New CEO appointed for the Gauteng Film Commission (GFC)

Mr. Andile Mbeki has been appointed as the CEO of the Gauteng Film Commission (GFC). Andile Mbeki (45) is an entrepreneur, youth activist and a community leader who has a strong passion for youth development, entrepreneurship and innovation. He has worked for government for fourteen years and ventured into business for ten years. He has also worked extensively in the field of training and development ranging from teaching; lecturing and management of Human Resource Development Processes.

He has served, and continues to serve in various executive and advisory capacities in a number of statutory bodies, NGO’s, public and private sector including: Member of the South African Public Service Trainer’s Association; Advisory board member of Maximum Dynamics; Advisory panel member of the Films and Publications Board; SABC Freelancer who presented youth radio programmes and coordinated youth television programmes; Head of the Communications Cluster in the Office of the Presidency of the African National Congress Youth League for two terms; Member of the Black Management Forum; Member of the Junior Chamber International (JCI: World Federation of Young Leaders and Entrepreneurs); Minister of Youth and Conscious Development in Peace Government Southern Africa; Board of Trustees for youth development of the North West Province; Advisory board member of Future Leaders, Advisory board member of Imbizo Events Group, Round Up Foundation board member; Member of national task team against Child Pornography; Board member of Olive Leaf Foundation and Germo Pulse Therapy; International Relations advisor to Coalition of Supporters Unions of Africa (COSUA); Trustree/Board Member of Moves For Life (introducing game of chess at school level).

He has served for two terms as an active member of the South African Broadcasting Corporation (SABC) board who was passionate about youth affairs, and played a
pivotal role in terms of transforming the content generation space by advocating strongly for new players to be afforded an opportunity to supply content to the SABC. He has recently been invited by the Minister of Communications to serve in the National Task Team to assist in content generation and broadcasting matters.

In introducing the new CEO to the GFC staff the MEC of Sport, Arts, Culture and Recreation Ms. Molebatsi Bopape mentioned that Mr. Andile Mbeki’s high qualifications and relevance of experience outweighed other candidates by a huge margin. The MEC further mentioned that Mr Mbeki demonstrated a clear understanding of government policies and a general mandate of the GFC which will assist Gauteng government in terms of relying on the agency to contribute towards the priorities set for the next five years.

MEC Molebatsi Bopape said that with the appointment of Mr. Andile Mbeki, it will not be business as usual for the GFC as things are going to be done differently – change of mindset and change of culture – through radical change. The MEC further indicated that the Gauteng Film Commission will now be more effective, more productive and competitive with Andile Mbeki at the helm, for the good of Gauteng and the people of Gauteng.

Mr. Andile Mbeki holds to his credit the following qualifications: Masters in Business Administration –MBA (De Montfort, Leicester, UK); Masters in Education – MSc Ed (St Cloud, Minnesota, USA); B. Ed (Nelson Mandela Metropolitan University former UPE); Diploma in Education (Algoa College), post graduate Certificate in Telecoms Policy, Regulation & Management through Wits University. A Leadership Certificate in African Studies through the Thabo Mbeki African Leadership Institute (TMALI) in partnership with UNISA. Currently studying towards Masters in ICT Policy & Regulations through Wits University (provisionally suspended studies, to be continued soon).
Mr. Andile Mbeki comes with a wealth of experience from the creative sector. Here’s what some of his former colleagues have to say:

**Congratulations for the appointment of Andile Mbeki as the new CEO of GFC**

I met Andile Mbeki during the African Film Summit held in Tshwane in April 2006. I observed his passion for the Film and Television Industries in particular but I could also feel his understanding of the Creative sector generally, in those early years before it has been officially identified and acknowledged as the “Mzanzi Golden Economy” in South Africa.

Our professional relationship and collaboration started there and our friendship has also developed from that time to date.

As Founder and Executive Director of Agoralumiere International, a Pan African Platform designed for the promotion of African Films and Film professionals on the international market places such as the Cannes Festival, the Shanghai Film Festival, the Mumbai Film Festival, the Dubai and the Doha Film Festivals, I appointed Andile Mkebi to represent the Organization in the Southern African Region from 2007 to 2013.

As Regional Secretary of the Pan African Federation of Filmmakers in Europe from 2006 to 2013 based in France and then later as FEPACI Project Manager residing in South African from 2012 to date, I frequently consult Andile Mbeki to seek advice on how to deal with the challenges related to my FEPACI activities in South Africa and he always makes time to analyze and provide me with relevant answers and advice.

