
UKZN MUSIC STUDENT IN SEMI-FINALS OF NATIONAL COMPETITION



Mr Kwena Ramahuta.

Music student Mr Kwena Ramahuta is flying the UKZN flag high – he is one of 12 semi-finalists in the prestigious annual Southern African Music Rights Organisation (SAMRO) Overseas Scholarships Competition.

One singer in each category will claim a top prize of a R170 000 study award and the opportunity to accelerate their journey towards artistic and creative excellence.

'It is really an exhilarating experience to be a part of such a big event in this country,' said Ramahuta. 'To have even qualified among the many talented applicants to me is an honour. This means I have to do my utmost best,' said Ramahuta.

He has always wanted to further his studies beyond the undergraduate level and this, he feels, is an amazing opportunity for him. 'I believe studying abroad or just the experience of being abroad will definitely help me grow in my craft and inter-relational skills. You learn a lot from different cultures.'

Speaking about his love for music, Ramahuta said: 'What is really dear to my heart is furthering education through music in this country. I have been underprivileged in that regard, growing up in Limpopo and having to start studying music at a later stage. I believe in music education and that it has a role in making South Africa a better socio-economic place.'

Ramahuta chose UKZN, having heard about the music programme and its excellent reputation in South Africa and internationally. 'I have been impressed since my first year with the quality of teachers here who are dedicated and good at what they do.'

He says music bursaries are a rare commodity, especially in South Africa. 'Most of us aim to get on the international scene or at least be exposed to it and to think such opportunities are made available by such funding is beautiful.'

Ramahuta is busy practising, rehearsing and honing his music techniques and skills for the finals.

He is set to compete live during the intermediate round on 27 August. Four finalists – two from each of the categories of Western Art (“classical”) Music and Jazz – will compete for the top prizes on 29 August.

This thrilling final round, which is open to the public, features live accompaniment, special guests and performances of a selection of musical works, including a South African composition specially written for the occasion.