



PHOTO: SIYABONGA MOSUNKUTU

This year's rural horse champion, Siyabonga Mabaso (14), shows off his talent after he won the race at Dundee yesterday.

HORSE FEST: PREMIER FULL OF PRAISE

THE success of the fourth KwaZulu-Natal Premier's annual rural horse riding festival held in Dundee on Saturday will see this event becoming a permanent part of the province's sporting calendar.

Premier S'bu Ndebele, who grew up riding horses and who has championed the promotion of the festival, said horse racing in rural areas has been in existence for decades. He thanked MEC for Sport and Recreation, Amichand Rajbansi, for promoting the activity. "I remember that early in 2005, the department initi-

ated and staged the first provincial festival, initially just five districts participated with 182 horses taking the course. This year's festival has seen participants from other provinces and from neighbouring countries like Lesotho," he said.

Ndebele thanked the Sports and Recreation Department for giving him the opportunity to "mount my horse and ride here to you".

"It reminds me of my days as a young man, it makes me feel free, exhilarated and feel the exuberance of youth all over again." — WR.



Premier S'bu Ndebele hands the trophy to champion Siyabonga Mabaso.

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