closing leaking pipes that waste water in an effort to fight high water bills in her community. She recently received the Ministerial Special Projects Female Entrepreneur Award at the KZN Agribusiness Awards for her community garden projects.



Kashveera is the first deaf Chartered Accountant in South Africa. She attended a mainstream school and opted to use Aural-Oral method of communication (lip reading) rather than conventional sign language. She was named one of the twenty (20) Fun, Fearless Female Cosmopolitan Women of 2013 and made the 2012 Shoprite Checkers Women of the Year finals.

2014 TRIBUTES

Our Tribunes of 2014



Tabisa Nomnganga - Paraplegic

(Business Category)

Tabisa Nomnganga was born on the 14th of June 1979 in Langa, a township in Cape Town. She matriculated from the Deutsche Internationale Schule Kapstadt in 1997.

In 2001, at the age of 22, she was involved in a car accident which left her paralyzed and wheelchair-bound. Equipped with a positive attitude and always striving for a goal in life, Tabisa went on to obtain a Bcom degree in Industrial Psychology and also completed Bcom Honours in Business Management from the University of South Africa in 2004.

At the end of 2008, after having worked for corporate companies for 10 years, she started Bravo Promotions, a below-the-line promotions agency that specializes in brand activation, promotions and targeted communication campaigns. The company's unique approach to marketing provides a platform for brands to interact and connect with their target audiences in a manner which traditional media is unable to provide.

Her past recognition Awards include:

- Most Promising Female Entrepreneur Award (Seda 2012)
- Best Entrepreneur with a Disability Award (Seda 2012)
- Emerging Entrepreneur of the Year (Sanlam 2012)
- Iqhawe Award (BBQ 2012)

Winning these awards has proven to Tabisa that her work is being recognised and appreciated, and has also opened doors she previously had trouble accessing. She says her disability has taught her to be courageous, hopeful and strong.



Cathy Makobe-Chiloane - Dentist (Pedodontist) and Lecturer

(Mother of Child Category)

Dr Cathy Makobe-Chiloane's involvement in matters of disability started with the birth of her son, Thapelo Chiloane, who was born with Down Syndrome. This experience motivated her to want to make a difference in the lives of children, especially those with intellectual disabilities.

When Thapelo was four months old, Cathy joined the Down Syndrome Association Tshwane (DSA Tshwane) and four months later she was elected into the Board of DSA Tshwane. Her dedication and visible participation in issues that affect the wellbeing of children with disabilities saw her later elected as a Board member of Down syndrome South Africa (DSSA) and also a Board member of the Baby Therapy Centre (BTC).

Dr Makobe-Chiloane has also harnessed the power of radio and TV to spread the message

of Oral Health Care and a healthy lifestyle for children with disabilities. This led to the Oral and Dental Hospital participating in the Annual Fun Day for Children with Disabilities event, organised by the Faculty of Health Sciences of the University of Pretoria, which attracts the participation of various Special Schools in Gauteng

Dr Makobe-Chiloane's activism has given hope not only people with disabilities but also her fellow colleagues who started referring people with disabilities to her. One of the people referred was Ms Ontlametse Phalatse (TRIBUTES 2012 Finalist). With the help of her husband, South Africa was introduced to Ontlametse's story and together they helped organize for a full scholarship (sponsored by Nedbank) for Ontlametse to attend the exclusive Dominican Convent School for her entire High School studies worth over R100 000 per year.

Dr Makobe-Chiloane is also the Clinical Director of the Special Smile (Dental) Healthy Athlete Programme which visits hundreds of people with Special Health Care needs in all the nine South African provinces for health screening.

She has also started a support group for South African mothers of children with disabilities using "WhatsApp". This has assisted in some of their children admitted at remedial schools. Benefits of this group include the sharing of useful tips and information by mothers. One parent who lost her own son donated her son's push-chair to another mother who desperately needed one for her daughter, but could not afford to buy it.

Barbara Watt - Paraplegic

(Community Development Category)

Barbara Watt was paralyzed in an accident at the age of 3.

In 1967 she was one of the Founding members of the Phoenix Sports Club in Pietermaritzburg and represented KwaZulu-Natal twice in the Inter-Provincial Competitions for the Disabled. In the 1970's she lead the Accessibility Committee in Pietermaritzburg which conducted a survey on the city infrastructure's universal accessibility. This resulted in parking space allocation for the disabled and ramps built on the city's pavements to enhance barrier-free mobility.



The 1980's saw Barbara reaching deeper into communities with "Paracletos Outreach", a program that she initiated to strengthen community mobilization of people with disabilities towards accessing socio-economic opportunities for their self-betterment and independence.

In the 1990s Barbara took employment as Accounts Clerk at African Enterprise (AE) and again saw potential in this organization to establish means to reach out to people with disabilities in the surrounding communities. In 2006 Barbara started 'disABILITY Connexion' an NPO under African Enterprise with a mission of "Connecting people with disabilities to themselves, to others and the Church".

Many women with disabilities suffer violations of their basic human rights. Barbara started the ministry of disABILITY Connexion which included workshops for Church Pastors to bring about disability awareness (with an emphasis and focus on "abilities"), tolerance and understanding in the Church and community. Together with volunteers (who themselves were disabled) she further conceptualized and implemented a community outreach program to share God's word by visiting people with disabilities in hospitals, at home, by phone, by SMS and at AE outreach events.

Barbara further established training programs on issues relevant to their emotional and spiritual needs including training on the UN Convention through the medium of drama, free wheelchairs and employment creation through networking.

disABILITY Connexion left AE in 2012 and is today registered as a separate NPO, with Barbara still at the helm. As a non-profit organization, disABILITY Connexion receives a small grant but has to raise about 70% of further funds to support and encourage people with disabilities who have access to very few social services due to wide-spread poverty in their communities. It is always up to Barbara, together with the volunteers she recruits, to make it a point that all funds required are always available to carry out the AE mission.



