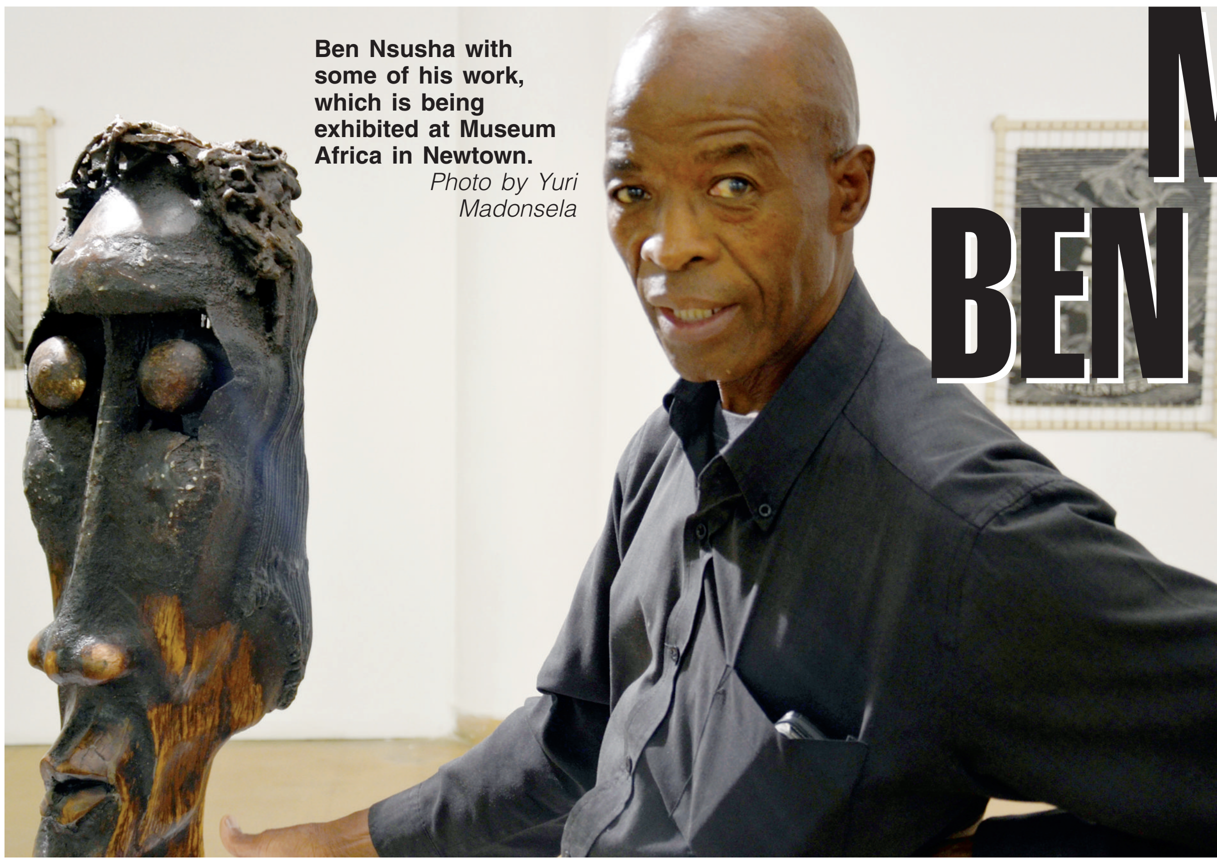
Ben Nsusha with some of his work, which is being exhibited at Museum Africa in Newtown. *Photo by Yuri Madonsela*

MUM HELPED BEN TO SUCCEED

By SIBONGILE MABENA

ONE of South Africa's most talented artists is exhibiting his work at Museum Africa in Newtown, Joburg.

Ben Nsusha's Thunga uThimule exhibition started on 25 September and will end on 24 December.

The 66-year-old, multi-talented artist specialises in ceramics, sculpture, printmaking and painting.

Thunga is a Zulu word meaning to sew, but it also describes the act of passing traditional beer from one person to the next while seated in a circle.

Thimula, Zulu for sneeze, can also mean to invite a response after posing an idea.

He has laboured on some of his work for close to 20 years. His artwork, Ancestral Connection,took him close to eight years to complete.

It's a sculpture made out of wood, steel and shredded pieces of paper. His prices range from R5000 to R450 000.

He exhibited at the African Art Centre gallery in London in 1987. In 2000 he was sponsored by Standard Bank to exhibit and work as an artist in residence at the Grahamstown Arts Festival.

Ben said: "My mother, who was a proficient basket weaver, played an inspirational role in my artwork.

"I think it's because every parent wishes their child well and that's exactly what my mother did for me."

School honoured for developing soccer

SOUTH African Sports Awards have come and gone but Daniye Primary School is still celebrating.


Bishop Makaringe and Njombo Mabunda.

The school from Mpumalanga won R130 000 at the awards which were held at Sun City earlier this month.

They won for being the Development School of the Year.

Ernest Mabunda, the school principal, said:"We are very humbled by the honour.

"We are going to use the prize money to build a sport village so that our school can continue to produce champions."

Mabunda said the school was honoured for developing soccer among pupils and also competing at the Danone Nations Cup World finals in London in June. Bishop Makaringe, captain of the team, said: "Our hard work and commitment have borne fruit. We thank the school and parents for supporting us. – *AENS*