Tanzania's Sauti za Busara - a festival of opportunities

Zanzibar: Every year in February thousands of music fans from across the globe converge at Stone Town's Old Fort to experience a unique taste of African music as hosted by Sauti za Busara.

Here paths intertwine, business deals are struck, collaborations are sealed and careers are taken to greater heights as talents are spotted by other festival promoters.

"This is a space where all kinds of arts professionals meet, from festival directors to music producers, managers and distributors, they all come to Zanzibar in February to check the pulse of the East African music scene", says festival director Yusuf Mahmoud.

"It is not just an event where the festival performers attend, but even artists who are not on the line-up come to learn from one another and link up with industry bigwigs to set up deals for the coming months, even long after the festival is done."

Considered as one of Africa's most-respected festivals, Sauti za Busara - with this year's theme of 'United in Music' - brings together more than 460 musicians to the Spice Islands.

As a festival that has grown enormously in its 15 years of operation, the event attracts media and music professionals from across Africa, Europe and beyond, thereby providing a unique platform for East African musicians to share their music with the world.

"Each year a number of artists who grace the Sauti za Busara stage are invited to tour and perform at festivals in different parts of the world. Artists more likely to be invited are those who are unique, expressive and playing music with identity", says Yusuf, quoting Msafiri Zawose, Jagwa Music, Leo Mkanyia, Tausi Women's Taarab and Maulidi ya Homu ya Mtendeni as examples of Tanzanian groups who were already invited to tour internationally after being spotted at the festival.

This, according to Yusuf, is in itself a unique opportunity that all musicians from Tanzania cannot afford to miss because such opportunities are few and far between in Africa.

"People of different colours and backgrounds are united in celebration of African music. Anticipation and excitement is high, hotels around Stone Town are fully booked during festival week with audiences coming from across Tanzania, Africa and Europe", says Yusuf.

By conservative estimates the festival pumps some $7 million into the economy annually making it a harvest period for many businesses across Zanzibar and beyond, making Sauti za Busara more than 'just a music festival'.

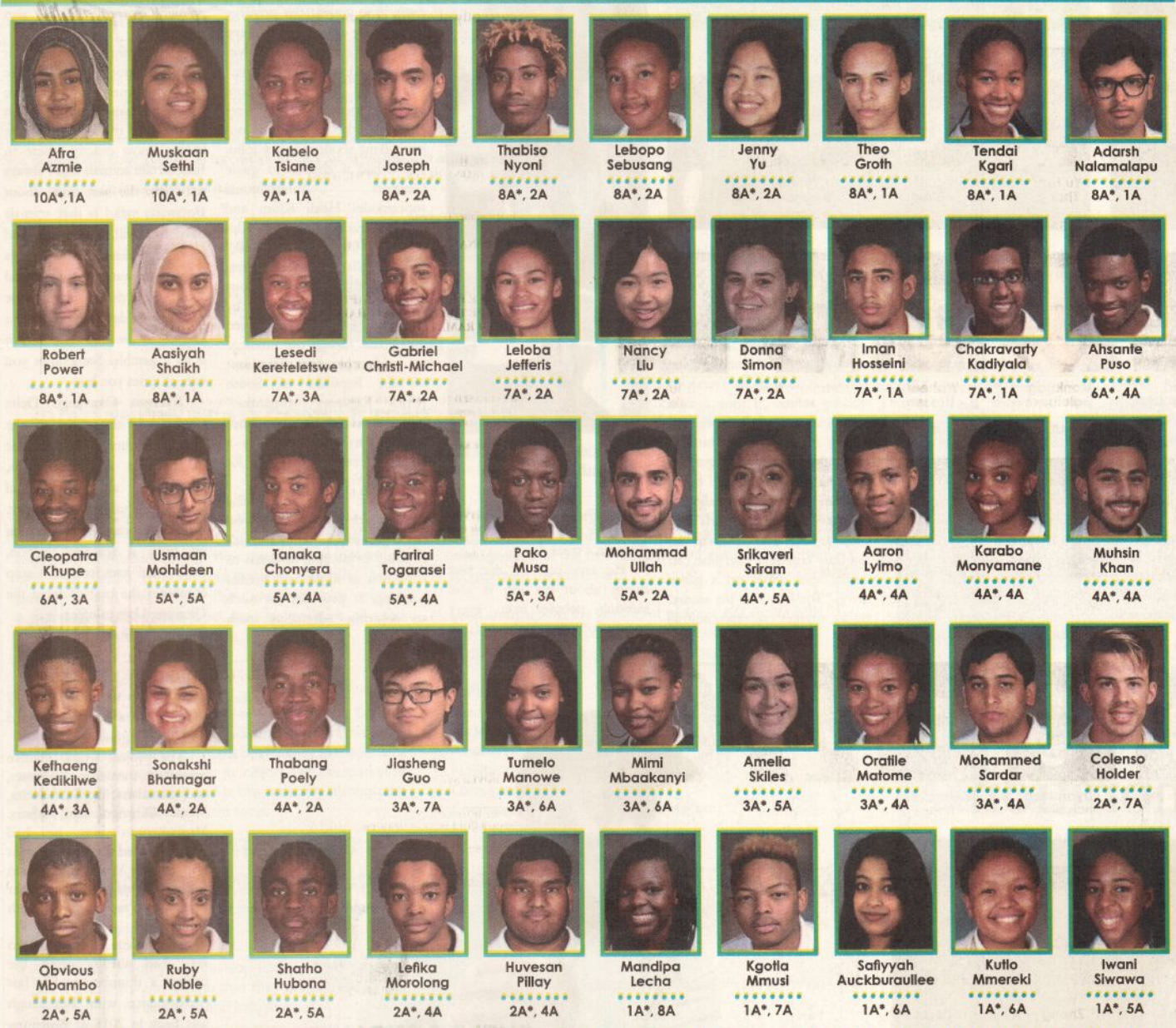
However, even with such successes, the main challenge of funding remains and this was the main reason why the 2016 edition was cancelled, causing huge losses for businesses on the island.