Mpho Radebe - Post Polio

(Human Resource Development Category)

After completing matriculation, Mpho pursued studies in Alien Plant and Invasive Species which enabled her to work with the Department of Agriculture. From 1992 to 1999 she worked for Zizameleni Disabled Group as a Secretary. The organisation dealt with social issues affecting people with disabilities and conducted motivational and self-development programs.

She is currently serving as the Deputy Secretary and active member of the Msunduzi Municipality Local Disability Forum where she undertakes general secretarial duties. He Forum membership positions her as a leader in the skills development programs implemented by the Municipality towards the specific development needs of the local disabled human resources. As a member of the Forum she is further responsible for:

- Representing the interests and the needs of the local disability sector.
- Assisting the Municipality in planning and facilitating developmental programs for people with disability i.e. training, sports etc.
- Representing the Municipality at the District level in dealing with issued affecting people with disability.
- Liaising with local community organisations regarding planned programs for people with disabilities.

She also serves as the Deputy Chairperson of the Msunduzi Disabled Club which coordinates and facilitates sporting & recreational activities for local people with disabilities. Further to this, Mpho serves as a Ward Committee member, participating as the Msunduzi Coordinator for the African National Congress (ANC) under the Physical Challenges Portfolio, which deals with the issues of people with disabilities around the Moses Mabhida Region.

Ms. Radebe is currently registered for a learnership program in Business Administration at Level 2 which is funded Services SETA.

If you agree that it is in the appearance of disability that we find the most ability, then you will also agree that in recognizing the humanity of our fellow beings, we pay ourselves the highest TRIBUTES.

Our Tribunes of 2014



Veronica Baloyi - Paraplegic
(Public Sector Category)

Veronica Baloyi is employed by Transnet Ltd. She was involved in a terrible accident that left her with bones broken on her ankles, back and other parts of the body. This left her unable to walk. Eventually doctors, fearing further health complications that could endanger her life, decided to amputate one of her legs.

She serves in the Transnet Employment Equity Committee where she is using this opportunity to fight for the rights of all disabled personnel in the company and also potential employees with disabilities. As part of her responsibilities include sensitizing her fellow colleagues

on issues of disability awareness, reasonable accommodation and steering/augmenting disability in the company's corporate social investment policies.

Her presence in the company has seen new paraplegic toilets built, access ramps created in many entrances and office space made wheelchair/disability friendly. Transnet sees all these developments as a significant contribution to the future of disabled people inside and outside the company corridors.

Veronica is well positioned to help other disabled people in this public sector to be recognised and be given employment on the areas where they are able to perform. Veronica Baloyi is an inspiration in her office and has always demonstrated strong leadership qualities.



Saffura Khan - Blind
(Leadership Category)

Saffura Khan is a blind leader and motivator that lives by the mantra "If I can do all of this without sight – imagine what you can do with vision".

Saffura is the Founder and President of the 11 year-old Phoenix Light Group for the Physically Challenged, an NGO she initiated to establish and manage the social, recreational and rehabilitation (training and skills development) programs and activities for people with disabilities and their families in Durban and surrounding areas. Her leadership

skills and qualities have inspired the enthusiasm of members of her organization together with the many beneficiaries that have found strength and direction in her symbol.

Some of the recreational and rehabilitation programs that The Phoenix Light Group undertakes (and participates in) for the blind/people with disabilities and their families on an annual basis include:

- The Winter Fun Walk.
- Blind Tandem Cycling.
- Blind Cricket.
- The Blind Navigators Rally in partnership with The Forget-Me-Not Club for the Physically Disabled.
- National Wheelchair Race.
- Boat Cruise.

Saffura has travelled the world to promote the rights of blind people, including trips to Glasgow (2008) and Thailand (2012) to attend conferences at the World Blind Union.

Giving a presentation at one of these conferences, Saffura put it to the audience that "The challenges facing and limiting the blind is not their blindness itself, nor the acquisition of skills, techniques or competence; but the lack of understanding together with the misconceptions which exist and fight against their vision".

Ngwanakopi Ramushu - Blind

(Disabled People Organization Category)

Realizing the challenges faced by blind women in this country, Ms Ramushu was one of the pioneers who coordinated the establishment of South African Blind Women in Action to lobby for the rights of blind and partially sighted women in the African continent through empowerment workshops and seminars.

Equipped with a Bachelor of Arts Degree in Public Administration and Sociology and an Honours Degree in Development Studies which had qualified her in policy analysis, research, project management, urban and rural development studies and group dynamics – Ngwanakopi joined Meraka Institute (CSIR) as a part-time Research Consultant responsible for the Identification and Profiling of organisations for the Blind in South Africa and their role and developing a comprehensive Database, testing the accessibility of the National Accessibility Portal for blind persons, assisting with the development of user-friendly manuals for blind persons and advising on research ethics for national accessibility portal project.

In the early 2000s Ms Ramushu was National Youth Commissioner, advising on the involvement of disabled youth in the programmes of youth commission. Further, this former Deputy Chairperson of the Northern Province Disabled Women Development Programme, Deputy Director in the Research Benchmarking and Best Practice Unit at the Department of Correctional Services and National Coordinator of the South African National Council for the Blind has been:

- Appointed a member of National Council Against Gender-based Violence (2012 -)
- Appointed as one of the Adjudicators at the Limpopo Premier's Excellent Service Awards (2009)
- -Advance international disability and human rights/SIDA (2009)

She holds Certificates in Public Relations and Strategic Management from UNISA.



Lender Malope - Paraplegic
(Sport & Recreation Category)

Hailed as a pioneer and a go-getter by her colleagues and close associates, Lender Malope has been in a wheelchair for 19 years and is living proof that disability is not a curse but just being 'differently-abled'.

She once owned LN2000 Printers that was based in her township, KaNyamazane. With that business she won the National Award in Technology for Women in Business (TWIB) and was a finalist in the National "Innovative Disability Achievers Awards" (IDEAS). She has been with Ligwalagwala FM since 2004 and currently hosts a daily Morning Show which airs between 09H00 and 10H00. Malope is the first and still the only disabled presenter at the station.

