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LEARNERS CAPTIVATED BY WRITERS AND STORY TELLERS AT LUTHULI MUSEUM

KwaZulu-Natal author, who hails from Estcourt, Khulekani Magubane held learners at the Luthuli Museum captivated with his tale of 'Rapola the Rat', who lives in a township, in a rubbish bin behind the home of a lady who owns a shebeen.

Magubane was one of five writers that appeared at the Luthuli Museum last week as part of the outreach programme of the 17th annual Time of the Writer festival. Hosted by the Centre for Creative Arts, the festival in Durban provided a week-long platform for writers from South Africa, Africa and around the world to exchange ideas and participate in literary dialogue. Magubane's story is from his book entitled "Races, Rats and Rubbish bins".

Magubane encouraged learners to question their environment and challenge ideas and to always ask "but why?" Picking up the theme of 20 years of democracy, one of the other writers from India Satyajit Sarna asked the learners about what the meaning of democracy is, what kinds of freedoms they enjoy today and what are 'good' freedoms and 'bad'.

An oral story teller from Kenya, Mshai Mwangola held the audience captivate with her tale about a young girl and a python which she performed barefoot. She and Nomsa Mdlalose, the founder of a story telling organization called Kwesukela Storytelling Academy, both emphasized the power of the spoken word.

Mdlalose told the tale of the hawk, the hen and the rooster. She used this story to encourage learners to pursue their dreams and to work hard. She is a South African professional who has been in the field for more than 20 years and Mwangola is a Kenyan-born 'oratorist', actor and director.

And last but not least Nigerian born, Chinbundu Onuzo began the day telling learners about her book called '*The Spider King's Daughter*'. This is book looks at the unlikely relationship that develops between a poor street hawker and a sheltered rich girl who meet on the streets of Lagos.

She said she started writing novels and short stories at 10 years old and encouraged learners present to do the same.

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