

iNqolobane YamaGugu

A PUBLICATION OF AMAFA AKWAZULU NATALI

Volume 1 , Issue 2

Second Quarter, 2014



AMAFA AKWAZULU NATALI RECEIVES A CLEAN AUDIT

On behalf of the Council of Amafa Akwazulu Natali, I am pleased to announce that for the third year in a row, Amafa has received a clean audit report.

In terms of the PFMA, an external audit is required to be carried out by the Auditor General on an annual basis. The Auditor General will satisfy itself mainly regarding the following:

- That the Annual Financial Statements have been prepared in accordance with Generally Recognised Accounting Practices
- That valid documentation exists to support the figures presented on the annual financial statements
- That the activities carried out by Amafa were in terms of its Annual Performance Plan
- Physical inspection that the key performance indicators were achieved
- Compliance with Policies and Procedures
- That Amafa was fully compliant regarding all aspects surrounding Payroll
- That the Supply Chain Management process was followed accordingly
- The existence of all assets and the proper maintenance thereof
- Compliance with all relevant Legislation
- There are other areas that the Auditor General will focus on but above are the main aspects

In order to achieve a clean audit and to maintain a clean audit, all staff and Council members need to work together and contribute towards the common goal. As there are different areas of focus for the Auditors, it is not only the effort of Amafa's Finance Team that enables Amafa to obtain a clean audit, it is a joint effort by all staff and Council members.

I therefore commend staff and Council members for their efforts over the past three years. The culmination of this is a consistent clean audit and the creation of a very good name for Amafa.

Akash Rampersad
Chief Financial Officer

AMAFA MEETS THE KZN LEGISLATURE'S FINANCE PORTFOLIO COMMITTEE

The Amafa delegation of Councillors RG Reddy, Themba Blose, ACEO Lindi Msomi, CFO Akash Rampersad and officials were warmly received by the MPL's. They were part of the Office of the Premier's department. Chairperson of the Finance Portfolio Committee, Siphon 'KK' Nkosi warned all departments against over-spending as well as under-spending and a failure to adhere to the provincial cost cutting measures.

The KwaZulu-Natal Finance Portfolio Committee has warned provincial government departments that under-spending will not be tolerated as it deprives the public of service delivery.

"We are going to have no tolerance on the issues related to under expenditure because we are convinced that it robs our people of service delivery. Under expenditure indicates that there is no forward planning. We are not going to understand anything in relation to over expenditure," says Nkosi.

Several MPL's noted that Amafa's budget was small, and 'that it was just keeping its nose above water.' However, Amafa's work as custodians of heritage in KZN was appreciated, and MPL's requested that it should adopt an inclusive approach to heritage conservation and protection and all communities in the province should be catered for.



The San inhabited the Drakenberg and other parts of South Africa from the Stone Age until the nineteenth century. Living under sandstone overhangs or in temporary grass shelters, they left behind some of the finest examples of rock art in the world.



A painting of a Zulu warrior perched on Islandwana Mountain.



The re-actment of the Battle of Islandwana on 22 January 2014.



An image of the new multi-million rand Islandwana Centre for Peace and Understanding.



A side view of the new Centre.

ISLANDWANA—RE-ENGINEERING THE PAST

I heard and read so much of Islandwana and Rorkes Drift that it was an indeed a life-changing experience when I trod on the battlefield, and felt the sound of the feet of the Zulu warriors and heard gun shots of the British soldiers. The first time I walked on the hallowed ground of the battle site was at the 135th anniversary of the Battle of Islandwana on 22 January 2014, and witnessed the re-actment of the battle. The Dundee Diehards and the Zulu regiments put on a graphic display of the battle, and the assembled dignitaries and visitors watched in awe as the pincer movement of the warriors decimated the British forces.

The second time I visited Islandwana was on 17 July 2014 to meet with the Amafa staff, and to listen to their problems and challenges. I visited St Vincent Church and the Interpretative Centre, and in a sombre moment, tried to visualize the tactical approach and strategy that was employed so many years ago. But, what struck me most was the futility of war, and sad loss of lives on both sides, the British troops and the Zulu warriors.



The cairns are a stark reminder of the battlefield at Islandwana

During the anniversary celebrations, it was confirmed that a new multi-million rand centre will be constructed by the Department of Arts and Culture to honour those who fell during the war, and as a centre of peace and understanding about the futility of war. It would serve a major tourism initiative and would be a boon for poor community that live around it.



