



09 September 2020

## 2020 NATIONAL BOOK WEEK

National Book Week is the most recognized reading promotion campaign in South Africa implemented by the South African Book Development Council (SABDC) in partnership with the national Department of Sport, Arts and Culture. It is an important initiative which encourages the nation to value reading as a fun and pleasurable activity and to showcase how reading can easily be incorporated into one's daily lifestyle. SABDC celebrates National Book Week on 7-13 September 2020.

Due to the closure of public libraries as a result of the national lockdown which is implemented nationwide to mitigate the spread of COVID-19, the Free State Department of Sport, Arts, Culture and Recreation (DSACR) through its Library Services Directorate will collaborate with SABDC to celebrate National Book Week from 14-19 September 2020 hence it is envisaged that public libraries will be opened. National Book Week activities will include; Storytelling, Puppet Shows, Hip Hop, Poetry, Presentation of Books to the community, Reading activities etc.

"Libraries play an important role as reservoirs of educational material and centres of knowledge production in our communities. They help us to create and sustain a reading culture. Reading statistics report that only 14% of the South African population are active book readers, and a mere 5% of parents read to their children. National Book Week is an important initiative in encouraging the nation to value reading as a fun and pleasurable activity and to showcase how reading can easily be incorporated into one's daily lifestyle" said MEC Limakatso Mahasa.

End.

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

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