

Final countdown

>> PMB resident, Sinethembe Ngubane in the running for the Gagasi FM on-air presenter job

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WHEN Snethemba Ngubane from Manor auditioned for Gagasi FM's Topstars Reality Show at the Edendale Mall in September, she never thought that she would reach the final stages of the competition.

Ngubane is going head-to-head with two other contestants who are all vying to be Gagasi FM's on-air presenter.

The winner will get a one-year contract with Gagasi FM, a new laptop, a smartphone and a shopping voucher.

Armed with a journalism qualification from the Durban University of Technology (DUT) and a flare for radio, Ngubane is ready for the challenge.

"I am happy and humbled by the experience. At this stage the competition is really tough as the other two girls are equally talented. During the

week, we take turns to be in the studio and get a bit of training," said Ngubane.

"My family has been very supportive and I thank everyone who has voted for me since day one," said Ngubane.

While a third-year student at DUT, Ngubane was chosen to be chairperson for the campus radio station.

"I love radio because there is an amazing rapport that exists between the presenter and the audience. With radio, it doesn't matter where you come from or what you look like, as long as you can connect with your audience," she said.

Auditions for the competition took place in Vryheid, Ladysmith, Empanjeni, Port Shepstone, Pietermaritzburg and Durban.

Gagasi FM's programmes manager Vukile Zondi said that the Topstars initiative gave the station the opportunity to interact with its listeners.

"The fact that we will be empower-

ing youth through skills transfer in the process of being part of this excellent initiative makes us very excited about being part of Topstars reality radio show," said Zondi.

The engines behind the competition are the KZN Office of the Premier, Gagasi FM and RedGrape Media and Events Production.

Managing director of RedGrape Media and Events Protus Ndoleni said that since Topstars started in 2009, the competition has discovered raw talent in the province.

"This event illustrates very effectively that anyone from virtually anywhere and from any background can achieve their dreams," said Ndoleni.

Ngubane will be on air on November 9, 12 and 15, from midnight to 4 am.

To vote for Ngubane SMS "TOPSTAR 12" to 33119. Closing date for voting is on November 15.

The winner will be announced at a black-tie event on November 17.



PHOTO: SUPPLIED

Sinethembe Ngubane is a finalist in Gagasi FM's Topstar competition, together with two other contestants, to be Gagasi FM's on air-presenter.