



30 May 2020

## DSACR MOURNS THE PASSING OF PROFESSOR JOHANNES MALEFETSANE LENAKE

The Free State Department of Sport, Arts, Culture and Recreation (DSACR) deeply mourns the passing of Professor Johannes Malefetsane Lenake – a distinguished African scholar and wordsmith. During his lifetime he authored more academic books than any other scholar in Sesotho. He was appointed by the Minister of Arts and Culture to the 9 member team of experts that produced our national anthem as we sing it today.

Professor Lenake was born on a farm, near Frankfort, in 1929. He taught at Frankfort and Fouriesburg and served as a school principal before accepting an appointment at the University of South Africa (UNISA) where he was a Professor of African Languages, specializing in Sesotho.

In 2017 DSACR honoured him for his outstanding contribution to Sesotho language and literature. In his acceptance speech Professor Lenake said, “Among the honours I received from various organisations, this is the best, because I am given recognition at home.”

His untimely death coincides with DSACR’s process of renaming the Namahadi Public Library after him. In this regard, public participation has been successfully completed and this library will soon be officially renamed the Professor Malefetsane Lenake Public Library.

In her message of condolence, the Free State MEC for Sport, Arts, Culture and Recreation Mrs. Limakatso Mahasa said, “I wish to send my condolences to the Lenake family, the language and culture fraternity and all Free Staters who gave South Africa and the world a shining star that, at the age of 91, was still actively teaching and mentoring our youth. May his soul rest in peace,”

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

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