



PORT SHEPSTONE TWINNING ASSOCIATION

074 – 004 NPO

DISCOVERY OF HERITAGE SITE THROUGH TIME TRAVEL PROCESS

COMMEMORATION OF ISIVIVANE SENKOSI USHAKA 1828, HELD ON 19 MAY 2018

UMZUMBE MUNICIPALITY INITIATIVE IN COLLABORATION WITH OUR ASSOCIATION AND OTHER STAKEHOLDERS

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Introduction:



In 2008, the Association was introduced to Howard Msomi by Pauline Duncan (ex-mayor and board member) His knowledge of the area and engagement in arts, culture and heritage programmes was impressive. Numerous engagements were initiated in Umzumbe, where he played a facilitating role. Training workshops on the time travel method began in 2009. A cross section of both municipality and members of the community involved in Arts and Culture and Tourism were recruited.



After months of collaboration, Kalmar County Museum, Sweden, (Ebbe Westergren and Helen Eklund) had agreed to peg the first Time travel at **Emjahweni in Mthwalume**. This site is identified as being of historical significance and importance. The research conducted by Ikhwezi le- Afrika in 2007 assisted to develop a scenario for the first event in 2009. Here, the 36 leaders were tried by the kangaroo court of the Colonial Government in 1906, Bambatha Uprising. Ntelezi Msani was exiled to Sr Helena Island while others were either imprisoned in Natal and Zululand or killed.

Expansion: In 2010, Mdu Njilo, a tour guide and community volunteer together with other members from Umzumbe were selected to attend a training course on the Time Travel method. They were tasked with identifying local sites.

In his words:

“Daily on our way to school, we had passed a heap of stone, called Isivivana. We have learnt from our community elders that King Shaka and his warriors camped at this site in 1828”.

This gave birth to the 2nd site in Umzumbe. The site was further researched and a scenario developed for education and commemoration of community heritage. This site has a potential of attracting tourism to this region. It is signposted as a tourist attraction.



Engagement with Umzumbe Municipality and trained time travel practitioners in Umzumbe, the ISIVIVANE SENKOSI USHAKA 1828 was piloted in 2012. Since the success of the pilot, the Umzumbe Municipality has adopted the Time Travel method as part of their deliverables. Yearly, commemoration at this site is held, attracting over 2000 people. This year, the Zulu Royal House was represented by 5 persons and has acknowledged the historical importance of this site as part of the Zulu heritage.

Time Travel events also take place to support educational outcome. Local schools are co-operative and appreciate the contribution.

Umzumbe Municipality is praised for being one of the only known municipalities to adopt and advance the time travel method.

On the 19 May 2018, Isivivane Senkosi Ushaka Time travel event, conducted at the heritage site, **Isivivane Senkosi Ushaka** at Mthwalume, Kwa Qoloqolo Traditional Council, Ward 15, Umzumbe. This was followed by a full programme, see below.



The day started with the slaughter of a beast in the traditional way. The community elders prepared the meal.

Attendance:

- The local school learners, approximately 200
- Local traditional dancers.
- Cultural groups
- Provincial and National artists
- Inathi Child and Youth Care Facility children and staff
- Members and volunteers from the Association
- Municipality officials and staff
- Royal House representatives
- Ugu South Coast Tourism
- Amafa – Heritage Association
- Traditional Authority representatives
- Department of Arts and Culture, KZN
- Community elders and representatives
- Other dignitaries

Prior to the time travel event, one of the homesteads was used as a change room facility. In this way the community benefits. Learners dress in traditional attire and our team account for all the props.



The young boys, practicing their traditional dance. They were enthusiastic and looking forward to the unfolding of the event. Refreshments to our young participants were provided.



Briefing the time travel participants: goals, procedure and time management.

PRESENTATION BEFORE INITIATION CEREMONY

The facilitator, Mdu Ngilo presented the purpose of the Time travel, where the history and geographic features of the area as from 1828 were conveyed to the participants



Isivivana (heap of stones) is situated in a valley, the actual site where King Shaka and his warriors camped. This is according to oral narration by the elders and passed down from previous generations.



All participants led by the Kwa Zulu House, local municipality speakers, Mayors, Directors, Izinduna and community members listened attentively to the history of King Shaka. This site was known to the elders. The time travel methodology unveiled this site for community building and education. ***Ebbe Westergren and the team from Kalmar County Museum, Sweden are thanked for their dedication and commitment in training and developing the scenario below.***

Scenario, King Shaka and his impi (army) camping in Mthwalume, May 1828

King Shaka and his huge army are heading towards Pondoland to attack King Faku. This attack has to be done as a part of a cleansing ceremony after King Shaka's mother's death the previous year. The army is growing bigger; and the soldiers are marching. Today they are coming to the region called Vundlasi. It is hilly and steep and there is a flowing river in the valley. The soldiers will camp and stay overnight on the hillsides.



The rumour of the huge marching army has been heard about for weeks. People from the neighbouring villages are curious and are gathering at the place where the soldiers are expected to camp. Everybody is waiting for the arrival of the warriors led by the indunas, King Shaka and his general Manyunedla. But first of all the intelligence gatherers have to check the site of the camp.

There will be lots of discussions today among the people who have gathered. Some are concerned; they have heard so many cruel stories about King Shaka.

Others are happy that at last we are uniting like a proud group of people. Dignity and self-confidence are restored.



Everyone knows that King Shaka expects good performances, poems, songs and dances to encourage the soldiers. Today is an important day in the region, a day that will make history. Will King Shaka even create a place for remembrance, an isivivane? Perhaps he may even rename the place and the region?



Roles

The learners and most of the participants are villagers from the surrounding areas. soldiers, praise singers, poets, sangomas, healers, Indunas, Intelligence General Manyundela and King Shaka



Key Questions

- War or peace? We have had war for so many years. Is this the best solution to resolve disagreements? When is the time to make peace with our enemies? Can we live together although we are different?
- How do we build dignity, self-esteem in our groups? Together with others?

The Site: There are no observers in a time travel event. This site is like an amphitheatre. At this public event commemorating the Zulu tradition and culture, there was an exception because of the landscape and the large attendance.

After the time travel event, the programme continued, with speeches, traditional dances and sale of traditional attire.



Time travel events such as this one consolidate and support learning and the outcomes thereof. Time Travel stimulates creativity and expands the horizon of what is possible. The link to tourism soon became apparent. Historical sites are natural tourist destinations.

King Shaka Zulu is a world renowned historical figure. There is potential for expansion and making this site as a major tourist attraction. The natural resources, landscape and engagement of the community is phenomenal Partnership with many stakeholders can make this possible. Such sites must benefit the local people.

Appreciation and thanks to all stakeholders, volunteers and Time Travel Facilitating Team that are passionate and ensures that every event is a success.



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