In 2002 Malope won Miss Confidence South Africa and soon started sport activities for people living with disabilities in Mpumalanga with the help of Mbombela Municipality and a

German Port Organisation called "SPACE" (Sport Against Crime). This helped her expose other local people with disabilities to her sporting passions and skills. She can play basket ball, table tennis, wheelchair ballroom and Latin dancing. In 2002 she won the Mpumalanga Premier's Disability Award as the 'Sport Person of the Year'.

She currently owns the first Driving school in Mpumalanga that caters for people living with disabilities as she has identified the need for one to cater especially for the independent mobility and sense of freedom for women with disabilities.

ODE TO WOMEN WITH DISABILITIES

Now tell me...
Who else will honour them
If not us?

After all...

These are our children
Our sisters and mothers
Our friends and colleagues
Our leaders and inspirations...

So...

In recognition of their true might
let us be the first one's
That celebrate, recognize and pay tribute
to our women with disabilities!

Poem by MUSA E. ZULU (2010)





Phumeza Momoza - Albinism (Participation in Policy Development Category)

As a leading member of the Alfred Nzo District Municipality (ANDM) Disability Forum in the Eastern Cape, Phumeza has played a significant role in portraying her character to address stereotypes around albinism in particular, and disability in general – through active participation in assisting the ANDM in undertaking a Review of their Special Programs Unit (SPU) Policies, with the development of SPU Policies, Strategies and Implementation Plan.

Part of her role as a member includes:

1. Participating in processes of developing ANDM policies for the empowerment of vulnerable groups (Children, Youth, Women, People with Disabilities, HIV&AIDS and the Elderly), and
2. Determining the procedures that are necessary for the effective implementation of the policies.

Working together with the Alfred Nzo District Municipality SPU, Phumeza and other members of the Disability Forum facilitate workshops with the key municipal personnel (finance, IT, HR – Senior management) and other affected parties (other government departments, local business, CBO's and NGOs) to promote the mobilization of human and financial resources for the effective and coordinated implementation of proposed policies in the wider Alfred Nzo District Municipality.

The existence of these comprehensive policies has enabled the Alfred Nzo District Municipality to start engaging vulnerable groups and relevant stakeholders in the planning and execution of socio-economic empowerment initiatives for the benefit of local vulnerable groups. The overall purpose of these policies is to provide guidelines and a framework for local government in South Africa to foster community participation in issues of policy development and implementation.



Hlengiwe Dladla - Post-Polio (Economic Empowerment Category)

Hlengiwe Dladla believes that women with disabilities need to know and exercise their rights as equal citizens in their communities and country.

As a motivator that has made it her personal mission to visit newly-disabled women in hospitals and homes, she is renowned to canvass the disabled sector in her community and its surroundings not to be solely dependent on government grants but to develop small businesses and establish community co-operatives to generate and promote their livelihoods and earn their own money.

Hlengiwe is also a Fashion Designer by profession and has used her skills to teach other women how to sew and design. She is the Founder and Deputy Chairperson of the Zamani Disabled People's Organization based at Esikhawini her hometown in Northern KwaZulu-Natal. The organization empowers

women with disabilities with skills, knowledge on their rights and opportunities necessary for their independence. Here she also teach disabled women how to develop, market and sell their craft work.

She is also Treasurer of the uMhlathuze Municipality and uThungulu District Disability Forums and also participates actively in the Women's Parliament in the Province of KwaZulu-Natal. She also assists the two Municipalities with organizing and distributing assistive devices (wheelchairs, crutches and hearing aids) to those who need them but do not have money or any other means to acquire them.

Hlengiwe believes that a good education will enable women with disabilities to fully realize and exercise their rights, which is why – together with other members of the two Disability Forums – she has gone out to communities to identify women with disabilities who have passed their matic and qualify to access government bursaries to enable them to further their tertiary education in Social Work Studies.

Candice Morgan - Deaf (Communications/Information Technology Category)

Candice is an actress and former beauty queen from South Africa. Morgan was crowned Miss Deaf South Africa 2004 and Miss Deaf World in July of the same year in Prague, Czech Republic.

Morgan matriculated at MC Kharbai School for the Deaf, after which she studied Information Technology at Esselen Park. She started presenting for DTV at the age of 16 and became a full-time member of staff in 2002. She loves acting and made her debut in Eve's Cradle, the award-winning DTV drama.

She directs, edits and presents content at DTV. She is the face that many hearing people associate with the South African Deaf community. A globe trotter she has visited the Americas and Europe. As a celebrity she has used her status to fight for deaf rights in South Africa.

In 2012, Morgan won the South Africa's Most Influential Woman in Business and Government Award in the Media, TV, Radio and Press sector. She was named as one of the Mail and Guardian 200 Influential Young South Africans in 2013.



Marlene Le Roux - Post Polio (Women With Disabilities in Management Category)

Marlene Le Roux is a music educator, arts administrator, a youth development specialist and an advocate for persons with disabilities. She is well-known in the Western Cape for her disability activism and as the Director of Audience Development and the Education Artistic Program for at the Artscape Theatre Centre.

Marlene contracted Polio at the age of three months. This resilient mother of a severely Cerebral Palsy boy, Adam, says that "A very significant fact in my community was the fact that I grew up being surrounded by wonderful self-taught musicians. Our house was situated in the middle of the Minstrel troops. The community was extremely conservative and had diverse religious backgrounds and bore the brunt of Apartheid". In 1986 she enrolled for her first degree at the University of the Western Cape which lately presented her with the Alumni of the year award for outstanding community service. Today Marlene serves on the Commission of Culture Religion and Linguistic communities For her first term she was appointed by President Thabo Mbeki and for the second by President Jacob Zuma.

At Artscape she has implemented Soundtrack4life, an HIV/Aids Awareness and Education project to empower young people to make responsible life choices using theatre. She also facilitated the rural community development program to take theatre to the people to encourage nation building, bringing youth across diverse cultural, religious and language backgrounds to engage with each other in order to enhance respect, understanding of the differences and in doing so realize the sameness of humanity.

