



iNqolobane Yamagugu

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Amafa mourns the passing of Mr. Themba Blose

Tribute by Mr. R.G. Reddy, Councillor Amafa



Themba James Blose was a victim of a senseless hijacking in his beloved Lamontville; his body was thrown into a disused cemetery, and his assailants treated this 'rare human being' as an unwanted resource. Councillor Themba Blose was passionate about heritage matters, and his institutional memory was the guiding force of the new fledgling Amafa Council. He weighed his thoughts very carefully, and his submissions were succinct and precise. Indeed, he left a void in Amafa and as we struggle to come to terms with his loss, we understand his vision and insight for a transformational entity.

As chairperson of the Institutional Governance Committee, he provided thoughtful direction and guidance, and was the champion of the Amafa Turnaround Strategy. As a member of the Human Resource Committee, he brought years of experience and expertise to matters of labour peace, mediation and conciliation. He was the fulcrum around whom community participation and stakeholder consultation gathered momentum.

He qualified as an educator from Adam's College, and within a few years, he was seconded to the Department of Education and Training (DET) as a Regional Sports Organiser.

His stint as the acting principal at Lamontville High School during the turbulent eighties did much to restore the culture of teaching and learning. He also served at Hulett's as a Sports and Recreational Officer, before moving on to community development issues.

His consultancy focussed on Project Management, Community Safety Practice (Training of School Safety Committees, Community Safety Forums, Community Police Forums, Ward Safety Forums, and Neighbourhood Watch and Street Safety Committees). He participated in the UN Office for Child Justice and was the author of a seminal report on Reform Schools in South Africa and the Vukuzivikele Community Safety Manual.

He attended the Premier's Heritage Imbizo in Marburg, Port Shepstone, the KZN Provincial Legislature's Portfolio Committee hearings and the Commemoration of the Battle of Islandwana as well as the launch of the Mary Stainbank Memorial Gallery at Stainbank Nature Reserve. He was well informed and articulate in a variety of matters.

His telling contribution was the review of the rights of the original inhabitants of the Emakosini Valley, his rejection of the policy of eviction or force removal of people, and the value of integrating the people into Amafa projects.

I will miss him as a friend, colleague and as a resource person without peer.

Hamba kahle, Themba: your contributions will remain the bedrock of a transformed Amafa Council going forward!

HIGHLIGHTS OF THE ROCK ART CONSERVATION EXCHANGE PROGRAMME VISIT TO AUSTRALIA

by Annie van de Venter-Radford

Annie van de Venter-Radford, Deputy Director: Research, Professional Services & Compliance, attended an international rock art workshop in Kakadu National Park, Australia (13-25 August 2014). The workshop was organised and sponsored by the USA based Getty Conservation Institute and hosted by the staff of Kakadu National Park. The Getty Conservation Institute, based in California (USA), has been an advocate for advances in conservation practises worldwide. The Institute has had a number of programmes over the years specifically directed at improving techniques and approaches for the management and conservation of rock art. The workshop was the latest of a nearly decade long rock art management programme that the Institute sponsored. Between 2005 and 2011 the Institute organised annual rock art workshop under the SARAP (Southern African Rock Art Project) banner in SouthAfrica at Mapungubwe and Clanwilliam in collaboration with SANParks and the Living Landscape Project.

An Australian delegation visit South African from 12-26August 2014 and Amafa hosted them for a workshop during this visit. This year's exchange was of particular interest to Amafa as Kakadu National Park is, just like the Ukhahlamba Drakensberg Park, a World Heritage Site partly due to the outstanding rock art present. Kakadu is co-owned and managed by the various Aboriginal groups and representatives from these groups and other groups from elsewhere in Australia (e.g. Uluru & Jarru Peninsula) contributed to and attended the workshop. Other Australian delegates included academics, rock art managers, conservators and archaeologists employed by large mining companies such as Rio Tinto. South Africa was represented by myself, follow heritage managers, academics, site managers and a representative from the San (Bushman) community. There were also delegates from Argentina and Kenya.

