



University of Fort Hare
Together in Excellence

Institutional Advancement

Volume 1, no 4

This Week @ FORT HARE



4 October 2019

This Week at UFH

UFH AND DHET LAUNCH BIGGEST STUDENT ACCOMMODATION PROJECT IN THE PUBLIC HIGHER EDUCATION SECTOR



Thursday 3rd October 2019 will go down as the most memorable day in the history of the University of Fort Hare.

This is because, on this day, the university launched its R400 million Student Village, Phase 2 student housing project on its Alice campus.

This magnificent event was attended by Mr Gwebs Qonde, Director-General (DG) in the Department of Higher Education and Training (DHET), representatives from the Development Bank of Southern Africa and the European Union, STAG (the developer), traditional leaders from the Rharhabe Royal House, student leadership representatives, university management and staff.

The development is the result of a partnership between the University of Fort Hare, the DHET, and the Development Bank of Southern Africa (DBSA). It was made possible by R122 million in infrastructure funding provided by DHET and a R28 million European Union-funded direct capital grant made available through the Infrastructure Investment Programme for South Africa (IIPSA).

Once completed, the Student Village will boast 2047 student beds, an addition to the 4800 beds that the university currently provides to students. It will also feature a new student centre and a block dedicated to postgraduates.

The formal launch marked a significant milestone in the 18-month construction project. Keys to the first completed block were also handed-over to the Vice-Chancellor. Delivering the keynote address, the DG said a dedicated team was assigned to execute the project.

“We are proud of the university’s achievement to successfully execute the biggest student housing project in the history of all 26 universities in the country.” Qonde said the project will address the lack of student accommodation which was a challenge confronting all higher education institutions in the country.

Professor Lindelwa Majova-Songca, who served as project leader internally, gave a detailed background of the project. She mentioned the challenges faced by the team, but also the joy of having reached this milestone.

Vice-Chancellor, Professor Sakhela Buhlungu said despite serious bouts of turbulence that the university went through in the past year, including student protests and the dissolution of the university council, the project team managed to pull through. He highlighted the roles played by the CFO (Mr Nielesh Ravjee), Prof Lindelwa Majova-Songca (previous Interim DVC-IS) and Dr Irma du Plessis (Director in the Office of the Vice-Chancellor) and thanked them for their commitment to seeing the project to fruition.

“They worked full speed despite the sideshows that were happening and that speaks to the resilience of this university.”

Messages of support were delivered by SRC President, Mr Alungile Kamtshe as well as by representatives from the EU, DBSA and STAG. The event concluded with a tour of the new student residences.

Halala Nokholeji!



UFH MOVES TO END GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE ON CAMPUS



As the country continues to grapple with the scourge of gender-based violence (GBV), the University of Fort Hare (UFH) has taken a zero-tolerance approach for GBV incidents on campus. The 103-year-old university has recently approved a GBV and Sexual Harassment policy whose main objective is to deal effectively and decisively with reported cases. To raise much needed awareness on the policy, the institution held its first ever GBV Day.

Academic activities were brought to a halt at midday on 30th September and 1st October at the Alice and East London campuses respectively, to observe GBV Day. Staff, students and various stakeholders gathered at the Sports Complex in Alice and the ABC Hall in East London to engage in robust dialogue and dissect the approved policy.

The events started with a moment of silence in honor of Uyinene Mrwetyana, Jesse Hess and UFH alumnus, Leighandre "Baby-Lee" Jegels - three young women who were brutally murdered during women's month, in August 2019.

Vice-chancellor, Professor Sakhela Buhlungu, informed the audience that unfortunately like any other institution that exists in society, the university has also experienced GBV incidents. "There have been reported cases of victims who were being threatened with being de-registered if they speak out. But those days are now over. Let this policy travel, let it be shared and let people discuss it," said Buhlungu.

Professor Pumla Dineo Gqola, Dean of Research and member of the Department of the Higher Education Ministerial Task Team on GBV said although the policy was cause for celebration, this was just the beginning.

"Yes we have done well, but this is step one. Our problems will not be fixed by a policy. The problem will only be dealt with when we fundamentally change the culture of hierarchy. We celebrate the fact that we finally have a sexual harassment policy at UFH, but this is only the beginning of what we should be doing. We need to break the silence about who the perpetrators are and stop pretending as if it doesn't exist," said Gqola

According to the Interim Registrar, Professor Patrick Osode, the university management has established an implementation task team to ensure the policy is implemented effectively. "The team will oversee the establishment of a GBV unit on all three campuses. The unit will have trained reporting officers who are equipped with the care, knowledge and sensitivity to deal with GBV and sexual harassment cases," said Prof Osode.

