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Artistes rekindle Sunduza Boys

December 13, 2014 Local News

Urban beats

THERE is a niche shared by young creative minds in Bulawayo. Besides being known for their acts in entertainment circles, they are gifted in ways unimaginable. They can multi-task.

Away from their place of work, once done with the 8AM to 5PM shift, they engage in social responsibility activities. In the spirit of giving back to society, they in turn empower themselves and bridge ideas.

This observation is in reference to the work of Bulawayo art practitioners planning the biggest show in the city on December 20 – the Sunduza Mahlaba concert. The plan is to commemorate the life of one of Zimbabwe's greatest cultural ambassadors, the late Simon Mahlaba Banda.

What makes the organisers of this concert worthy to fill public space is because they are sparing their time for a worthy cause.

Banda, as many of the elder folk would remember, was the lead man in the internationally acclaimed Sunduza Boys.

At the prime of his career, Banda was the singer to the sound track Power of One, the movie shot in Bulawayo featuring Morgan Freeman.

The 1980s babies could have been the last generation to have experienced the Sunduza Boys moment. Vividly, memories are stark clear when young boys would form cliques and brand themselves, largely inspired by musical celebrities.

So popular were the Sunduza Boys that they broke boundaries and pioneered the global spread of imbube and other traditional music genres.

Many who enjoyed their youth back in the days attest to the magic-bullet effect that hit the entertainment scene when Sunduza ruled the roost.

Being a type of music that is shunned, imbube is rising from the ashes.

Entertainment bugs all agree to a moment of liking a bit of traditional because it's closer to the heart, maybe.

With Martin Sibanda's Ndolwane making waves, how high would be the tide if Sunduza Boys could be revived?

The staging of the Simon Mahlaba Concert could be the stage set for the resurrection of Sunduza Boys.

It is hoped that the community of Pumula welcome the gesture by Charlie and the rest of the supporting artistes. Rightly timed is the concert in this time of festivities.

As promised, there would be a mixed bag of entertainment. According to Charlie, memories of the Sunduza Boys era will be rekindled.

There is no great honour to the work done by the late legend Simon Banda.

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In other spheres of the industry, musicians, film makers, sculptors and writers are given honours that extend to roads, statues and buildings.

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If there are people who did the city proud in the 1970s, they are the artists who created the social and cultural fabric of the residents.

About Zimpapers
Besides having to provide essential services, council ought to give little attention to the showbiz sector.

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It takes a fool to say the showbiz does not pay. Entertainment is sustained by artists. Art is a net multi-billion earner in the Zimbabwean economy. Artists pay tax.

Advertise
The Simon Banda show is not the only one of its kind. Heavyweights have been honoured.

About Us
In order for the young to appreciate the works done by yester year artistes, there must be commemorations of such nature. To the up-and-coming talents, such platforms are offered.

Contact Us
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