The Role of Pelepele Cultural Group in the Resuscitation of Arts and Culture in Swaziland

Pelepele Cultural Group was established in 2003, and at the time there were only three known Cultural Groups in Swaziland. There were very few Arts and Culture activities apart from the cultural ceremonies, Umhlanga (Reed) Dance, Lusekwane, Incwala and traditional weddings. Currently, in Swaziland, Arts and Cultural activities are rampant, including activities within the education system, where there are Schools Arts and Culture Competitions. Swaziland’s cultural arts’ presence has grown also within the SADAC Region Competitions. This has extended to International Swazi Cultural Tours in Europe and the USA. This research aims to explore the role of this group in the revitalization of cultural arts in Swaziland. My argument is that performance arts have a healing aspect to an individual person, community, or communities, and that such healing is contagious. I utilize multiple theories, including the theories of Paulo Freire’s Conscientization plus Heather Stuckey and Jeremy Nobel’s Connection between Art, Healing and Public Health. My argument focuses on the healing and revitalization of Swaziland’s cultural life and presence globally, and I claim that such an effect can apply anywhere accommodated!