Dr Rianna Oelofsen, Senior Lecturer at the Department of Philosophy and chairperson of *Stand As One* movement said the policy is "the start of a new culture at Fort Hare, a culture where all staff and students can be safe".

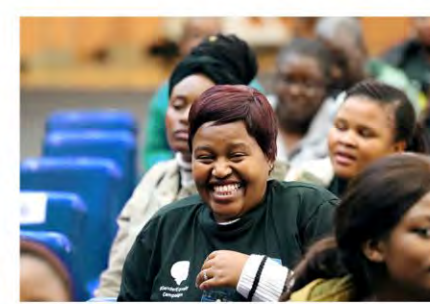
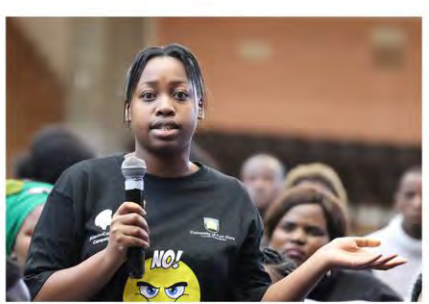
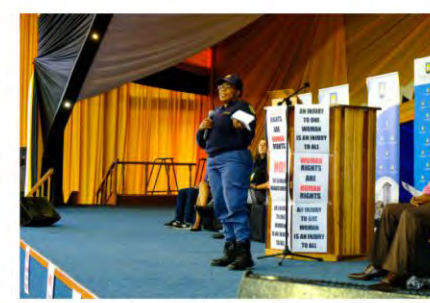
[The 30-page policy is available on the university's website - Click here to view](#)



ANTI GENDER BASED VIOLENCE DAY

30 September - 1 October 2019

We Can - We Shall - We Will
STOP
The Violence Against Women



DEVELOPMENT DIRECTOR HITS THE GROUND RUNNING



Barely a week into her appointment, the UFH Foundation Development Director, Mrs Nokulunga 'Lunga' Mngqeta has already mapped out a plan on how she plans to execute her mandate.

Lunga assumed duties on 1st October to establish the university's fundraising unit. Her main responsibility is to raise much needed 3rd stream income for the university. According to her, she intends to have a draft fundraising strategy in place by the end of next month. She will also embark on a revival of relationships with alumni.

"I have drawn-up a process map on how I am going to develop the strategy. Currently I am busy doing a diagnostic report and will be meeting with the university leadership including board members of the Foundation."

"In week three I will focus on doing a needs analysis and engaging the university's key staff and leaders. I envisage a strategy workshop and to produce the strategy thereafter."

A qualified scientist, she has an illustrious career that spans over three decades. During this time she has held several strategic positions in both government and state-owned entities. Lunga boasts an impressive academic resume and brings a wealth of leadership experience, ranging from marine and coastal management, environment and agriculture, forestry as well as

governance. She has a Diploma in Forestry from Fort Cox College, a B.Sc in Agriculture from UFH as well Honours and Master's Degrees in Agriculture from the University of Pretoria.

She started her working career as a Forestry Scientist in the late 80s. Having worked as a Manager at the Department of Water Affairs and Forestry and the Council for Scientific Industrial Research (CSIR), Lunga has experience in research and management and commercialization of research output.

Before joining the university, she was the Managing Director of Leaf Services. Previously, served as the CEO of the Eastern Cape Tourism Parks Board as well as CEO of Amathole Development Agency. She is also a Chartered Director with the Institute of Directors of South Africa. Between 2016 and September 2019, she served as Board Chairperson of Amatola Water, and was former board member of the SA Biodiversity Institute. Currently, she serves as a member of the Border Cricket Audit Committee.

In order to successfully execute her role, Lunga says she will rely on the university community to embrace and support all development initiatives. "We need to spruce up the image of the university to be aligned with its brand. We also need the executive leadership as well external stakeholders and alumni to support the university's initiatives," she said.

RESEARCH FOCUS

The university is starting to become a notable player in research production. The number of research outputs has increased significantly over the past years... Prof Pumla Dineo Gqola

Below is a list of recently published and presented papers.

