

Ndavi's homecoming a great success

Tintswalo Shipalana

Miss South Africa 2022, Ndavi Nokeri, was the talk of the town as communities and fans from Tzaneen and surrounding areas attended various events on Saturday and Sunday to welcome her home after she bagged the Miss South Africa title two weeks ago.

The festivities started on Friday, August 26, at Meropa Casino in Polokwane, where the Limpopo government, together with the Department of Sports, Arts and Culture hosted a welcome breakfast. She also went to Greenside Primary School, where she motivated learners and concluded her Polokwane visit by a street parade.

On Saturday, she started her day at the Nkuna Tribal Authority, where she met, Chief Ribye Muhlaba, dressed in her xibelani (Tsonga traditional dancing skirt). The tribal house also placed Ndavi on the 'High Achievers Wall' which is based at the royal house. The wall celebrates successful people from the Muhlaba area.

After the royal visit she went to Ezamazwi Centre for Innovation to donate sanitary pads, before heading for a street parade in Nkowanowa, Lenyenye and Tzaneen CBD.

Saturday's final event was a gala dinner hosted by the municipality, which saw dignitaries coming to celebrate her achievement.

Mayor of Greater Tzaneen Municipality, Gerson Molapisa said he believed that she will bring back the Miss Universe crown. He assured her of their support.

Ndavi concluded her three day-homecoming tour at her birth place, Gavaza village, on Sunday, August 28.

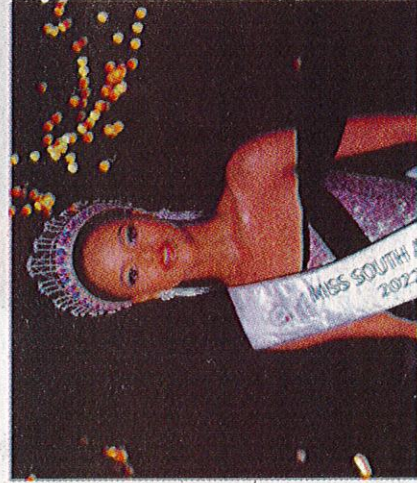
Thousands of villagers and neighbouring communities attended the festivities. During the event she encouraged villagers not to "look down on themselves, because they are from a rural area".

She also told them to choose courage over fear and concluded by thanking them for their support in her Miss SA journey.

Musicians such as King Monada, Shongi and Benny Mayengana, entertained the crowd at the Gavaza Sports Ground.



Sporting a traditional Tsonga dress for her visit to the Nkuna Tribal Authority.



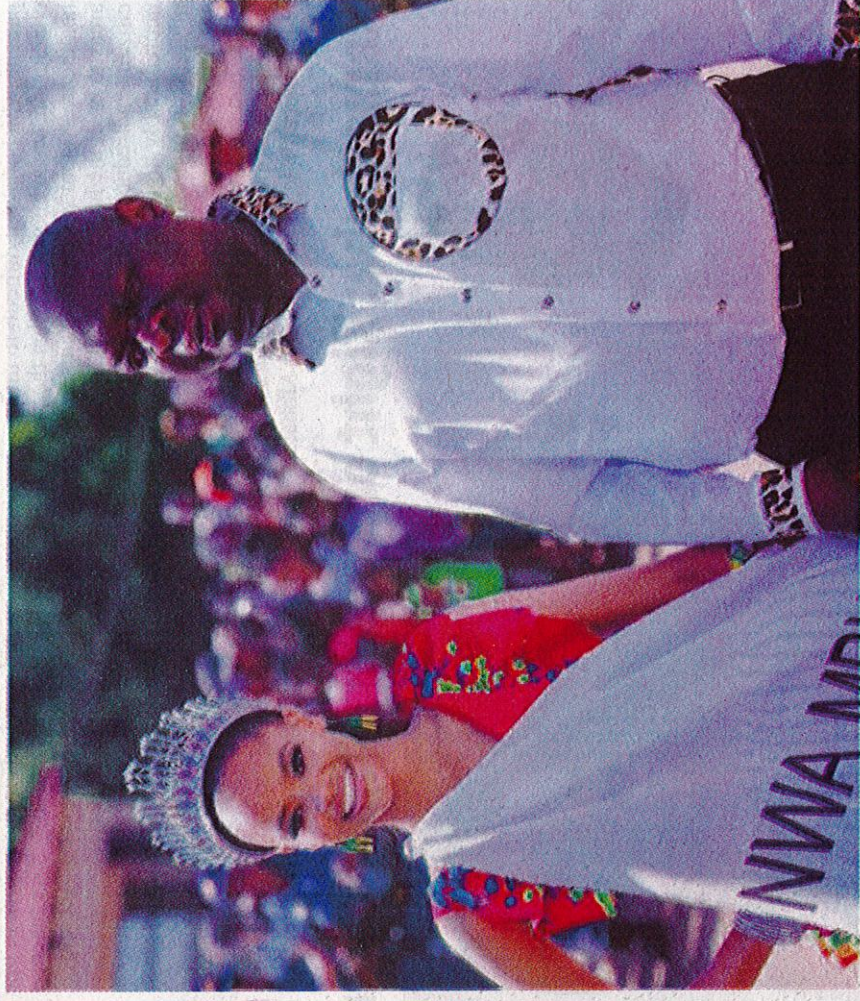
On Saturday night at the gala dinner held in her honour with more than 200 guests.



