**Attention: News Editors, Assignment Editors & Journalists**

**Date: 18 March 2014**

**Top Achievers Awarded**

Mbombela - Culture, Sport and Recreation MEC Hon Sibongile Manana honoured artists, sports teams, cultural groups and musicians who performed exceptionally well and represented the Province well both on national and international stages during an awards ceremony held at the Municipal Palour, Municipal Offices Steve Tshwete Municipality on Friday, March 14, 2014.

Certificates of appreciation were awarded to Musa Sukwene who won season 9 of the SA Idols competition, Sicelo Moya who won the award for best Worship song at the Crown Gospel Awards, Daniye Primary School for scooping top honours in the category of Best Development School of the year at the 2013 SA Sports Awards and Ikwekwezi’s Ithungelwa Ebandla for taking the Best Cultural Talk Show award at the 2013 SATMA awards. The IsiNdebele talk show was honoured for its contribution in language promotion and transformation in the South African media landscape.

Saaiplaas Boys and Make Shelangubo who also took awards home during the 2013 SATMA awards were appreciated by the MEC for a job well done in showcasing Mpumalanga’s talent and putting SiSwati and IsiNdebele music on the map. Pretty Yende, now based in Italy was also amongst the musicians who were honoured by the MEC for representing not only Mpumalanga but South Africa well on world stages. She received the highest honour when President Zuma awarded her with the order of Ikhamanga in 2013.

Mpumalanga Black aces and the Puma’s who now play in the Currie Cup Premier Division, were also amongst the recipients of awards, they were appreciated for their sterling performance in SA sports.

MEC Manana expressed her gratitude to all the recipients of the awards and appreciated them for being great role models for young people who aspire to one day become stars in music, sport or entertainment. She went on to encourage them saying that the evening is an indication that their talents, efforts and hard work do not go unnoticed but is truly appreciated by Provincial government and the community at large.

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