She is the author of a book on Women with Disabilities called "Look at Me" which features photographs and stories that allow women to reflect on their struggles and their inner journey to personal self-mastery. The book challenges the myth that women with disabilities lack sensuality, sexuality and agency. She is co-founder of WAND, a website that vision is to empower women with disabilities – www.wand.org.za

Among her many awards she has received for her work and symbol are the:

- Shoprite/Checkers Woman of the Year (Art Category):
- Desmond Tutu Legendary Award
- Woman of the World Path the Way Award
- Western Cape Provincial Award for Arts and Culture.

She is also a member of the Paralympic committee. The President of Germany recently presented Marlene with The Africa/German Peace Award for the difference she has done in Africa making her the only female with a disability to ever obtain the award.





Kgosatsana Sithole - Born with No Arms (Girl-child Category)

BEING born with no arms has never stopped Kgosatsana "Princess" Sithole from enjoying her childhood and living life fully like a normal child. This 13-year-old girl from Esikhawini, near Richards Bay in KwaZulu-Natal, uses her feet to get through life. Her ability to cope with disability has endeared and earned her respect among local people.

Her mother, Nonkululeko Sithole was only 18 years when she fell pregnant. After giving birth she had the shock of her life when told that her baby had no arms and even considered committing suicide. However, her family and hospital staff were

very supportive. Eventually she accepted her daughter's disability and started falling in love with her little girl.

When Kgosatsana was five months old, she started showing signs of remarkable independence, curving her legs around her formula bottle to feed herself. She has grown to teach herself difficult tasks by using her flexible legs and feet with which she does everything perfectly, like a normal person.

Today Nonkululeko is doing Grade 8 at Richem Secondary School which is an ordinary mainstream school where she is doing very well in her studies. Her teachers and fellow pupils have been very supportive. She maintains that she doesn't want to be treated in any special way because of her disability – and people in her school and community have followed her lead in accepting herself and her disability as a part of life's diversity.

Kgosatsana says: "When I grow up I want to be a well-known businesswoman and later become President of the country."



Joyce Meso Sibeko - Blind (Older Person With a Disability Category)

Joyce Meso Sibeko is the Founder of Ikemiseng Association for the Blind which she established in 1995.

This, however, was not the first time that she founded a community mobilization initiative. Back in 1988, at the height of political strife in South Africa, and after seeing first-hand the financial hardships that impoverished communities faced during times of death, she founded the Aretshepeng Burial Society in her community of Ga-Rankuwa, Limpopo Province. As though inspired to do more (this time for local women), she went on to establish the Phedisana Women's club in 1996.

Joyce only went to school until Standard 6 (Grade 8) but today this seasoned community developer and administrator has sharpened her activism teeth and skills (Planning and

Organizing, Project Management, Budgeting, General administration, Financial Management, Farming & planting production and Banking) through intensive training programs with various development agencies including NTSIKA Enterprise Promotion Agency - IDEAS back 1999.

Her extensive community involvement is further reflected in her affiliation to various structures that play a role in people's socio-economic and political opportunities. She is an affiliated member of Disabled People South Africa, South African National Council for the Blind and of the African National Congress and Women's League.

It is testimony to Joyce's success in creative sustainable community development models that Ikemiseng Association for the Blind is presently funded by the Department of Rural Development. Ikemiseng Association has also secured funding with Department of Land Affairs for agricultural projects that have created employment opportunities for 11 young people that get a stipend. The group has 10 members with visual impairment. The local soccer club for the Under-16s that she founded in 1995 is still active and has today grown bigger. One her greatest achievements was identifying three young men to be allocated bursaries by the Department of Education to further their tertiary studies. Today these young men are all qualified and employed as teachers.

In 1999 she won the Eskom Sowetan Woman of the Year Award.

Ramla Said Omar Mohamed - Cerebral Palsy (TRIBUTES International Award Category)

Ramla Said Omar Mohamed is a disability activist and an inspiration to many women with disabilities in Kenya, her country of birth.

She is Founder and of the Al-Muqtadir Association and Treasure of the Mombasa Old Town Community Youth Group, organizations which encourage people with disabilities in particular to mobilize and exchange their personal and social experiences.

The structured empowerment programs that these organizations offer are designed to enable participants to enhance their knowledge and understanding of policies, best practice and challenges for improving access, opportunities and quality of life for people with disabilities in developing communities.

Equipped with a qualification and skills in Information Technology from the Mombasa Polytechnic institution (2002/3), Ramla trains youth and people with disabilities in computer skills and packages.

In 2013 the Muslims for Human Rights (MUHURI) organization in Kenya awarded Ramla the prestigious PWANI Human Rights Award in the 'Person with a Disability of the Year' category. Later that year, the National Council for Persons with Disabilities in Kenya recognized her with a Certificate for her contribution in pioneering various socio-economic development initiatives for women with disabilities in the Mombasa County.

In 2013 Ramla was invited by the American Embassy in Kenya to participate in the US State Department sponsored International Visitor Leadership Program (IVLP) which seeks to build mutual understanding between the United States and other nations through carefully designed professional visits to the US for current and emerging world leaders.

Ramla holds a Certificate presented to her by the United States Department of State Bureau of Education and Cultural Affairs for her selfless contribution in the development of people with disabilities in Africa.



Vicky Fourie - Deaf (Creative Arts Category)

Vicki Fourie defines her life by the quote 'Courage isn't a gift, but a decision.' Even though she has 97% hearing loss, she has learnt from an early age to speak like a hearing person and excels in lip-reading as her means of communication.

In 2009 Vicki was crowned Miss Deaf South Africa and also received the Miss Deaf HESC 2009 title. In 2010 she was crowned 1st Princess at the Miss Deaf International competition held in Las Vegas, USA. In 2011 she represented South Africa at the Miss Deaf World in Prague where she was offered an international movie contract.

