***Press Release***

Attention: News Editors, Assignment Editors & Journalists

Date: 7 April 2014

**Gospel festival for the people by the people**

MBOMBELA– There is no better place to start the Easter Holidays than at the Govan Mbeki Arts and Culture Gospel Festival on April 12 in Secunda, starting at 18:00.

The town will come alive with the hosting of a groundbreaking gospel festival at Graceland Casino Arena. The event is the brainchild of the Govan Mbeki Arts and Culture Forum and it is aimed at raising funds and profile of creative practitioners within the Govan Mbeki municipal area.

Apart from the headline act, Sfiso Ncwane, the lineup is made up entirely of local singers in order to give them an opportunity to showcase their talents and grow as artists. The line up includes Zoliswa Delihlazo, Mapule Molefe, Heartout Network, Sweet Melody Boyd Choir, Emba Sweet Melodies, Qabso Mass Choir, Kinross Spiritual Group, Mapule, Barunyoa St Moses and Power of Praise.

Ncwane, who is behind the hit *Kulungile Baba*, will share the stage with the local artists and impart his knowledge on how to make it big in the gospel industry. Entrance is R150 and tickets are available at Computicket outlets nationwide.

The Govan Mbeki Arts and Culture Forum is a structure launched by the department of Culture, Sport and Recreation to develop and promote and also raise funds for arts and culture projects in the area. “We are delighted as a department that the Govan Mbeki Arts and Culture Forum is doing something to take arts and culture forward in the area, “ says departmental spokesperson, Ms Sibongile Nkosi.

The department has worked with 18 municipalities in the province to establish these structures and currently they exist in all municipalities, which augurs well for the development and promotion of the creative industry. Arts and Culture forums are established as part of the department’s mandate to develop local artists in the creative industry.

“The Govan Mbeki Arts and Culture Forum Gospel Festival is the starting of many exciting events by forums around the province, “ concludes Nkosi.

The media is invited and the event is scheduled as follows:

**Date :** Saturday, 12 April 2014

**Venue :**  Graceland Arena, Secunda

**Time :** 18:00

**Enquiries: Ms Sibongile Nkosi on 082 492 4886 or Ms Lebo Molomo (Chairperson of Govan Mbeki Arts and Culture Forum) 0835985209.**