- **Professor Sonwabile Mswana:** *Mineral Wealth and Distributive struggles on the Platinum Belt in South Africa* (Presented at the Stellenbosch Institute for Advanced Study)
- **Prof Willie Chinyamurindi:** *Student Perceptions Around Decolonisation: An Exploratory Study*
- **Prof EO Adu, Dr J Mathwasa and Mr FB Mbebe:** *The use of play-based approaches in teaching and learning of selected Early Childhood Development centers in Buffalo City Municipality District*
- **Mrs K Schmit:** *A critical need: supporting young and vulnerable children through an early childhood home visiting programmes in the Eastern Cape, South Africa*
- **Dr P Mbatyoti and Miss B Kafu-Quvane:** *Educational Technology for Hearing Impaired learners*
- **Prof W Chinyamurindi and Dr B Chitsamatanga:** *Promoting Teaching and learning of human essential skills in universities: towards lifelong learning for the 21st century graduate in the 4IR era*
- **Dr B Chitsamatanga, Dr W Malinga and Mr Sikhosana:** *Sex for marks: Infringement of the Right to Education of the girl child. A case of South African University*
- **Dr L Fesi and Prof V Mncube:** *A review on the impact of inclusion on student with and without disabilities and their teacher*
- **Dr N Chinyama and Dr O Sibanda:** *Peer related factors affecting the provision of Psychosocial Support to Vulnerable Learners: A case of selected secondary schools in Amathole District*
- **Prof J Kheswa and Mr V Mpayipheli:** *Educators perspectives on psychological support for pregnant learners: A case study in Alice*
- **Mr M Notole and Prof J Kheswa:** *Effects of inclusive education on the sexual behavior of adolescent males in the Eastern Cape, South Africa*
- **Ms MN Mdledle and Dr X Khalo:** *Exploring the introduction of inclusive pedagogy to pre-service teacher training programmes at institutions of higher learning*
- **Dr M Linake and EN Matakane:** *Examining the framework of teaching strategies during reading comprehension lessons in English First Additional Language*
- **Dr D Boonzaaier:** *Encouraging arts stewardship by creating a transformative and inclusive music and arts administration curriculum*
- **Dr R Masha, Dr T Saziwa (WSU) and Prof T Cekiso (TUT):** *Research supervision experiences of postgraduate students at one South African Higher Education Institution*
- **Mr B Olawale and Prof V Mncube:** *Mathematics Teacher Preparation in South African Universities: A case for Democratic Citizenship*
- **Mr L Bacela and Prof J Kheswa:** *(Un)employment of South African black graduates and its impact on their psychological well-being: Literature Review*
- **Dr CS Marange and Prof Y. Qin (2019):** *A moment-based empirical likelihood ratio test for exponentiality using the probability integral transformation, Journal of Applied Statistics*
- **Dr CS Marange and Prof Qin (2019):** *A new empirical likelihood ratio goodness of fit test for normality based on moment constraints, Communications in Statistics - Simulation and Computation*

UFH HONORS TOP PERFORMING EXTENDED CURRICULUM PROGRAMME STUDENTS



The university held its first-ever Extended Curriculum Programmes (ECP) awards ceremony to honour top performing students. The programme is offered in four faculties, Science and Agriculture, Law, Management and Commerce and Social Sciences and Humanities and is designed to provide supplementary support to students.

Formerly known as Foundation Programmes, the ECP aims to lay a firm foundation for students who have the potential to succeed in degree programmes but do not fully meet all faculty requirements for the chosen qualifications. Instead of taking regulation time to complete their respective degrees, the curriculum is extended by a year.

The inaugural Academic Achievement Awards (AAA) were held at a beautifully decorated venue at the Regent Hotel on 27 September. In attendance were the Vice-Chancellor, Deans, deputy Deans, staff from the Teaching and Learning Centre, ECP lecturers, faculty managers, administrators and coordinators.

The top three performing students from the class of 2018 were selected based on merit in each of the qualifications. A celebratory mood was set throughout the event as the guests and speakers danced to background music and cheered as the recipients made their way to the stage. First place received a gold medal, second walked away with silver while third place received a bronze medal.

According to Mr Phumezo Kwinana, Science and Agriculture ECP Manager, the programme has made a lot of progress since its inception.

"Our foundation programmes started running in 2009. A significant achievement was when our ECP was nominated internationally by the Ford Foundation to represent the country at a conference in China," said Kwinana.