Set into the stone base of the Isandlwana memorial are four unique bronze headrests, one each for the Zulu regiments that fought at the battle. Four bronze headrests reinforce the idea of final rest, while the bronze necklace of thorns echoes the bravery necklace given by the King. It also suggests izimpondo zenkomo, the horns of the bull, the encircling tactics perfected by King Shaka and used with such skill and precision at Isandlwana.

R.G. REDDY (Councillor)

Amafa Embraces the Online Environment :Virtual Museum and Paperless Council

Amafa's KwaZulu Cultural Museum has become one of the first museums in South Africa to allow visitors to see the museum from the comfort of their own homes. The online museum, offering virtual walkabouts with full 360 degree views went live in April 2014. The virtual museum also offers detailed information, designed specifically to assist school children, on around 100 of the exhibition items, divided into easy to use categories.

Following the instructions of the Provincial Treasury, to limit spending, through amongst other things, cutting down on printing, the Amafa Council has gone "Paperless". As of July 2014 all Council documents for discussion at meetings, are provided only in digital format. All councillors were issued with notebook computers, while a paperless portal where councillors may log in and download the latest document packs, was created. Council and subcommittee agenda packs ran to around 15000 pages per year. The printing and paper cost, as well as the staff costs attached to collating and binding around 240 separate agendas throughout the year, is estimated at around R35000 per year. The hardware and cost of implementation will be recovered in around one year, after which the savings will be directed towards heritage work.

First phase of Rorkes Drift Shiyane revamp completed.

The Rorkes Drift Shiyane Battlefield has had a facelift. During the 2013/14 year Amafa commenced work on a new entrance gate, reception building and decorative palisade along the road boundary. The Azaria Mbatha Exhibition hall was also completed. Azaria Mbatha is a well known international artist, now living in Sweden, who was trained at the Evangelical Lutheran Church (ELC) Rorkes Drift Art and Craft Centre in the 1960's. Because of

Because of this additional significance to the site, Amafa and the ELC now partner in managing the site, bringing this extra artistic dimension to life over the sombre battlefield setting. The ELC Craft Centre still produces artwork, mainly in the form of its well known tapestries and ceramics, and these are sold via a shop facility, made available by Amafa at no cost. Amafa is also assisting local tour guide, Thulani Khuzwayo and his partner in creating a sustainable restaurant and guiding business at Rorkes Drift. During 2014 Amafa will conclude its upgrade to the site, by landscaping a network of wheelchair-friendly paths along a self guided trail.

Amafa Council listens to Staff.

On 17 July 2014, the Amafa Council concluded a series of meetings with Amafa staff, at which it listened to the concerns of staff. The process commenced in December 2013, when the Council undertook to visit each Amafa centre to acquaint themselves with the work of staff, and the problems that staff may be encountering.

The Council was very impressed by the non-confrontational manner in which staff had presented their problems. While many of the issues related to salary issues that stem from the current position of Amafa as a public entity, some of the issues were could be quickly solved.

Council's Human Resources Committee instructed management to respond by providing, where necessary, information, to clarify issues, and also to address so called "low hanging fruit" - those issues that could be dealt with immediately. This included finding funds to provide staff with additional workplace clothing. The ACEO has produced a schedule detailing the status of each issue raised by staff, which will be communicated to staff representatives.

James van Vuuren
Deputy Director

Snippets

Meeting with the Office of the Premier

The Amafa Council is scheduled to meet with the Office of the Premier to discuss outstanding matters that include, among other things, the Turnaround Strategy, Re-structuring of Amafa, Filling in of vacant posts, additional funding, the debate over Amafa's status as a public entity vis-à-vis part of the public service.

The Office of the Premier (Support Services) has acknowledged the need for the meeting, and a date will be arranged shortly.

South African Heritage Resource Agency

A meeting was held on 10 February 2014 with the South African Heritage Resource Agency to formalize an agreement that would allow SAHRA to transfer their heritage assets to Amafa.

The following properties will be transferred:

Blarney Cottage, Richmond ; Piet Retief Monument, Vryheid ; Portion of Old Fort, Durban ; Birthplace of Gen. Louis Botha ; Spienkop Battlefield, Ladysmith and Memorial at Elandslaagte, Klip River District. This would add value to the current heritage assets held by Amafa.

KZN Provincial Forum on Heritage

When the Office of the Premier establishes all 10 District and one Metro Heritage Forums, delegates from these structures would constitute a KZN Provincial Heritage Forum. It is at this level that there will possibly be a coordinating platform that would look at the value-add of heritage and culture as drivers of tourism. This would allow the Department of Economic Development and Tourism, Department of Co-operative Governance & Traditional Affairs, Department of Agriculture and other state institutions to work together in promoting heritage.



