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"Bakwena Arts": a case study of arts and culture policy and implementation in the Limpopo Province

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2009-10-13T12:08:16Z
http://hdl.handle.net/10539/7347

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Abstract:

In this research I examine the legacy of Arts and Culture Administration in the Limpopo Province, specifically with the intention of bringing to light the ways in which the evolution of this administrative structure has been largely framed by a history of domination by manifold colonial states. This fact of history has been shown to have given life to unique phenomena that are the seeming birth right of the new dispensation: corruption, inequality, apologism, blamelessness and rural contempt.

The research makes special reference to the difficulties encountered by the emergent Northern Transvaal / Northern Province / Limpopo Province in establishing arts infrastructure and basic delivery. These difficulties are shown to be due to the former Transvaal's policy of centralized cultural structures, and further compounded by the implications of the transformation of Pretoria's State Theatre. This specific instance will inform an examination of the disparities between rural and urban realities in postcolony SA.

My own practical work is discussed in relation to the above as far as it deals with the everyday production of culture, represented by the intrusion of global modern media into highly disparate social contexts.