Mr Kwinana said one of the key goals of the AAA is to motivate all ECP students to excel academically and to ensure that students succeed in their respective qualifications and to encourage the new cohort of ECP students.

Speaking on behalf of the ECP coordinators, Mrs Phalesa Makhetha-Kosi said over the years, the enrolment figures in the programme have grown significantly.

"Our enrolment has almost doubled. That tells us there is a huge need for ECP programmes," said Makhetha-Kosi.

In his congratulatory message, Professor Sakhela Buhlungu said the awards is validation that the university is becoming a 'University of the Future' - a university of high achievers. "With these Awards, I can see that future," said the Vice-Chancellor.



University of Fort Hare
Together in Excellence

Extended Curriculum Programmes

2019 Awards

UFH HONOURS CHIEF TYALI WITH ANNUAL LECTURE and MEMORIAL RUN



On 27 September, the university hosted its annual Nkosi Tyali Public Lecture followed by a memorial marathon run on the following day, Saturday 28th September.

The Memorial Lecture was well subscribed, especially by community members. Also in attendance were the members of the Rharhabe Kingdom, MEC of the Provincial Sports, Recreation, Arts and Culture Department, Ms Fezeka Bayeni, academics and students. The most pleasing aspect about the event was that a majority of the attendees came clad in traditional regalia.

The Nkosi Tyali Memorial Lecture is a first of its kind. It honours the legacy of Nkosi Mkrazuli Tyali who donated the land on which the University of Fort Hare main campus stands on. The lecture seeks to celebrate this great African son of the soil and reposition his role in the African diaspora for having sown a foundation for the emancipation of Africans through thought leadership and education.

Nkosi Phathekile Holomisa delivered the keynote address. During his speech he wished the partnership between Raymond Mhlaba Municipality, University of Fort Hare and Imingcangathelo Royal community success. According to Chief Holomisa, "success will come when we value, respect and recognise traditional authorities". He pleaded with anyone who has knowledge of the original birthplace of the Tyali family to please come forward with this information.

Chief Holomisa also made reference to King Buyelekhaya Dalindyebo of the AbaThembu nation. "He was imprisoned because he stood his ground and did what was expected of him. Our constitution does not protect and defend Royal houses", lamented the Chief.

In his closing remarks, Chief Holomisa encouraged the community at large to know and embrace their culture. Entertainment at the event was provided by the CCI Traditional Group and the award-winning University of Fort Hare choir.

The University of Fort Hare is located on land bequeathed by Nkosi Tyali, the son of King Ngqika of the AmaRharhabe Kingdom. Nkosi Tyali was a thoughtful, strategic and calculating visionary. During his reign, there was physical confrontation between AmaXhosa and the English colonialists. His vision was to empower Africans through education. He allowed young people from across the African continent to flock to his land in search of academic and intellectual training that would prepare them against the various colonial and apartheid policies that were inhibiting the freedom of African masses.



Nkosi Tyali MEMORIAL LECTURE





Mkosi Tyali MEMORIAL RUN

The marathon consisted of 5km, 10km and 27km races which commenced and ended at the Fort Hare's Davidson sportsground.

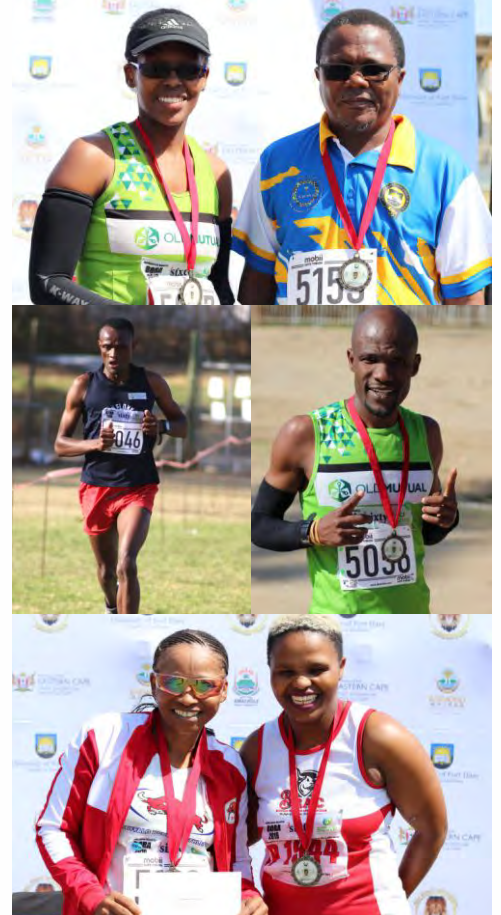
The event is a multi-stakeholder partnership which involves collaboration among the UFH, Department of Sports, Recreation Arts and Culture and Raymond Mhlaba local municipality. Border Athletics provides technical and expert knowledge.