Acknowledgements

The Editorial Team acknowledges the contribution of a number of sources for this newsletter. A special thanks to CFO Akash Rampersad and Deputy Director, James van Vuuren, The South African Rock Art Museum, the Daily News, the Witness, Department of Arts and Culture and Amafa Staff.

R.G. REDDY (Editor)

Deputy Director invited to Rock Art Seminar in Australia

It was a notable honour for Amafa when Dr Neville Agnew, from the Getty Conservation Institute (USA) has invited Mrs Annie Radford to represent the province of KwaZulu-Natal in her capacity as Deputy Director: Research, Compliance & Professional Services, the person responsible for the management of the rock art in the MDP WHS and as member of the Cultural Working Group MTDP.

The Southern African Rock Art Project has been a collaborative program of the Getty Conservation Institute since 2005. The main aim of the program is to create momentum for rock art preservation, conservation, accessibility and management. The emphasis has been on building capacity amongst heritage managers and tourist guides at world heritage sites, and in national and provincial parks with rock art in Southern Africa.

The program has offered training in the development of rock art management plans, documentation, tourist guiding, and site interpretation and presentation. As a result, it has built up a valuable network of resources, site managers and staff members responsible for rock art conservation and management in the region. This included the training and sponsoring the training in rock art management of several past and present Amafa staff members.

In 2013 Mrs Radford organised and hosted a delegation of Australian delegates brought to South Africa by the Getty Conservation Institute as part of the South Africa-Australia program of rock art management and conservation.

The Institute will cover all expenses in Australia. The only cost to Amafa will be the flights to and from Darwin, Australia, the nearest city to Kakadu National Park where the workshop will be hosted. Delegates will interact with Aboriginal owners of the Park, Park official and Australian counterparts in rock art management and conservation.

The purpose of the workshop/seminar is to produce a high level policy document relevant to both Southern Africa and Australia. This "White Paper" could then be used by decision makers to guide planning, budgeting and conservation/management related to rock art. This document will also focus on communities and rock art management.

Modern practises aims to conserve rock art within its natural context because many rock art sites are still being used by descendants of Late Iron Age Agricultural communities and San descendants today as living heritage destinations since sites are linked with myths and legends and sometimes rituals are even carried out at these sites.

Modern management theory is clear that different layers of values are embedded in rock art, comprising not only the art's aesthetical and academic or research values, but also of the site's spiritual and immaterial values that must be respected. In the past rock art was conserved without any community participation, but today communities should act as stakeholders and decision-makers.

Seven sites in KwaZulu-Natal have been declared Provincial Heritage Landmarks.

Did you know that in 2012 the following heritage sites were identified by the Amafa Council:

The Himeville Magistrate's Residency, Nhlankakazi Holy Mountain, Ekuphakameni Village, Ebuhleni Village all in Inanda, Aloe Creek, near Ladysmith, the Mandela Capture Site, outside Howick, and the old Inanda Surgery and Post Office. This means that they may not be altered or interfered with without Amafa's permission.

The Himeville Magistrate's Residency, built during 1902-1903, was already protected and it was declared a National Monument in 1991.

The site is renowned for its eucalyptus trees, the summer home to Amur falcons (formerly known as the Eastern and Western European Red-Footed Kestrel) that migrate in their thousands each year from Siberia, Mongolia and Northern China, to roost in the trees.



The Magistrates Residency in Himeville is renowned for its eucalyptus trees.

The Nhlankakazi Holy Mountain contains historic and contemporary Shembe church buildings. It is the burial site of the church's founding leaders and it is where the church's "holy vessels" were stored.

The Ebuhleni Village, which is the headquarters of the largest section of the Shembe Church is used for annual pilgrimages and sacred dance, where up to a million followers gather.

The Aloe Creek site is significant for its role in the Siege of Ladysmith and its association with individuals involved in the Anglo Boer War.

The old Inanda Surgery and Post Office buildings are on one of the oldest stations of the American Board Zulu Mission and represent the introduction of modern medicine and technology to an isolated rural population.



The Mandela Capture Site, is where, on August 5, 1962, Nelson Mandela was arrested which led to his lengthy imprisonment on Robben Island.

[Amafa invites communities to identify heritage sites so that they can be proclaimed and preserved.](#)