Vicki is a motivational speaker. Up to this date she has visited over 100 schools and given talks at various events. Her topic 'I Know I Can' shares practical lessons with the students on how she managed to participate in ballet at school without hearing the music. In 2012 Vicki

received the Cosmopolitan's Fun Fearless Female Award for her motivational talks.

Vicki has appeared in numerous popular magazines and also appeared on television a few times (Kwêla, Pasella, etv's Sunrise, SABC2's Hectic Nine9 and Top Billing). She has also appeared on the covers of both national and international magazines such as JUIGI, That's My Girl, Passi, Single!, Sweet Designs, My Mag and CRC's Devoted Magazine.

In 2010 Vicki's story appeared in a popular Afrikaans book for teenage girls titled 'Chilli Lipstiek 2'. She has published over 250 written magazine articles – nationally and internationally, and is currently a column writer for the following magazines including Devoted, That's My Girl, and Devozine. Her first Afrikaans book and memoir titled 'Viva la Vicki' is available in South Africa. In May 2013 Vicki appeared in Straatligkinders' 'Petrus' music video where she did the song in sign language. She is also the leading actress in the theatre play titled 'Kinders van Stilte' an Afrikaans adaption of 'Children of a lesser god' which made its debut at the Vryfees in July 2013.

In future she wishes to get involved in the South African film industry as scriptwriter and actor, write numerous books, become a TV presenter, and keep on motivating others to be positive and dream big!

2014 TRIBUTES

Our Tribunes of 2014



Anne-Marie Robb - Psychosocial Disability (Disabled Women's Rights Category)

Anne-Marie Robb is a founder member of the Ubuntu Centre, the first Disabled Peoples' Organization advocating for the rights of people living with psychosocial disabilities in South Africa.

She is a self employed freelance researcher, writer and activist in the field of disability. She holds a postgraduate degree in Feminist Studies from the University of the Western Cape. She is a current expert member of the Section 5 Committee on Disability of the South African Human Rights Commission representing people with psychosocial disabilities. Anne-Marie

identifies as a person living with a psychosocial disability. Anne-Marie holds the following positions:

- Board Member of the Pan African Network of People with Psychosocial Disabilities (PANUSP) (from 2011);
- Board Member of the African Disability Alliance representing PANUSP (from 2012);
- Board Member of Disability Rights Fund Global Advisory Panel (from 2013);
- She is also a member of the newly emerging African Disability Forum Coordinating Committee. Currently Anne-Marie is managing the Secretariat of PANUSP and works as the manager of the Ubuntu Centre, South Africa.

From 2012 – 2014, she coordinated the World Network of Users and Survivors of Psychiatry (WNUSP) international capacity building programme. She has also been a Director of the Youngsfield Organization (2008 – 2010), a Refugee advocacy and support of vulnerable groups in Cape Town Safety Site and acted as Secretary for United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees Cape Town Stakeholders Forum (2009)

Vanessa Dos Santos - National Executive Director (Lifetime Achievement in Disability Rights Category)

Vanessa dos Santos has passionately been involved in the disability sector for the past 19 years. She worked as a volunteer for Down Syndrome Association of Gauteng from 1995 and then Down Syndrome South Africa (DSSA) in 2000. She was elected in 2003 as the National Chairperson before being employed as the National Executive Director in 2007. Her involvement with DSSA began with the birth of her son 19 years ago. He was born with Down syndrome and soon after diagnosed as also having Cerebral palsy.



She was instrumental in setting up the national office in 2003 and securing funding to build capacity of DSSA and its branches, which has brought the organisation to the forefront in terms of advocacy and lobbying on the rights of persons with intellectual disabilities amongst others.

After completing several Diploma's on Disability Rights Studies (2007 – 2009) Vanessa went on to complete her Masters in Disability Studies (MPhil) at the University of Cape Town in 2010. She has also done a Baseline Study on the 'Status of People with Intellectual Disabilities in the Townships in South Africa' in relation to the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (UNCPRD) and presented a submission of these findings to the committee on the UNCPRD in Parliament.

She has been responsible in setting up Outreach Support groups and Self Help groups in rural and township areas to assist parents of and people with Down syndrome and other intellectual disabilities throughout South Africa as well as in Africa with recognition of their rights enabling them to access services and support. She has also been a strong advocate for the inclusion of people with Intellectual disabilities on the Right to Education and Employment.

She has conducted research, developed and written training manuals and conducted training. In 2012 she successfully hosted and Chaired the 11th World Down Syndrome Congress which was held in Cape Town 2012 and attended by delegates from around the globe".



Majorie January - Paraplegic 27 July 1947 – 17 December 2004. (Post Humous Category)

Majorie January was born on the 27th of July 1947. After matriculating at Mount Arthur Girls School Majorie trained as a Nurse at Natalspruit Hospital in Johannesburg where she qualified in 1971. She took up employment at Nyanga Clinic as a Nursing Sister as she also proceeded to finish a Diploma in Midwifery at St. Monica's Maternity Hospital in Cape Town (1974).

In 1978 she moved to Cecilia Makiwane Hospital in the former homeland of Ciskei where here sense of community activism was awakened. The 1980s saw her joining the Gomo Women's Congress that fought for the political rights of African women in particular, as well as gender equity across the racial and economic spectrum in broader South African society. Later she took position as Executive Member of the Black Management Forum in Ciskei charting a path for the economic transformation and business empowerment of Africans in an oppressive society that denied

them access to basic opportunities and infrastructure for development.

The 1990s saw her reaching deeper into the heart of issues that affected people with disabilities in her society. In 1995 she was named the Deputy Chairperson of Disabled People South Africa (DPSA) as well as Chairperson of the DPSA Disabled Women Development Program where she was tasked with establishing community structures to assist with identifying, profiling and networking women with disabilities in the Western Cape.