"We continue to depend on donor funds with embassies such as the Norwegian and the Swiss being among our top donors supporting training and capacity-building initiatives," says the festival director.



Diamond Platnumz is one of Tanzania's most recognised artists (Image by -chano8.com)

MaP's 57 Faces of IGCSE Excellence



Form 1, 2019 Entrance Testing

Registration for Form 1, 2019 is starting. Entrance testing will be held on Saturday, 10th and Friday, 16th March 2018. Only pre-registered students will be allowed to write on these dates.

Please download application forms from our website or collect from Maru-a-Pula's main office and register before Friday, 28th February 2018 to avoid disappointment.

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MaP IGCSE Level Results

	A*	A* & A	A* ~ B	A* ~ C
2017	24.4%	52.5%	74.8%	93.2%
2016	18.7%	51.0%	75.8%	91.6%
2015	15.6%	46.4%	74.0%	91.6%
2014	25.0%	58.4%	82.3%	93.7%
2013	25.3%	58.0%	76.5%	92.3%
5-yr avg	21.8%	53.3%	77.1%	92.5%

MaP AS Level Results

	A	A ~ B	A ~ C
2017	45.1%	72.3%	90.7%
2016	25.4%	52.1%	77.7%
2015	40.3%	64.4%	80.9%
2014	36.7%	62.2%	79.5%
2013	25.3%	61.2%	77.9%
5-yr avg	37.5%	62.4%	81.3%

MaP A Level Results

	A*	A* & A	A* ~ B	A* ~ C
2017	9.7%	39.6%	74.9%	89.0%
2016	21.0%	58.5%	85.5%	94.0%
2015	18.2%	60.1%	79.0%	93.0%
2014	24.1%	63.1%	87.2%	95.7%
2013	20.0%	54.1%	69.4%	83.5%
5-yr avg	18.6%	55.1%	79.2%	91.0%

MaP's 2017 Academic Highlights :

- In the 2017 Cambridge IGCSE, 12 MaP students gained Botswana Government Top Achiever scholarship status by earning 6A*s or better.
- In the 2017 Cambridge AS Level, MaP students achieved a record 45% As and 91% of the results were C or above.
- In the 2017 Cambridge A Level, the pass rate was 100% with 40% achieving A*s & As and 89% being awarded C or above.
- Maru-a-Pula has 91 students currently studying at the world's top 100 ranked universities.

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Gaborone Diocese to commemorate 'World Catholic day of the sick'

ARNOLD LETSHOLO

The Gaborone Diocese of the Catholic Church congregants will on February 10, indulge in a pilgrimage of healing prayers at the Diocese' Minor Seminary at Kgale. They will be joining the rest of the Catholics all over the world in commemorating the 'World Catholic day of the sick'.

"The day is commemorated on the 11th which falls on Sunday this year. We have to commemorate it on Saturday as a diocese so that on Sunday we will all be back at our respective parishes. The event will start with a Rosary walk from the Seminary entrance to the clinic and back. At 0700hrs preparations for mass will start which will include confessions. Many Priests will be there to help. At 0730hrs mass will start; which will be followed by healing session," says Right Reverend Bishop Frank Nabuassah, at his office in Gaborone Tuesday last week.

"The day is commemorated on the 11th which falls on Sunday this year. We have to commemorate it on Saturday as a diocese so that on Sunday we will all be back at our respective parishes.

He further said the congregants need healing because of what happened in the past few months. They received with shock, news that their Bishop, Valentine Tsamma Seane has resigned as the Bishop of Gaborone. Media reports that accused him of lots of misdemeanors worsened their woes, but no specific gathering in an attempt to heal their broken souls was ever made.

The Bishop explained that the Catholic Church celebrates a mass in honor of "Our Lady of Lourdes" optional memorial in many countries on February 11 of each year — the anniversary of the first apparition. There had long been a tradition of interpreting the Song of Songs as an allegory of God's love for the Church, so up until the liturgical reforms following Vatican II, a passage from this Old Testament book was used during the mass for its reference to the "beloved" appearing in a cleft of a rock and its parallel with what Catholics have described as the "Mother of the Church" being seen in the cleft of a rock in Lourdes.

