



22 September 2020

## FREE STATE PROVINCIAL HERITAGE DAY CELEBRATIONS

On the 24<sup>th</sup> of September 2020 South Africans will be celebrating the 26<sup>th</sup> edition of Heritage Day under the theme: ***“Promotion of Indigenous Languages”***. Through Heritage Day celebrations, the Department aims to promote heritage landscape transformation of the Free State Province, reaffirm the significance of our heritage as part of our national identity, and promote unity and diversity among all of the South African society.

The Free State Department of Sport, Arts, Culture and Recreation observes Heritage Day celebration which is aimed at fostering social cohesion in our communities as well as recognizing and celebrating the cultural wealth of our nation. South Africans commemorate this day by remembering the cultural heritage of the many cultures and traditions that make up the diverse population of our country.

Heritage Day was first celebrated on 24 September 1994 and for the past nine years the Free State Provincial Government has celebrated this day in Ficksburg with cultural music and dance performances as well as exhibitions by crafters and artists from all diverse groups of South Africa. The Department continues to align the celebrations with the national theme.

“The advent of COVID-19 has transformed our ability to publicly celebrate our Days of National Significance such as Heritage Day. This limitation will however not prevent us from expressing our identities and cultures. We will continue to celebrate our heritage through the promotion of traditional attire, diverse cultural expressions and indigenous languages as well as discussions around what constitutes our heritage. The Department encourages our people to cherish their rich and diverse cultural heritage as articulated in the Freedom

Charter that, the doors of learning and culture shall be opened and that all the cultural treasures of mankind shall be open to all, by free exchange of books, ideas and contact with other lands” stated Ms Limakatso Mahasa, the Member of the Executive Council for Sport, Arts, Culture and Recreation.

**Issued by the Free State Department of Sport, Arts, Culture and Recreation (DSACR)**

**Enquiries:**

Tankiso Zola  
Director: Communication and IT  
**Cell:** 082 940 2392  
**Tel:** 051 – 410 4735/4821  
**Email:** [tankiso@sacr.fs.gov.za](mailto:tankiso@sacr.fs.gov.za)

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