I nominated Andile Mbeki to be appointed as one of the Non-Executive Directors of the FEPACI’s REGIONAL SECRETARIAT as the Central Secretariat of the organization was transferred to Nairobi (Kenya) in 2013.

I really believe that Andile Mbeki can contribute to revitalize the GFC and also to provide a stronger enabling environment for the younger stakeholders of the Film and TV industry in particular and the creative sector in general in Gauteng as a whole.

Marc Nekaitar
A veteran playwright, director and producer, Rev Mzwandile Maqina of the New Generation Group in Port Elizabeth, who worked directly with Andile in plays that have been performed throughout the country, congratulated Mr. Andile Mbeki on his appointment and hopes that he will carry his passion of theatre into his new position. Rev. Maqina described Andile Mbeki as a passionate actor and a playwright who for sometime disappeared from the industry and now is like a prodigal son coming back home to pursue his first love. He was a source of inspiration for young people whom he took from the streets and trained in acting using schools, home garages and community halls.

One of the beneficiaries of Mr. Andile Mbeki’s developmental efforts, Marisa Matshaya, has described Mr. Mbeki as a youth activist with a genuine passion for youth and women development. Marisa further explained that Mr Mbeki’s focus has always been to guide and support filmmakers from concept development to pitching and sustaining their business.

Terwadkar Rajiv of the Indian International Film Festival (South Africa) – IIFSA, runs exchange programmes between India and South Africa by bringing experienced actors from India to acting clinics in various townships of South Africa. Rajiv has described Mr. Andile Mbeki who serves as an Advisory board member of IIFSA as a people’s person who is always accessible and willing to assist and see projects to finish.

Confirmatory statement on Mr Andile Mbeki

The first time I interacted with Mr Andile Mbeki, was when we were charged by the Port Elizabeth Local Municipality, now Nelson Mandela Metro, to unite artforms that were known to be in existent in the Port Elizabeth Metropole. He was a very young man at the time, extremely intelligent, humble but direct, respectful and resourceful, a young man with a grounded and coherent thought-process.
Our interactions resulted in what was called the Port Elizabeth East Arts and Culture Association (PEEACA). This was a multi-disciplinary arts and culture association, with well-established artists and cultural practitioners in as many arts and culture genres that existed in the eastern side of Port Elizabeth at the time. It was Andile Mbeki, who insisted on inserting the compass-bearing “East” in the name of the association. His reasoning was that, the sun rises from the east, and the wise men in the Bible came from the east; and therefore using that compass-bearing “East” will locate the association as a dominant feature in our Port Elizabeth townships, but with this unimaginable brightness, warmth, colour and intelligence associated with the East. Some of us, who were senior citizens in the association, realised then and then that Andile Mbeki, is a young man we can only ignore at our own peril.

Andile Mbeki is a teacher by profession, hence his handling of his programme at the Radio Xhosa, now SABC Umhlobo Wenene, was educative, sensitive and pointed. He is a devout Christian, a strange characteristic from a young man, shall I say “young lion” deeply involved in the ANC Youth League politics of the time. He was a stage actor himself, who worked with one of the great minds of the friendly city, Reverend Mzwandile Maqhina. He was concerned about the education, training and development of the city’s young people; hence he and others found it easy to establish the Mankind Projects (Pty) Ltd, and was appointed as its first Chief Executive Officer. The Andile we groomed and cooperated with in the Port Elizabeth Metropole, had now become the national asset he had aspired to be.

There is lot one can say about Andile Mbeki, a lateral thinker from his humble beginnings in Port Elizabeth – surely his CV has ably demonstrated his illustrious career in the business world, in civil society, and in the Christian world. Andile Mbeki is a well-grounded and well-rounded individual that I am proud commend.

Mr Mzwandile Matthews
Administrator: Limpopo Department of Education
(in terms of section 100(1)(b) of the Constitution of RSA, 1996)
Date: 16 September 2014
A congratulatory message from Top Crew Home Brew Movies (Pty) Ltd

We wish to congratulate Mr Andile Mbeki on his appointment as the new CEO for Gauteng Film Commission. To some of us who had lost confidence in the Commission, his appointment is a breath of fresh air to the future of the film industry as he comes from the very sector and with relevant knowledge. This is the approach we have been yearning for in particular for key appointments in our country. We have confidence in him and his consultative approach towards resolving matters than imposing type of leadership we have witnessed before.

Congratulations is well deserved!

Further details will communicated to the GFC stakeholders in due course.

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