I thoroughly enjoyed the interaction and the opportunity to expand my heritage networks through meeting enthusiastic people from elsewhere in the world. The aim of this workshop is to produce a comprehensive "white paper" and strategy document on rock art management. The 'weight' of the challenge of the strategy we propose will be certainly be made lighter by the collective and continued effort of the team involved. At present we are creating an outline for the main document. This document will have a general introduction, a summary of key values, principles, threats and issues, followed by a more detailed section on each of the four identified themes, which fleshes out the key elements of each. We are calling these 'the pillars'. This will be followed by a section on the way forward and on particular initiatives we should consider and in which, we hope, all state parties will be engaged.

UNDERSTANDING TAXES (OR AT LEAST TRYING TO.....)

Akash Rampersad

Although an understanding of the tax system may appear to be virtually impossible, there are a few basics, that when learnt, makes the system appear less daunting.

Firstly, it should be understood that you simply cannot escape tax. There are various forms of taxation but for now, we will focus on the one that affects each of us directly viz. income tax on individuals. The income tax cycle runs annually from 1 March to 28/9 February.

Also, ALL income by way of salary, bonuses and certain allowances are subjected to taxation at a rate dependent on the amount of income earned. There are six different rates at which tax is charged, the lowest being at 18% of an annual salary range between R 0.00 and R 174 550.00. The highest rate of tax is levied at 40% and is for annual income exceeding R 673 101.00. In addition to these rates, there is also a "relief" offered to the taxpayer which is referred to as a "tax rebate". For the 2015 tax year, the primary rebate (i.e. a rebate offered to tax payers who are under 65 years old) is R 12 726. Therefore, by virtue of this rebate, any taxpayer who would generate an annual income of LESS THAN R 70 700.00 will in fact not incur any tax as at the end of the tax cycle. The following table discloses a simple scenario of how tax is calculated (and the effects of the tax rebate):

	EMPLOYEE 1	EMPLOYEE 2	EMPLOYEE 3
ANNUAL TAXABLE INCOME	R 70 700.00	R 150 000.00	R 200 000.00
Tax rate	18 %	18 %	R 11 419 + 25% of the amount above R 174 550.00
Tax payable	R 12 726.00	R 27 000.00	R 37 781.50
Less Primary Rebate	(R 12 726.00)	(R 12 726.00)	(R 12 726.00)
Tax payable by /due to) you	R 0.00	R 14 274.00	R 25 055.50
Effective Tax Rate	0.00 %	9.52 %	12.53 %

(Please note that the above table is for example purposes only and does not take into account any tax reduction allowances and/or any tax already paid)

Upgrade to MMC Conference Facility Dudu Hlongwa

In May 2014. The Mgunundlovu Multimedia Centre upgraded its conference facility. This was done with an aim of enhancing the interior of the facility and also to attract as many users as possible. Large format prints of Nguni cattle from the Amafa-owned herd now adorn the walls of our conference room. Thanks to master photographer Harry Lock! The photo prints do not only entice visitors but Amafa staff as well. We have had numerous requests from staff, wanting to buy the photo prints for their homes

The upgrade has indeed attracted more users. From the time we have had the new decor, we Have had two full-house bookings. We predict More bookings from now on



The facility is now fully furnished and has space for 80-100 delegates. It is open to public for meetings, workshops and functions at a minimal Fee of R1000,00 per day. Unfortunately we don't cater for wedding ceremonies.

AZARIA MBATHA EXHIBITION - Enock Nxumalo PHO Isandlwana

As most people know, the battle of Rorkes Drift was fought between British soldiers and Zulu warriors in 1879, where the British defended the mission station in a battle that lasted for the whole night. Both sides fought bravely (on the British side 11 victoria crosses were awarded) Buildings that were used on the day of the battle are still standing to this very day. The mission station was founded by Swedish missionaries. After the Anglo-Zulu War, the missionaries established an art training centre at Rorkes Drift to train for fine art, pottery, prints Their work was so successful that their products were exhibited nationally, then internationally.

One of the artists was Azaria Mbatha (right), who's talent took him to Sweden, where he still lives. One of the buildings used by fine art students as dining room today keeps history alive, containing a mural by Azaria. Art produced from 1968 - 1982 is on display. The building was named after Azaria. At ELC Art and Craft Centre, pottery, printing and other art work is still produced by local people.

