

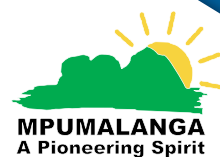
Tibuya Emasisweni

*Gold Panning
Special Edition*



the dcsr

Department of
Culture, Sport & Recreation
Mpumalanga Province



MPUMALANGA
A Pioneering Spirit

Contents

2. **Team South Africa shines at the World Gold Panning Championships**
3. **Team South Africa flies the flag high in Poland**
4. **Poland dances to Mabrrr's Vulindlela**
5. **Some of the best moments of the 2011 World Gold Panning Championships in pictures**
7. ***Wozani* e-Pilgrim's Rest - MEC Manana**
8. **Dance moves galore during SA Night**
9. **Gold panning is ayoba - former football star**

Team South Africa shines at the World Gold Panning Championships

South Africa has won the respect of the gold panning fraternity, following a gutsy performance at the world championships in Poland recently.

Team South Africa had a wonderful run in the tournament, which was held from August 22 to 28 at the 800-year-old town of Zlotoryja.

The team was unfortunate not to make a clean sweep at the finals after dominating proceedings in the preliminary rounds. Six local panners, Sanjay Singh, Riaan van Heerden, Elna Gundry, Sendra Mthuke, Steve Barrow and Bright Malatjie made it to the finals of individual events. The team also had a strong presence in the juniors. Tracy Msibi, Bridgette Mashilane, Primrose Mohlala and Diaan van Heerden qualified for the juniors' final.

It did not end there, as the team was well represented in the team

category, with the Cheetahs, the Zebras and the Lions contesting the five-member final.

Team South Africa's good run at the championships elicited praise from Culture, Sport and Recreation MEC, Ms Sibongile Manana. "We are extremely proud of the men and women who represented the country well at the World Gold Panning Championships. They gave it their all in different categories," says MEC Manana, whose province will host the 2012 World Gold Panning Championships in the historic mining town of Pilgrim's Rest.

The complete results were as follows: In proficient men, Singh finished 20th and van Heerden 24th. In proficient women, Gundry finished 17th and Mthuke 25th. In classic pan klondike, Barrow finished 30th and Malatjie 11th. In classic pan batea, Barrow came in 25th. In juniors, Msibi finished

8th, Mashilane 14th, Mohlala and van Heerden finished 17th and 21st respectively.

In five-member team, the Lions finished 11th, while the Cheetahs and the Zebras finished 25th and 28th respectively.

Gold Panning is a recreational activity where participants receive a gold pan and a bucket full of sand in which a specific number of gold nuggets are hidden. Participants then enter into water pools and put the sand from the buckets into their pans and start the process of finding the hidden nuggets and the winner will be the participant that finds the most nuggets in the shortest time.

The number of nuggets that are put in the buckets full of sand is not disclosed to participants and it's only the chief judge that knows how many nuggets are in the buckets and participants are penalized for lost nuggets.



Riaan van Heerden acknowledges the support of Team SA ahead of the proficient men finals.



Primrose Mohlala in action in the juniors' finals.

Team South Africa flies the flag high in Poland

There was something special about the makeup of Team South Africa that was on national duty at the 2011 World Gold Panning Championships held recently in Zlotoryja, Poland.

It had all the ingredients of a great team – experience, youth, swagger, camaraderie and balance. One could hardly find fault about the composition of the men and women who represented the country at the world championships.

The team had the x-factor. It had a nice blend of experience and youth. This made it one of the strongest teams at the championships. The team looked strong on paper and it reflected on its performance throughout the seven-day tournament. This was inevitable particularly with the likes of Sendra Mthuke, Elna Gundry, Danie Brink, Surprise Thulelo and Bright Malatjie

in its ranks. So were the other participants in the squad who had wealth of experience behind them.

The class of 2011 was also not short on young talent as demonstrated by the number of local panners who qualified for the juniors' finals. Team South Africa had four finalists, Tracy Msibi, Bridgette Mashilane, Primrose Mohlala and Riaan van Heerden. The youngsters will surely play a major role in the national gold panning setup in years to come.

It was these qualities which made the team to stand head and shoulders above the rest of the other 27 participating countries at the 35th World Gold Panning Championships. Team South Africa members were a cut above the rest in and off the panning dams, which made the team a marvel to watch and follow at the world championships.



Elna Gundry psyching herself up for the proficient women finals.



Essie Mogane, Rene Reinders and Joyce Mashego in colourful headgears.

Poland dances to Mabrrr's Vulindlela

They came, sang, danced and conquered. That's how one can best describe the performance of the South African cultural ensemble at the 2011 World Gold Panning Championships.

The cultural ensemble, which was made up of Gapahariya, Soldeo Gloria and KC Shine cultural groups, performed at the South African Presentation Night on August 25 in Zlotoryja, Poland. The presentation night was organised to showcase South Africa's readiness to host the 2012 World Gold Panning Championships in the historic mining town of Pilgrim's Rest from October 1 to 7.

Also, the event gave the gold panning community a glimpse of what to expect in the country in a year's time outside of the sport and this task was left on the capable hands of Gapahariya, Soldeo and KC Shine to sell the 2012 tournament to the world the only way South

Africans can – through song and dance. The voices were melodic, the moves were well choreographed and the performance mesmerising. In no time, the 500-plus crowd that gathered for the presentation were soon getting down to the sounds of Brenda Fassie's Vulindlela.