Above and Below: Ndavi Nokeri in the company of the mayor of the Greater Tzaneen Municipality, Gerson Molapisa, during her visit on Sunday to Gavaza where she was born. Villagers came from near and far to attend the music event that featured musicians such as King Monada.



Ndavi Nokeri is greeted by fans in the streets of Tzaneen. Photo: Miss South Africa.



Ndavi with Hosi Ribye Muhlaba on Saturday. Photo: Miss South Africa.

Freedom Front criticises event

Freedom Front Plus councillor in the Greater Tzaneen Municipality (GTM), André Moss, criticised the homecoming event partially paid for by the municipality.

In a press statement he said that although the FF Plus was excited by her visit, they were not in favour of a gala dinner for 200 guests on August 27, hiring of artists who performed and the accommodation for Ndavi Nokeri's entourage of 20 people for the two days, amongst other costs.

"This is excessive for a town where the deterioration due to poor service delivery is clearly visible."

He said the FF Plus is not displeased to see that the country's leading beauty queen is entertained.

"However it would only be fair for the GTM to discuss the visit and the costs associated with it in the council."

He said the FF Plus will direct questions about the approval of the expenditure and what the amount amounts to to the GTM council.

He concluded by saying the FF Plus would have liked to see a more realistic and affordable welcome, especially as a resident of Tzaneen she is aware of the lack of service delivery and general decay of the town.

Tsonga Queen Ndavi makes grand entrance

■ Jeff Jackson

The fourth girl from Limpopo to ever wear the Miss South Africa crown, Ndavi Nokeri (23) made a spectacular journey through the streets of her hometown this past weekend. Ndavi and her entourage concluded her three day-homecoming tour at her birthplace, Gavaza Village, outside Tzaneen, on the 28th of August.

Villagers, neighboring communities, friends, family, and other towns flocked the streets to see and celebrate the 23-year-old beauty queen. With words of encouragement, she advised young people to never look down upon themselves just because of their background or where they were born. Villagers of Gavaza were overjoyed as they witnessed big name artists Shongi, Monada, and Benny Mayengana, performing at the event.

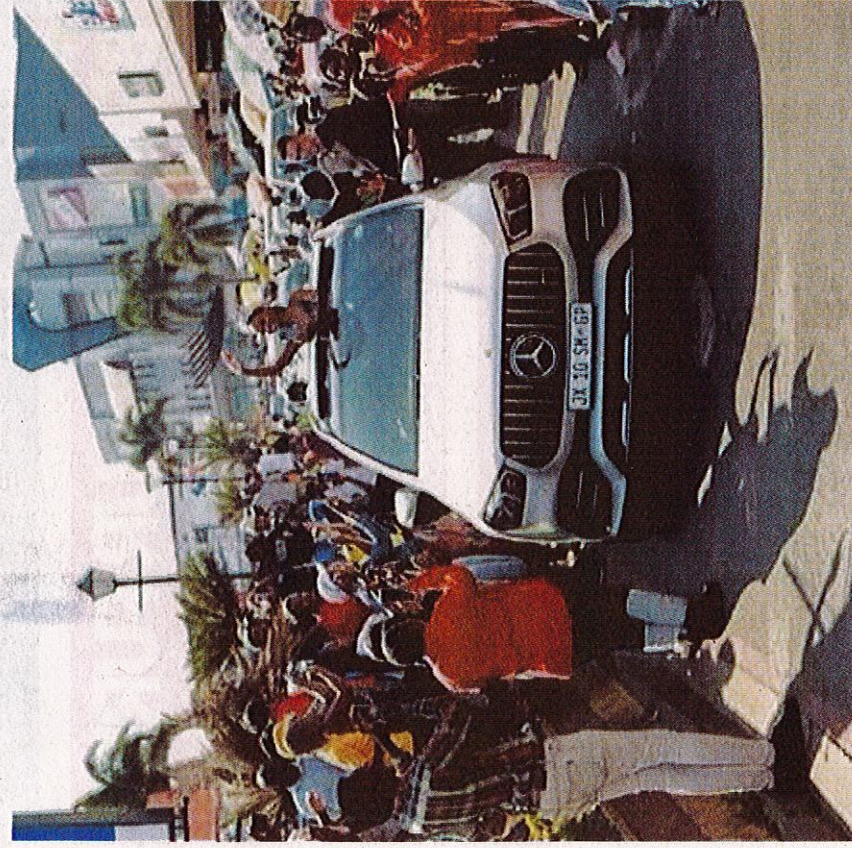
The homecoming festivities began on Friday, 26th of August, at Meropa Casino in Polokwane, where the Limpopo government, and the Department of Sports, Arts, and Culture hosted a welcome breakfast session. Ndavi also visited Greenside Pri-

mary School, where she motivated young learners and concluded her Polokwane visit with a street parade.

