

# Power failure dims music awards

Xolani Dlamini

**LACK of diesel dimmed the lights at the South African Traditional Music Awards (Satma) on Saturday night at the University of Zululand near Empangeni in northern KwaZulu-Natal.**

For an hour, the guests including Sarah Obama – US president Barack Obama's grandmother – sat in the dark as the proceedings ground to a halt. Some guests left in a huff as the lights went out on the stage, microphones and the screens shortly after 11pm.

TV actor Melusi Yeni, the programme director, had to apologise several times while "the technicians were dealing" with the crisis.

It turned out that the generator ran out of diesel. A Satma official

## GENERATOR RAN OUT OF DIESEL

who spoke to Sowetan on condition of anonymity said it was a sloppy mistake.

"Nobody bothered to check if there was adequate fuel [in the generator] to last till the end of the ceremony," he said. He added they had to send someone to buy diesel at a local garage, a few kilometres away.

Some of the VIPs who ditched the event was Mpumelelo Bhulose famous for his role as Gxabashe on SABC1's *Uzalo* drama.

Calvin Zungu, one of the attendants who left said: "I could not stay for such a mess, deliberately made by Satma officials. I decided to leave because I had a long way

to drive back to Port Shepstone."

Another unhappy guest, Thandi Mdletshe, said: "We paid money for attending the ceremony. I was thirsty because they refused us entry with our own water and there was no water inside."

Satma founder Dumisani Goba apologised for the lights episode. "We send our deepest apology to the attendants. It won't happen again," he said.

Sarah Obama from Kenya was honoured with a lifetime achievement award for her selfless work in changing the lives in impoverished places across the African continent.

Imithente, a female maskandi



**LEGENDS: Maskandi group Imithente received an award for lifetime achievement at the Satma awards** PHOTO: THEMBINKOSI DWAYISA

group, were also presented with a lifetime achievement gong.

Amageza Amahle, a maskandi group the late Mtshengiseni "Ndi-

dane" Gwensa belonged to, won the best maskandi award. Rapper Zakwe took home best vernacular hip-hop award.

## Hopeful Idols contestant dumped from the show

Lesley Mofokeng

Entertainment Editor

**ELWIRA Standili hung up her microphone last night at Idols SA.**

She was the second woman in the Top 10 to be voted out of the popular reality singing contest.

The 22-year-old from Worcester, in Western Cape, gave up

her management studies to pursue a singing career.

Standili had a promising run. Earlier on she impressed even the hard-nosed *Idols* judge Randall Abrahams when she sang Jennifer Hudson's *Giving Myself* during the solo audition in Sun City.

*Idols* watchers even considered her a "threat" to the hugely popular Mmatema Moremi.

Standili said her secret to a great performance was channelling all the nerves into a song. She also revealed that she almost forgot her lyrics just five seconds before she sang in one of the stages of the competition.

"I had to control myself, focus and get into my zone again and then it all came back as I went on stage." Jennifer Rush was a guest on *Idols* last night. ■ mofokeng1@sowetan.co.za



**FAREWELL: Elwira is the latest Idols contestant to hang up the microphone**

PHOTO: SUPPLIED

## NAOMI STRIKES A POSE

Cast member Naomi Campbell poses at a premiere screening of "American Horror Story: Hotel" in Los Angeles, California, on Saturday

PHOTO: MARIO ANZUONI/REUTERS



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THE Tiso Foundation is celebrating a decade of changing lives.

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This was achieved when the founders of the Tiso Group bequeathed a substantial portion of their shares to the foundation.

More than 42 000 young students have benefitted since 2005 through the R100m invested in educational and skills development projects.

Today the value of the initial endowment is put at more than R660m.

Professor Chabani Manganyi, chairman of the board of trustees, said: "People without education remain at the fringes of society with little hope of redress, leading to increasing despair which may affect the socio-political stability of our country."

Today the Tiso Foundation runs programmes focused on tertiary education bursaries and broader skills and leadership development. – Sowetan Reporter

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