What was left after that show was for Culture, Sport and Recreation MEC Sibongile Manana to say, "The 2012 World Gold Panning Championships in Pilgrim's Rest will be a fun-filled event. It will truly be a South African spectacle that will blow all of you away. I want to thank all the panners for joining us this evening and once more I extend a public invitation to gold panners from all over the world and supporters to come to South Africa in 2012. Wozani!"

Earlier, Team South Africa was the toast of the opening ceremony on August 22. The team's colourful attire and traditional garb won them

many admirers during the street parade in Zlotoryja. Locals and panners alike were blown away by the renditions of Shosholozza and Impi.



Some of the best moments of the 2011 World



World Gold Panning Championships in pictures



Wozani e-Pilgrim's Rest - MEC Manana

South Africa's participation in the 2011 World Gold Panning Championships in Poland has been a huge success.

Team South Africa was led by MEC for Culture, Sport and Recreation, Ms Sibongile Manana who collected the hosts' flag in preparation for next year's championships which will be held in Pilgrim's Rest. MEC Manana collected the flag from the Mayor of Zlotoryja, Mr Ireneusz Jurawski, whose town hosted this year's championships.

She also used the sojourn to glean best practices that Mpumalanga can employ next year to ensure that it hosts the best world gold panning championships and she also offered moral support to Team South Africa which was fighting for supremacy against 27 other countries including, Australia, Austria, Belgium, Brazil, Canada, Czech Republic, Finland, France, Germany, Great Britain, Italy, Japan, Holland, New Zealand, Norway, Poland, Slovakia, Spain, Sweden and Switzerland.

MEC Manana encouraged members of Team South Africa to represent the country with honour and distinction in the tournament and not be fazed by the competition.

She was also one of the dignitaries at the prize giving ceremony of the 2011 championships. Others were the President of World Gold Panning Association, Mr Arturo Ramela and Mayor Jurawski.

MEC Manana who was together with the Head of Department for Culture, Sport and Recreation, Ms Sindi Mjwara, also used the championships to invite the international community to come and participate in droves in the 2012 championships that will be held in South Africa.

"The 2012 championships in South Africa will be a fun-filled event and it will be a truly South African spectacle that will blow all of you away," MEC Manana said.

She thanked the leaders of World Gold Panning Association for having chosen South Africa to host the 2012 championships and added that they must rest assured that South Africans are eagerly waiting to host panners from the rest of the world.

"We also thank Poland for hosting us this year and we want to see all our hosts in Pilgrim's Rest next year," MEC Manana said.

While in Poland, MEC Manana was taken to a tour of Zlotoryja town by Mayor Jurawski. The town was founded in 1211 after the discovery of gold. The modern Zlotoryja has a population of 16 000 and the district population stands at 48 000.



Mayor of Zlotoryja, Mr Ireneusz Jurawski hands over the hosts' flag to MEC Sibongile Manana.



MEC Sibongile Manana hands over a token of appreciation to an Italian delegate.

Dance moves galore during SA Night



Gold panning is ayoba - former football star

At 24 years of age, Bright Malatjie is at the peak of his gold panning career and he has a bright future ahead of him in the sport.

Malatjie was one of the panners who represented South Africa at the 35th World Gold Panning Championships held in Zlotoryja, Poland in August 2011. The championships represented the coming of age for the youngster. He was a marvel to watch throughout the tournament with his easy and yet effective panning style, which saw him reach the finals of the classic pan klondike and the five-member team. He fell in the semi-finals of the proficient men. Prior to that, he was one of the favourites to annex a medal in the hotly contested category. However, it was not to be because he missed out on a place in the finals by the smallest of margins.

Despite his failure to qualify for the proficient men's finals, the Pilgrim's Rest native had a pretty good tournament in anyone's standards. In fact, he was one of the brightest stars of the team together with the likes of Steve Barrow, Sanjay Singh, Sendra

Mthuke and Elna Gundry. His good showing at the championships attracted a large following from the locals and fellow panners alike.

He was not surprised at all by the way things panned out in Zlotoryja because it was just rewards for his hard work. He spent five hours a day for weeks preparing for the championships and he is happy about the end results, although he could have been happier with a gold medal dangling around his neck.

Nevertheless, his progression in the sport is remarkable considering that he quit football in 2000 after suffering a litany of injuries. One of his friends, Lancelot Mashego suggested he tried gold panning. Ten years on, he is happy he made the switch because his new sport has opened new vistas and he has not sustained any injury in that period.

"I enjoy gold panning a lot because it is safe," says Malatjie, whose dream is to start a gold panning club. It won't be a problem to find a following especially if he maintains his good form in the coming years.



Bright Malatjie, far left, leads the Five Person Team at the World Gold Panning Championships.

Vision

Excel in culture, sport and information services in the province and the country as a whole

Mission

To develop, support and promote cultural, sporting and information excellence through participation of our stakeholders

Strategic Goals

- Improving the quality of life by maintaining healthy minds and bodies through active participation in sport, recreation, arts and culture
- Acknowledging cultural diversity and promoting unity by affirming, conserving and celebrating people's way of life while striving for moral renewal in our society
- Creating a learning culture to empower people to make informed decisions
- Supporting socio-economic development by establishing Sport and Culture as an economic investment
- Ensuring effective investment in resources and systems for the delivery of quality services

Departmental Values

Fairness

Commitment

Honesty, Integrity and Sincerity

Trust

Loyalty

Interdependence and Team Spirit

Acceptance of roles, each other, the past and a common future

Common Purpose/Common Good

Client orientation and customer focus

**For more information on Gold Panning contact
Pilgrim's Rest Museum on: 013 768 1471**

Special Edition of the World Gold Panning Championships 2011- Poland