Prof Professor Sakhela Buhlungu delivered closing remarks and called for more student participation in the future. He hailed the organisers for a job well done although "coordination should improve".

As in previous occasions, this year's race attracted runners from other provinces.

Please see links for the marathon results:

<http://www.mobiielite.com/>



ONE LEARNER ONE DICTIONARY: UFH PARTNERS WITH RHODES

The University of Fort Hare's IsiXhosa National Lexicography Unit (XNLU) has collaborated with Rhodes University's Department of African Languages to form a partnership that seeks to promote the use of dictionaries in schools.

Themed: *Towards One Learner One Dictionary*, the project is sponsored by the National Lotteries Commission and has resulted in the distribution of 1500 dictionaries to teachers and learners in the province during the month of September.

According to Mr Zola Wababa, the Director and Editor-in-Chief at the XNLU, [the objective of the project is to address poor dictionary culture among learners. The project also aims to improve literacy levels in IsiXhosa and English among learners in Eastern Cape schools.](#)

"It came to the attention of the unit that dictionaries are scarce and expensive resources, especially for learners that attend rural and semi-urban schools. The XNLU and Rhodes University decided to fundraise in order to provide these schools with a variety of dictionaries and to

provide dictionary skills training for teachers and learners." Wababa said workshops were held to provide the training and to demonstrate that dictionaries are integral pedagogical resources when it comes to teaching and learning.

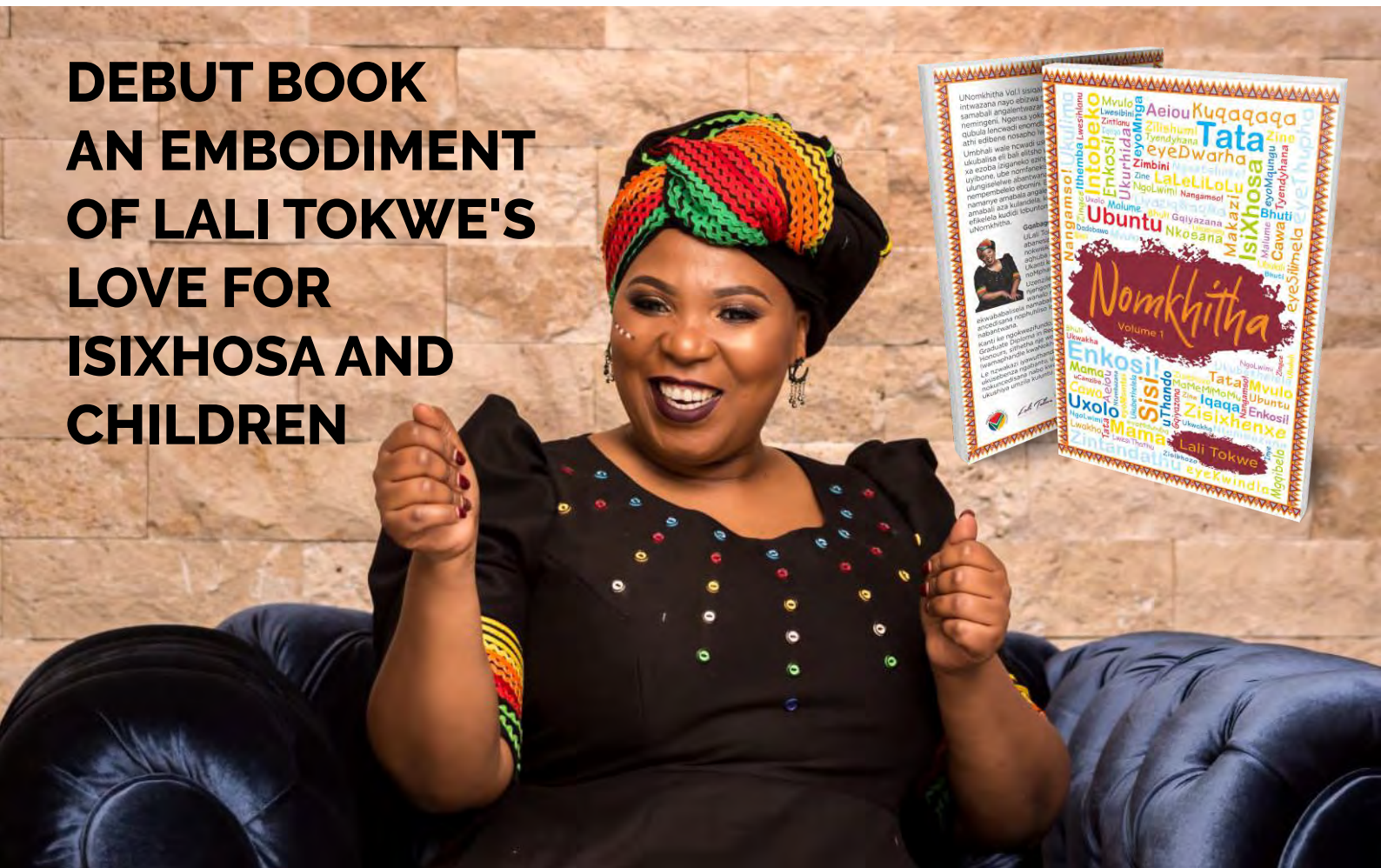
Two years ago, South Africa literacy levels in primary schools came under the spotlight when the Progress in International Reading Literacy revealed that 80% of Grade 4 pupils in the country could not read at the appropriate level. "Referring to a dictionary will assist learners to read for meaning," said Wababa.