In 1996 she co-founded the Masiphathisane Forum for Care-Givers and Professionals. To understand disability issues even better, Marjory attended and completed courses in Changing Negative Attitudes towards Disability; Gender, Communications and Advocacy, as well as the Women in Leadership Positions Studies which she studied at the University of the Western Cape. In 1998 joined Nompumelelo School for Children with Disabilities as a Board Member and Treasurer. During this period she also enjoyed her part-time employment as co-researcher and translator for SCLA and the University of Cape Town Occupational Therapy Department where she was documenting stories by women with disabilities in Khayelitsha for publication in a book.

In the year 2000 she was elected a Councillor in the Cape Town Unicity. To improve her knowledge on policy issues Marjory did a course (through the School of Government at the University of the Western Cape) in Policy Development and Implementation for Grassroots Activists.



Khanyisile Mafuleka - Post Polio (Adult Basic Education and Training Category)

Two things happened in Khanyisile's life at an early age. Firstly, she was afflicted with polio as a toddler, and secondly, she was lost both her parents. It is these and coupled with her impoverished background that was also not kind to people with disabilities which saw her dropping out of school at Standard 3.

In her late teens she heard of an organization called Uphawulwethemba which looked after the needs of people with disabilities in her community of Clermont in Durban, KwaZulu-Natal. The organization establishes Focus Groups for people with disabilities in order to profile them together with their development needs.

She Joined the group as a member and soon discovered that mass mobilization was the best way of reaching-out to people with disabilities that had lost hope behind closed doors. Her active participation in the organization's door-to-door activities enabled her to find her voice as she began telling others about the benefits of being a part of a movement that assisted in educating the disabled about their rights and accessing opportunities for their socio-economic development. This gave her a sense of self-confidence and 'her own voice' she shared her own experiences and circumstances with others.

To make ends meet she started her small business selling sweets, chips and other basics to school children and the community. Khanyisile had never worked before finding employment in 2013 at greenABLE, a registered non-profit company which incubates, educates and employ's previously unemployed black individuals with disabilities. It is the only organization in Africa to have pioneered and developed a solution for the recycling of printer cartridges through which we significantly contribute towards the green economy goals. The objective is to change the lives of persons with disabilities by closing the 'skills gap' through an Adult Education & Training Learnership, whilst also facilitating workplace experience. The organization further facilitates post employment opportunities for its beneficiaries within and outside of the sector.

It is at greenABLE that Khanyisile has come to demonstrate her capacity and willingness to learn towards her Self and group betterment. The organization has come to notice her as a 'quiet leader' that has also found other women with disabilities from her community to join the Learnership. She is also known as a resilient, committed and hard working person. She argues that the opportunity to be part of this organization has unveiled to her the value and benefit of Learnership programs to people with disabilities who otherwise, and because of their lack of education qualification, would not be able to access the mainstream economy.

Today Khanyisile has a 20 year old son, Khulekani. She lives in an RDP house that Uphawulwethemba assisted in securing for her small family. In her spare time she enjoys listening to Gospel music and admires Nelson Mandela as her role model. When asked what her future dreams are, she proudly says she would love to run the Comrades Marathon and one day qualify as a Social Worker.

Tributes Programme of Events

Tributes Day **1**

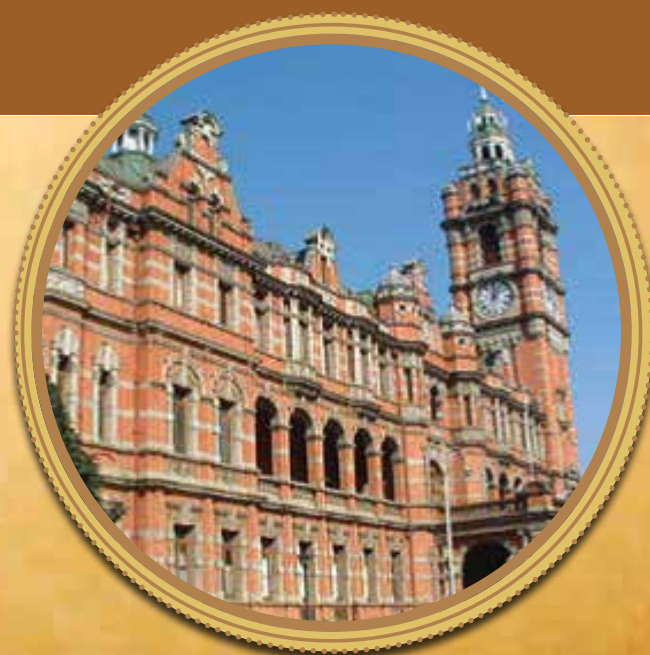
27th August 2014

08:00 - 10:15	The 20 Finalists (with Travel Companions) together with delegates attending the TRIBUTES 2014 National Workshop arrive in KwaZulu-Natal, South Africa and are welcome by Valhalla Arts representatives and other Provincial stakeholders at the King Shaka International Airport.
10:15 - 10:30	The 20 Finalists (with Travel Companions) proceed to Pietermaritzburg for Lunch hosted by Mayor of Msunduzi Municipality where the Finalists are awarded TRIBUTES 2014 Certificates.
12:30 - 15:00	Lunch hosted by Mayor of Msunduzi Municipality
15:30 - 16:00	The 20 Finalists (with Travel Companions) visit a Special School for Learners with Disabilities in Pietermaritzburg.
10h30 - 13h00 13h00 - 14h00	Workshop Delegates proceed to Register and check-in at Hotel(s) in Durban Lunch
14:00 - 16:00	TRIBUTES 2014 Two-Day Workshop Opening Ceremony in Durban <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Welcoming Speech by representative of EtheKwini Municipality • Speech by representative of KwaZulu-Natal Province • Keynote Address by the National Minister (Social Development) • Vote of thanks
16:30 - 18:00	Delegates assemble to deliberate on EDUCATION & Disability <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 40 minutes given to 4 Panelists (Parent of Child with a Disability, Department of Education Inclusive Education) @ 10 minutes each. • 40 minutes allocated to delegates to engage Panellists on issues raised (Early Childhood Education, Funding for Higher Education studies, Accessible Infrastructure in Special Schools) • 10 minutes to wrap-up and consolidate session
19:00	Dinner & End of Day 1



Valhalla Arts, together with all the other participating stakeholders in the TRIBUTES 2014 Excellence Awards celebrations, would like to thank the Msunduzi Municipality and the people of Pietermaritzburg for extending a welcoming hand to women with disabilities who have contributed immensely in our social, economic and political freedoms!

