

Residents celebrate Gugs' 50+

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The sad memories of the late 1950s when black people were forcibly removed from some of Cape Town's suburbs, were talked about lightheartedly last Wednesday when Gugulethu launched its 50+ celebrations at the Gugulethu Sports Complex.

Hundreds of people, including learners from the area's oldest school, Fezeka High School, attended the event which was characterised by song and dance as well as traditional foods, ranging from umqombothi, isonka samanzi as well as ulusu.

A moment of silence in honour of the late jazz musician Winston Mankunku Ngozi was also observed.

Addressing the gathering, Chief Whip of the National Council of Provinces, Nosipho Ntwanambi, said Gugulethu produced some of the country's most prominent

politicians and it was worth celebrating this milestone. She said Gugulethu residents defied the odds as they trounced apartheid barriers. "People put their lives at risk," she said.

'Fifty years ago Gugulethu was nothing'

"Fifty years ago Gugulethu was nothing. We were not meant to be here, as you can see our streets are made of cement. Our role was to supply cheap labour and go home and sleep," she said.

She called on residents to be proud of their area and continue to work hard to put it on the map.

"We need to be proud to be residents of Gugulethu; it was not our choice or our parent's choice to be here, but here we are," said Ms Ntwanambi, calling for unity between those who lived in brick

houses and those who stay in informal settlements like Barcelona and Khikhi. "We have to learn to be one community, whether you stay in a shack or a house. For us to achieve a good Gugulethu, Gugulethu must be united.

Event organiser and a 50+ steering committee member, Nosipho Singiswa, said numerous programmes were planned to mark the event and called on people to support each and every programme associated with Gugulethu's 50+. "People must support these programmes to make this sustainable and to help Gugulethu develop positively," she said.



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■ Fezeka High School choir entertained the crowd with beautiful melodies at the ceremony, attended by hundreds of