

North, east, west, south, home is best

By **MBALI DLUNGWANA**

WHEN the cleaning job she held at a tavern didn't pay her enough to support her family, she decided to hustle.

That's when Hloniphile Khumalo (50) from Sgubungu Village in Nongoma, northern KZN, remembered the handiwork her dear mother taught her back in 2014 – making miniature huts for home decorating purposes.

Hloniphile decided to turn that into a business to support her family.

“When I realised I was enjoying this handiwork, I decided to stop working at the tavern and focus on it.

“But in 2015 I was employed under the expanded public works programme to sweep streets, a job I still do. I earn a salary for sweeping the streets and also money from selling these huts,” said the mother of six.

She named her business Zanyiwe Craft Work.

“Zanyiwe is my late mother's name. I felt I should name my business after her because all this work I was starting was because of her teachings,” she said.

The decorative huts come in different sizes and shapes.

“When making a hut I use thin metal wires I buy from a warehouse and grass called inceba,

which I fetch from nearby river banks,” she said.

She said putting together one hut took her about three days.

“I work alone, so it takes me three days to complete one hut because I live with my seven grandkids, who keep me on my toes,” Hloniphile said.

She sells the miniature huts at Mona Market once a month.

“People use the small huts to decorate their homes. Others buy and use them for religious purposes,” she said.

She said she hoped one day her business would grow substantially enough to enable her to employ other people.

Hloniphile Khumalo makes decorative miniature huts to earn extra income.

