

SHENGE



The Latest Bio of Shenge Wasehlalankosi

Discover the journey, music, and rising influence of Shenge Wasehlalankosi, packed with stories, milestones, and exclusive insights into the artist shaping maskandi today.

RISING
MASKANDI
ARTIST

EDITION 2026

Background

By Sithabile Mhlongo

Thobelani Zethembe Buthelezi, born on 17 August 2003, hails from KwaNongoma, KwaBhekumthetho, where he was born at Benedictine Hospital. Growing up in the heart of rural KwaZulu-Natal, his childhood was shaped by strong cultural traditions and a deep sense of community.

He began his education at Ehlezeni Primary School before moving on to Emvulazi Secondary School, both located in Nongoma. His academic journey continued at Prince Bhongwe High School, where he successfully completed his matric in 2020. Driven by ambition and discipline, Thobelani pursued higher education at Mangosuthu University of Technology, earning a Diploma in Public Finance and Accounting, which he completed in 2025.

This strong educational foundation reflects his determination to balance both professional aspirations and his passion for music, setting the stage for his rise in the entertainment industry.





MUSIC CAREER BEGINNINGS

Shenge's music career began as a hobby, sparked by his love for singing and sharing content on TikTok. He started by performing songs from well-known artists, but it was his renditions of Mzukulu's music that truly connected with audiences. His voice carried emotion, authenticity, and a raw cultural energy that quickly gained traction.

Mzukulu himself noticed Shenge's talent and appreciated his support. In November 2023, he invited Shenge to Johannesburg to collaborate on a new track. The result was *Ijuba* — a powerful single released on 8 December 2023, featuring Shenge Wasehlalankosi. The song exploded across platforms, racking up over 1.1 million streams by January 2024 and introducing Shenge to the national spotlight.

From that moment, Shenge's career took flight. His name began trending across social media, and artists from across the country reached out to feature him. His voice became a signature sound in the evolving maskandi scene — fresh, proud, and unmistakably Zulu.

Key Collaborations

Since his breakthrough, Shenge has added his voice to several tracks that shook the maskandi scene and captured audiences nationwide. Among the most notable are:

- ***Ijuba*** by Mzukulu ft Shenge Wasehlalankosi (2023)
- ***Ncono siyeke*** by Mshiniwemali ft Shenge Wasehlalankosi (2024)
- ***Nikhodima*** by Nhloso Khwela ft Shenge Wasehlalankosi (2025)
- ***Izintaba zokhahlamba*** by Mc Mphathiwohlelo ft Shenge Wasehlalankosi and Mjoliisi (2025)
- ***Ngikheth' utshwala*** by Mahostela 97 ft Shenge Wasehlalankosi (2025)

Shenge's rising popularity has earned him invitations to some of South Africa's biggest music festivals, where he has shared stages with industry giants and thrilled thousands of fans:



UGU Maskandi Festival
27 September 2025, Port
Shepstone



Last Dance Music Festival
– 31 December 2025,
Royal Showgrounds,
Pietermaritzburg (Live on
SABC 1)



Khayelitsha Maskandi Festival
– 25 April 2026,
Khayelitsha Rugby
Stadium

These appearances showcased his ability to command large stages, connect with diverse audiences, and represent Maskandi with pride and power.

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