DATE: 27 August 2014
VENUE: Ascot Inn
TIME: 12:30 - 15:30
DRESS CODE: Smart / Casual



Tributes Day 2

28th August 2014

07:00 - 08:30

Breakfast

09:00 - 09:10

Valhalla Arts introduces the 20 TRIBUTES to the workshop delegates

09:10 - 11:00

Delegates assemble to deliberate on HEALTH & Disability

- 60 minutes allocated to 4 Panellists (Department of Health, UNFPA, Mother of Child with a disability) @ 15 minutes each
- 40 minutes allocated to delegates to engage Panellists on issues raised (Access to reproductive rights, termination and sterilization, contraceptives, assistive devices and access to health services, monitoring and evaluation etc.)
- 10 minutes to wrap-up and consolidate session.

11:00 - 11:25

Tea Break

11:30 - 13:00

Delegates assemble to deliberate on SAFETY, SECURITY & Disability

- 40 minutes given to 4 Panellists (SAPS, Justice, Department of Community Safety & Liaison) @ 10 minutes each
- 40 minutes allocated to delegates to engage Panellists on issues raised (Reporting of crimes/abuse/neglect against women & children with disabilities, prosecutions, accessible infrastructure at police station etc.)
- 10 minutes to wrap-up and consolidate session

13:00 - 14:00

Lunch

14:00 - 16:00

Delegates assemble to deliberate on ECONOMIC EMPOWERMENT & Disability

- 60 minutes given to 4 Panellists (Disabled woman entrepreneur, Business Women South Africa, Department of Small Businesses, NEF, IDC, DTI) @ 15 minutes each
- 40 minutes allocated to delegates to engage Panellists on issues raised (Funding, BEE Scoring, Cooperatives and general benefits to women with disabilities)
- 20 minutes to rap-up and consolidate session

16:00 - 16:30

Tea Break

16:30 - 18:00

Delegates assemble to deliberate on LAND REFORM & Disability

- 40 minutes given to 4 Panellists (Disabled woman farmer, Land Bank, Department of Rural Development and Forestry) @ 10 minutes each
- 40 minutes allocated to delegates to engage Panellists on issues raised (Community cooperatives, Access to Land, Funding and other economic development programs for women with disabilities)
- 10 minutes to wrap-up and consolidate session

19:00

Dinner & End of Day 2



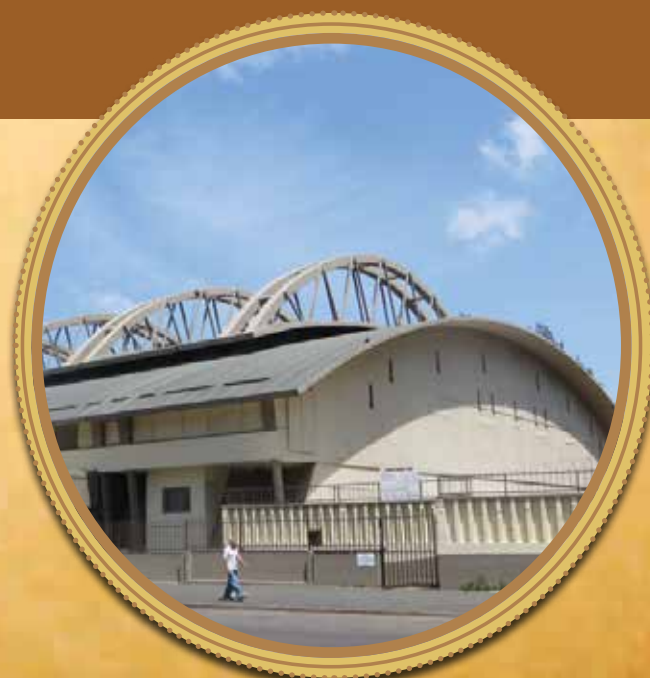
A **TRIBUNE** is an official chosen by the ordinary people to protect their interests.
 A champion of peoples' rights.

07:00 - 08:30	Breakfast
09:00 - 11:00	<p>Delegates assemble to deliberate on SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT & Disability</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 60 minutes given to 4 Panellists (National & Provincial Departments of Social Development, Department of Women, SASSA, Central Drug Authority, Social Worker) @ 15 minutes each • 40 minutes allocated to delegates to engage Panellists on issues raised (Policies, Access to social development services, rights and protections, • 20 minutes to wrap-up and consolidate session.
11:00 - 11:30	Tea Break
11:30 - 12:00	Consolidation of TRIBUTES 2014 Workshop
12:00 - 12:30	Deputy Minister (Dept of Social Development) closes the TRIBUTES 2014 Workshop officially.
18:00	TRIBUTES 2014 Excellence Awards Gala Dinner hosted by Ethekwini Municipality and attended by the Premier of KwaZulu-Natal together with representatives of the local and national government, member of the private sector and civil society.
MC	Nomasonto Mazibuko (SA Gender Commissioner and TRIBUTES 2011 Alumni)
18:30 - 18:45	Welcome address by the Mayor of Ethekwini Municipality, The Honourable Cllr. James Nxumalo
18:45 - 19:00	Starters Served & Entertainment - 'This is your Season: Theme Song for TRIBUTES'
19:00 - 19:50	<p>TRIBUTES 2014 Video Presentations</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sponsor Representatives hand over TRIBUTES Statuettes to the First 10 FINALISTS and each Tribune delivers a 3-minute address.
19:50 - 20:10	TRIBUTES Ambassadorship Pledge to Road Safety & Entertainment
20:10 - 21:00	<p>TRIBUTES 2014 Video Presentations</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sponsor Representatives hand over TRIBUTES Statuettes to the Second 10 FINALISTS and each Tribune delivers a 3-minute address.
21:10 - 21:20	Remarks by Ms H. Bogopane-Zulu (Deputy Minister: National Department of Social Development and TRIBUTES 2010 Alumni)
21:20 - 21:50	Keynote address by the Honourable Senzo Mchunu, KZN Premier
21:50 - 22:10	Vote of Thanks by MUSA E.ZULU (Creative Director: Valhalla Arts) and presentation of TRIBUTES Patron Statuettes to the First Lady of KwaZulu-Natal and the National Minister of Social Development.
22:10 - 23:10	Entertainment as Dinner is served
23:30	TRIBUTES 2014 Gala Dinner Ends