Through this partnership, teachers and learners from 20 township and rural schools in the Sarah Baartman and Amathole West district participated in workshops and were equipped with skills on how to use a dictionary. Those who attended the training were given three dictionaries each, an isiXhosa Monolingual Dictionary; Oxford English and Xhosa Dictionary and Isichazimagama seMathematika neNzululwazi.

"The plan is to expand the project to all schools in the province", he said.



DEBUT BOOK AN EMBODIMENT OF LALI TOKWE'S LOVE FOR ISIXHOSA AND CHILDREN



Nobulali 'Lali' Tokwe, a senior secretary in the Faculty of Law has published her first book - an isiXhosa children's book titled *Nomkhitha*.

The book is the first in a series of stories she plans to publish about the life and experiences of a little girl, also named *Nomkhitha*.

Lali is blessed with many talents. In addition to being an author, she is also a radio personality, a business woman and a Women's Ministry Founder. She says *Nomkhitha* is a reflection of her upbringing.

"In this book, the reader will see how *Nomkhitha* overcomes the challenges she encounters and how her family contributes in her victories and achievements. The reader will also see how *Nomkhitha* focuses on her strengths and remains positive in the midst of negativity."

Lali decided to write the book in isiXhosa to honour her mother tongue and the genre was motivated by her passion for children's literature.

"I take pride in isiXhosa because it is my mother tongue and I am for the preservation of my beautiful language. Also, reading is a fun way to assist kids to understand and know isiXhosa,"

Nomkhitha was launched on 27 September 2019 at Osner Hotel and according to Lali, the book has been well received by both young and old. "Children who have read the book have sent me messages expressing their excitement and some say they can relate with the story. Parents are also reading it to their kids to promote reading and the use of isiXhosa."

Lali says her next step is to present *Nomkhitha* to the Department of Education to get the book included in the schools' curriculum. The book is available at selected Van Schaik Book stores (Mthatha, Makhanda, Grahamstown and East London) and orders can also be placed directly with the author.

Upcoming Events

**The Seminar and book launch
Fishes of Southern African Estuaries - From Species to Systems**

When: 3 October

Time: 12:30

Venue: 1st Floor Zoology Seminar Room

Teaching and Learning Colloquium

When: 8,9 October

Time: All Day

Venue: East London ICC

First things first testing and Counselling campaign

When: 7 - 11 October

Time: 10am to 3pm

Venue: East London, Bisho and Alice Campus

**Trial Advocacy Programme
hosted by the legal Education Centre**

When: 10-12 October

Time: 8:15 am to 3pm

Venue: Auditorium 1

**Research and Innovation Day
hosted by the Govan Mbeki Research Development Centre**

When: 18 October

Time: 8am to 4pm

Albertina Sisulu Memorial Lecture

When: 18 October

Time: 4pm

Venue: Sports Complex



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THIS WEEK @ FORT HARE

your weekly newsletter

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