

Outspoken Initiative: SAPS and CPF assist

'Outspoken youth' enjoy 16 June

ASIPHE NOMBEWU

The Outspoken Initiative (OYI) celebrated June 16 by inviting the youth around the Gugulethu area and local artists like Driemanskop on Sunday.

The event took place at the Gugulethu sports Complex on Sunday afternoon in memory of the generation of 1976. Gracing the event were Gugulethu station commander Brigadier Nomthandazo Mvoto and CPF chairperson Ernest Matsolo.

"Monday the group of motivated young people met with us and asked for assistance regarding the day," he said.

Matsolo said it was their pleasure to help and assist such an inspiring group of people.

"We came today to show them love and support, we think programmes like these will lower the use of drugs and gangsterism in our communities."

Vincent Ntunja speaking on behalf of

(OYI) said the day for them was not all about history: "We have organised soccer and basketball clubs to be part of this initiative."

The audience was captivated by a variety of Cape Town artists including Driemanskop, Kanyi, III Skills, The Ruffest and chronic clan.

A line up of DJs entertained the crowd, which kept audience members dancing and begging for more.

Brigadier Nomthandazo Mvoto said young people who do good in their communities make their work so much easier.

"We welcome such events with open arms, I believe they will make a huge difference in the lives of people."

She added by saying they are fortunate to have a Community Police forum (CPF) that takes the forefront.

The audience was treated with delicious soup on the day and live music to warm them up.



Sports which took place on the day aimed at entertaining the youth.

PHOTO: MBONGISENI MASEKO

Africa Unite offers a fascinating glimpse of Tanzania

OWN CORRESPONDENT

In recognition of Africa Day, Africa Unite (AU) hosted an event recently, celebrating East African culture, specifically Tanzanian culture, in the Gugulethu Sports Complex.

The event was organised in conjunction with the Swahili lessons that are provided twice a week at AU. Some 37 individuals attended the event including students of the

Swahili class, friends of Africa Unite, and members of the community. The event focused on traditional Tanzanian food, dress, and customs and raised general awareness of the growing Swahili community within South Africa.

After quickly introducing Africa Unite, the event started with an explanation of the importance of the Swahili lessons. The instructor of the lessons, Eddy, explained that

the vast majority of immigrants in South Africa are Swahili speaking, and that their language is one of the fastest growing on the continent.

Beyond the usefulness of Swahili, Eddy spoke of the need to eradicate ignorance by increasing the understanding of diverse languages and cultures in our communities. Only through this, he said, will we achieve deep social cohesion.

The floor was then given to the main speaker, Mansura Africa, who shared a glimpse into Tanzanian culture. She explained the diversity of the nation's culture that she experienced growing up in Tanzania, as her mother and father were from very different regions. Additionally, she explained the various global influences on Tanzanian culture and tradition, including Indian and Arab influences.

She spoke of traditions regarding funeral and marriage practices, as well as the role of families and children in society. Overall, Mansura described Tanzanian culture as vibrant and highly diverse, and the country itself as culturally and geographically beautiful.

She also spoke about the traditional dress that she, and several other Tanzanian women in attendance, wore on that day. She explained that most women wear Khangas, colourful, usually printed clothes worn around the head and waist. She continued by saying that regardless of hot weather, shorts or

short skirts are not typically worn by women. As a Muslim, she ordinarily wears a long black dress under her Khanga.

After speaking, Mansura took questions from the audience. Among other things, many seemed interested in the religious culture in Tanzania. Mansura explained that the majority of Tanzanians, about 75 %, are Muslims, but there are many Christians as well. She elaborated that despite very different religious customs, Muslims and Christians share in a similar Tanzanian culture.

Mansura and several other women prepared traditional Tanzanian dishes to share with those in attendance. Before the food was served, she taught everyone about the food they were about to eat. She explained that many dishes make use of local fruits and vegetables such as green bananas, sweet potatoes, and cassava leaves, and that much of their food is influenced by Indian and Arab cuisine. Further, she explained that coconut milk is an important ingredient in many dishes and is used for cooking in place of oils.

All the food was delicious, and Mansura's presentation of Tanzanian culture was very interesting. The event raised awareness of the cultural background of a neighbouring country, and moreover celebrated diversity.

It is Africa Unite's hope that the recognition and celebration of different cultures will promote unity and cohesion within South Africa's diverse communities.



Africa Unite hosted Africa Day, recently, celebrating East African culture, specifically Tanzanian culture, in the Gugulethu Sports Complex.

PHOTO: SUPPLIED

June 16 should be honoured

We have just celebrated June 16 this past weekend.

The only question I would love to pose to everyone reading this article today is the following.

Did it have any meaning? Did it serve its purpose? Is it right to be celebrating this day in the manner to which we have become accustomed? Do our kids get the idea about the significance of this very important day in our history? I raise all these questions based on what I am seeing every year when we celebrate this day.

I am not sure if it is me or is it a general feeling across the spectrum in the kind of way we are celebrating most of our sensitive public holidays. I am not going to go on analysing each and every holiday but will just concentrate on this specific one that involved the youth back then.

You know when the 76 uprising broke out I was in Sub A. I think in today's lingo it is referred to as Grade 1. I just remember seeing lots of people shouting Black Power and there was anarchy everywhere. At that stage we did not know what was going on and this com-



THOBILE'S TAKE
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motion really involved high school students. As well all know the main reason was to get better education and prevent the introduction of Afrikaans as a medium of teaching or instruction, simple. This event marked the biggest turning point in our country's education system and history.

Lives were lost. Futures were changed or shattered. Families were torn apart. Sacrifices were made all in the name of better education. What also came out during this whole struggle was the fact that "amaComrades" realised that alcohol was destroying many households and was a delaying factor so they started burning down bottle stores and closing down shebeens sending out a clear message that students and alcohol do not go together. Well now 37 years later the opposite is happening in our societies in that June 16 is associated with binge drinking. You know the idea of seeing people both young and old wearing

school uniform on the day is appreciated and I commend it. What I am seeing now is the association of this with drinking. I am sure you have picked up this trend whereby you see old people in school uniform sloshed or behaving in a manner that is unbecoming. We see drinking wells promoting this trend by offering patrons who are wearing school uniforms free access to booze.

We are contradicting ourselves in the sense that we are faced with unruly kids, kids who are worshipping booze and yet we see images like these during June 16.

I would like to appeal to the masses out there to bring back the respect and honour for this day.

We should be educating our kids about its significance and not be part of its downfall. I know there are still people from that age who can still play their part in educating the young minds about this day before we completely lose it.

June 16 will forever be part of our history and we should cherish and honour those who gave their lives for it.

Viva June 16 kulondawo! Well let me end off by wishing tat' uMandela and everyone of his age group good health.

Agang 'will bring votes'

Agang SA will consider a coalition with parties which acknowledge the "deep, psychic wounds" of racism, its leader Mamphela Ramphele said.

"The Democratic Alliance and I disagreed, not because they have a different policy framework... but (because) they don't understand just that," she told the Cape Town Press Club.

"(It is) this issue that it doesn't matter how hard we try. The scars of racism in this country have not completely healed."

She believed it was necessary to launch Agang SA as a political party, despite fears that it would divide the opposition.

She said there was a lesson to be drawn from the results of the 2009 general elections, in which 41 % of eligible voters did not vote.

"That's a big statement of a lack of confidence within existing political parties."

"Unfortunately, there was a view that the best way forward from where the DA people were sitting was a co-operation model... and that would not be attractive to the huge pool of non-voters."

Ramphele laughed when asked whether her party would have a youth league.