Saturday, dressed in her Tsonga Traditional dancing skirt which is called a Xibelani, saw her start her day at the Nkuna Tribal Authority, where she met Chief Ribye Muhlaba. After her royal visit, the young beauty went to the Ezamazwi Centre for innovation to donate sanitary pads, before hitting the streets of Lenyenye, Nkowanokwa, and Tzaneen CBD for a street parade fit for a queen.

The Greater Tzaneen Local Municipality then hosted a gala dinner at the Tzaneen Country Lodge and invited dignitaries from various sectors to join in the celebrations. It was during this time that the mayor of the municipality, Gerson Molapisanane, addressed the gathering and said that he had the utmost hope in her that she will bring back the coveted Miss Universe crown.

Ndavi followed in the footsteps of three former Miss SA winners from the province; Cindy Nell from Polokwane (2002), Bokang Montjane from Polokwane (2010) and Shudufadziso Musida from Venda (2020).



Local boxer off to Russia

Tshepo Macebele, a boxer from Malamulele who fought in the Champs Boxing Academy Fight Night in Tzaneen, was selected as part of the team from South Africa to fight in Russia. The team will be leaving on the 3rd of September (tomorrow) for a competition that will be held on the 6th to the 11th of September in the Krasnodar region in Russia. The team will be participating in the XIII International Boxing Competitions in memory of MSMK Nikolay Pavlyukov. Macebele is a current National Elite Men Lightweight champion fighter and defeated his opponent Katlego Mokwana from Mpumalanga in Tzaneen on Saturday evening.

CBD vandalized

Downtown Tzaneen is known for its dilapidated and abandoned buildings. One such eyesore is the old Winners nightclub building that burnt down some years ago and has since become a hiding place for vagrants and dealers. Behind this site there is an open plot of land that is fast becoming a breeding ground for diseases as street hawkers and a local fresh produce market seem to be dumping their expired perishables on this plot. Thieves have used this vacant plot to access the backside of existing businesses under cover of night, and just this week, an aircon was stolen off the side of one of the longest standing businesses in that area. During the theft, the suspects stepped onto the toilet waste pipes to reach the aircon unit which caused the pipes to break. The municipality has told the owners of the businesses that their hands were tied in the matter.

2 152 arrests made

The Police in Limpopo arrested 1 022 undocumented foreign nationals for contravening the Immigration laws and a further 1 130 suspects for various crimes. The arrests were made during the ongoing joint operations that were conducted in all five Districts in August.

The 1 130 suspects were arrested for crimes including murder, attempted murder, rape, armed robberies, possession of illicit cigarettes, possession of illegal firearms and ammunition, theft of motor vehicles, possession of suspected stolen properties and dealing in drugs.

During the arrests, police seized firearms and ammunition, stolen motor vehicles, drugs such as crystal meth and CAT, dagga, nyaope, and illicit cigarettes.

The operational teams included, the Limpopo Highway Patrol (LHP), Tactical Response Team, Crime Intelligence, Provincial Organized Crime I, detectives from Provincial, District and Station level as well as members attached to police stations across the Province.

The suspects, aged between 19 and 61, already started appearing in different magistrate's courts around the Province. The operations are continuing.

The shocking number of arrests highlights the staggering number of criminals in the Limpopo province, the huge problem we face with drugs in the province, and that the police are able to do their jobs when they need to.

Cat Killer in Burg

Someone is killing household pets in the village of Haenertsburg and nobody has been able to catch the culprit. According to one resident, she lost both her beloved pets in the space of a month. When her first cat died, she was told that it was likely a feline disease doing the rounds. A month later she found her second cat's lifeless body in her yard and decided to send it to Onderstepoort Veterinary Academic Hospital for analysis. The result came back and confirmed that her pet had been poisoned with anti-freeze (a chemical liquid used in motorcars). Since then, it has come to light that at least four other cats had also died in the village, possibly due to poisoning.

They took the roof!

Neighbours of a house in Aquapark were shocked to receive the news that the roof was apparently stolen off a house in their neighbourhood in broad daylight. The resident said that they had been living next to this particular house for at least ten years and it had never been occupied. Sometime in August, they were having coffee when they noticed a small delivery truck pull up to the house and a crew proceeded to climb on top of the roof and began removing the tiles. The resident thought that finally the home had been sold and the new owners were renovating. It has since been a few weeks and the house still stands without a roof.

Did you see them?

Martin Petersen, a resident on Magoebaskloof, spotted strange lights in the sky over the valley on Monday night. "The lights came over and my son shouted at me to come and have a look," explained Petersen. "They looked like four lights flying in formation as if they were attached to a string being towed by an aeroplane and then they suddenly disappeared. We heard no plane engines or helicopters and we saw nothing hit the ground." Bulletin contacted the Civil Aviation Authority who confirmed that all military planes were grounded and that no other planes were in the Tzaneen area at the time. The following morning we learn that the lights the Petersen's saw, were in fact Elon Musk's latest series of Starlink satellites which were launched on Monday.

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