PEOPLE with disabilities are a natural and integral part of our societies and should be accorded the opportunity to have their experiences, talents and capabilities recognized. Recognition is a basic human need which when met fulfils the quests of the soul. Recognition empowers not only those that are being accorded its honour, but also those that still seek its glory for the empowerment of their own soul aspirations.

DATE: 29 August 2014
VENUE: Durban Olive Convention Centre
TIME: 18h00
DRESS CODE: Smart / Casual



Tributes To Women With Disabilities



One of the cornerstones of the South African Constitution is its call to all citizens to recognize, protect, promote and celebrate our diversities as a community of humankind. This is the foundation that moulds and cements our relationships and need to unite as one nation in upholding one another's status and dignity. It is, further, our Constitution's commitment to promoting the human rights of all citizens that have seen us developing policies, programs and systems towards ensuring that every one of us is given space and opportunity to express their aspirations, exhibit their potentials and thrive in achievement. It is yet again our Constitution that emphasises and enjoins all of us in safe-guarding that vulnerable groups and marginalized sectors of our population, including people with disabilities, also enjoy these freedoms and protections, are given space and opportunity to participate equally and succeed – and that their achievements are celebrated.

Our Constitution acknowledges that like all citizens, people with disabilities have rights and responsibilities, and commits us all to participate actively and positively in addressing issues that affect their world and lives. Our country has made remarkable progress in developing enabling legislation, transforming the state machinery and putting structures in place to be representative and responsive to the developmental needs of people with disabilities. This resolve, towards promoting the integration and mainstreaming of the disability sector, is further reflected in a variety of government initiatives including the very establishment

of the Department of Women, Children and Persons with Disabilities. Government is also working towards a Women Empowerment and Gender Equality Bill, to monitor and evaluate compliance to disability considerations in all programs of government and the private sector. These intervention processes are part of a vision and mission to integrate gender equity measures into the mainstream South African plan of action.

However, despite these measures that have been undertaken - and are being implemented - people with disabilities still face extreme social, economic and political levels of inequality and discrimination, contributing to their underdevelopment, marginalization, unequal access to resources and a gross lack of service provision.

It is for this reason, and with our clear understanding of the great limitations faced by this sector, particularly its women folk, that all South Africans ought to come together in celebration when people with disabilities rise to demonstrate their resolve, selfless sacrifice and active leadership in matters that concern their own empowerment; when they show capacity, courage, devotion and sense of personal responsibility in determining the direction of their own destinies; defining, carving and exploiting their own self-generated opportunities, and registering an indelible mark of contribution and excellence in achieving their set goals, and those of others, despite all odds. It is for us, as a caring society, to acknowledge and respect this mighty milestone; for it demonstrates to all of us the power and strength of a resilient soul – its sheer and amazing desire to break through any possible limitations – their ability to dream the impossible dream and then turn it into a possible and tangible reality – the mighty complexities of deep reflections, yet depicted in the simplicity of well-defined discipline, to believe that prison bars are open windows where the undying flame of spirit can, does and will always shine through.

August is Woman's Month. As people of the Republic of South Africa, and with humble respect to the values of humanity enshrined in our Constitution, we should all rise to recognize and pay TRIBUTES to all women with disabilities that have taught us and our children that 'through the trying dark clouds of struggle, the horizon always shines a bright ray of a promised glory!.

MANQOBA T. MNGADI
Academic & Disability Activist
(1970 - 2014)



FINALIST	TRIBUTES CATEGORY	PRESENTING COMPANY
Ms Tabisa Nomnganga	Business	Orchida Florist
Mrs Mpho Radebe	Human Resource Development	The Alfred NZO District Municipality
Ms Veronica Baloyi	Public Sector	The Natal Witness
Ms Ngwanakopi Ramushu	Disabled People Organisation	The National Department Of Social Development
Ms Lender Malope	Sport & Recreation	Mnambithi Municipality
Ms Phumeza Momoza	Participation in Policy Development	Msunduzi Municipality
Ms Barbara Watt	Community Development	The Adapt IT Group
Ms Joyce Meso Sibeko	Older Person With a Disability	University of Zululand
Ms Saffura Khan	Leadership	The KZN First Lady & Mayor Of Uthungulu District Municipality
Ms Candice Morgan	Communications/Information Technology	The KZN Film Commission
Ms Vicky Fourie	Creative Arts	1 KZNTV
Ms Marlene Le Roux	Women With Disabilities in Management	Thisability Newspaper
Dr Cathy Makobe-Chiloane	Mother of Child	The KZN Department Of Social Development
Ms Hlengiwe Dladla	Economic Empowerment	Ethekwini Municipality
Ms Anne-Marie Robb	Disabled Women's Rights	SAPA KZN
Ms Kgosatsana Sithole	Girl-child	The KZN Department Of Education
Ms Khanyisile Mafuleka	Adult Basic Education and Basic Training	The Durban Chamber Of Commerce
Ms Vanessa Dos Santos	Lifetime Achievement in Disability Rights	ABI
Ms Ramla Said Omar Mohamed	TRIBUTES International Award	The Premier Of KwaZulu-Natal
Ms Majorie January	Post Humous	The National Department Of Social Development

