



LUTHULI MUSEUM

3233 Nokukhanya Luthuli Street, Groutville, KwaZulu-Natal, South Africa
P.O. Box, 1869, Stanger, 4450
tel: (032) 559 6822 • fax: (032) 559 6806
luthulimuseum@luthulimuseum.org.za • www.luthulimuseum.org.za



PRESS RELEASE **For Immediate Use**

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The sounds of trumpets will combine with the melody of marimbas at the Groutville Market ground today when the Luthuli Museum plays host to the Field Band Foundation, a non-government organization that aims at giving youngsters life skills through music and dance.

The morning will start with a street parade from Groutville High School and then along the R102 under the careful guidance and safety of the members of the KwaDukuza traffic authorities.

The parade will then turn into the Market Grounds where an outdoor music concert will be staged. The concert is expected to start at 12noon and will last until 2pm. It will feature at least 20 songs, with solos on steel drums and various other exciting items.

KwaDukuza municipaly deputy mayor Bonny Maharaj will officially welcome the Foundation.

“We are very excited to be involved in this partnership and, indeed, it is a first time for us. We are hoping that this initiative will find roots and grow so that the benefits of it can be shared among all the community of KwaDukuza,” said Luthuli Museum director Brian Xaba.

“Chief Albert Luthuli played a significant role in the development of the South Africa’s community and in the struggle against apartheid. This partnership gives the Luthuli Museum a rare opportunity to further extend its helping hand to the Groutville youth to enhance their skills and artistic talent.”

“Not only in Groutville but all the youth in the KwaDukuza municipality stand to benefit from the existence of such an initiative. In further strengthening this partnership, it is the wish of both the Field Band Foundation and Luthuli Museum to further explore opportunities for the establishment of an academy that would train and enhance different artistic talents the youth might have,” said Xaba.

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LET THE SPIRIT OF
LUTHULI SPEAK TO ALL

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NOTES:

Background

The Field Band Foundation was founded by PG Group twelve (12) years ago. Its mandate has been to seek out the marginalized youth, across South Africa's Provinces, and to provide a unique avenue of opportunity to those without access to other educational and artistic outlets. Using music and dance, combined with intensive life skills training over a period of several years, the FBF enables youngsters to reach their potential. Its support also extends to HIV/AIDS awareness, access to potential jobs, bursaries for further study, and cultural as well as life enrichment through exchanges with its partner organizations in Norway, Belgium, the Netherlands and the USA.

Inculcating discipline and hard work alongside the rewards of fulfillment and rapid personal growth, the FBF has now over 4 000 participants both males and females in 28 field bands across 109 townships in eight of the nine South Africa's Provinces. All participants are drawn from disadvantaged backgrounds whose parents are unemployed and some youth never came near a musical instrument before joining the Field Band.

Composition

The Field band Foundation is a successful youth social development organization, built on the innovative, imaginative and exciting elements of arts. It incorporates dance and music as a retreat from the formal educational setting. It further enhances the process of social cohesion, moral regeneration and allows the exchange of cultural and educational experiences.

Its role in poverty alleviation

The Field band Foundation plays a key role in the fight against poverty. In the pursuit of totally eradicating poverty and underdevelopment in disadvantaged communities across the South African spectrum, the FBF has created opportunities for development of skills – teaching discipline, focus, and essential life skills that will serve the youth well in life. It further enhances independent thinking amongst the youth as well as intellectual advancement. Its ultimate goal is to bring this innovative project to 6 000 young people at least by 2012. It is believed that some of the youth will come from Groutville in future.

Achievements

The Field band Foundation was given the honour of playing a part in the 2010 FIFA World Cup celebrations held in South Africa. The opportunity to participate in such an event proved to be more than what the youngsters could wish for and acted as an inspiration for each participant of their remarkable progression – considering the many difficulties and hardships they have faced before joining the band. The World Cup also provided a platform to showcase to the world their talent.



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