

MEDIA RELEASE

TO: ALL MEDIA
ATT: NEWS EDITORS

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

8 July 2005

African continent gears up for an Africa Live Event at the World Expo

Thousands of people are expected to gather at the Expo Dome to celebrate the **Africa Live** concert. This unprecedented event is the biggest ever event to be organised by all African countries participating at the 2005 World Exposition. More than 30 African countries, most of them housed under the Global Common 5, are partaking at the event to highlight the unity and commonalities that exist amongst Africans from all around the continent.

The celebrations will run for three days, starting from the 16 till 18 July and are timed to coincide with the 87th birthday celebrations of former President of South Africa, Nelson Mandela which is celebrated by people from all over the world. It is rapidly becoming a wonderful tradition that his birthday is celebrated and many people make commitments to make it a special day. His birthday celebrations will add flavor to the event making it an even better event of the 21st century. It is a time where the world reflects back on the effort he and his peers have put into the liberation of people in the early days of struggle and the day will be observed as such.

The **Africa Live** event will be celebrated under the overarching theme of Africa – Joy of Living - a theme adopted by all African countries participating at the 2005 World Expo currently underway in Nagoya, Japan.

The event will provide an opportunity to educate, stimulate and broaden the understanding of the international community including that of the Japanese on the realities of the African continent.

It is a platform for Africans to celebrate Africanism and to say to the world - Africans are proud to be Africans. It is aimed at celebrating the huge diversity of African cultures, history and traditions.

The event is expected to close an enormous knowledge gap and understanding of African countries.

The highlight of the event include, a colourful string of cultural and musical performance by well-liked African artists, a fashion parade showcasing Africa's inimitable designs and garments, Miss Africa Live Contest and a Global Walk

among others. Hugh Masekela, world renowned jazz musician and South Africa's musical ambassador to the world is expected to give a performance with Sadao Watanabe as special guest. His performance, together with that of Winston Mankunku Ngozi and Phuzekhemisi (more of traditional music) will hold the audience enthralled throughout the entire celebrations. Masekela's trumpet has been an instrument of resistance, a call to freedom and a celebration of the resilience of the people. His powerful blend of jazz, funk and afro-beat has mourned the tragedy of apartheid and rejoiced at its demise.

Musicians will perform in various places such as the Expo Dome and the Global Common 5 Stage, all in Japan.

Visitors are urged to come and experience the beauty of African continent and learn from Africans as they make their own expression of the Expo theme, the Nature' Wisdom through variety of activities planned.

(Please note: you will require an Expo ticket to get to the events)

Tickets for the show on 16 July will be available at the Expo Dome on a first come first served basis from 09:00 on the 16th

See you there!!!!

Programme line up

Saturday, 16 July 2005

Time: 12h00 – 18h00

Venue: Expo Dome, Nagoya, Japan

List of performers:

Hugh Masekela

Wiston Mankunku Ngozi

(with Sadao Watanabe as special guest)

Phuzekhemisi

Sunday, 17 July 2005

Time: 15h00 – 19h00

Venue: Global Common 5 Stage, Nagoya, Japan

List of performers:

**Wiston Mankunku Ngozi
Phuzekhemisi**

Monday, 18 July 2005

**Time: 15h00 – 19h00
Venue: Global Common 5 Stage**

List of performers:

**Wiston Mankunku Ngozi
Phuzekhemisi**

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