



25 May 2020

DSACR STATEMENT ON AFRICA DAY

On 25 May 1963, Africa made history with the foundation of the Organisation of African Unity (OAU) the precursor to the African Union (AU). Africa Day is intended to celebrate and acknowledge the successes of the Organisation of African Unity (OAU now the AU) from its creation on May 25, 1963, in the fight against colonialism and apartheid, as well as the progress that Africa has made while reflecting upon the common challenges that the continent faces in a global environment.

This year's Africa day will be celebrated under the theme, ***“Silencing The Guns by 2020: Creating Conducive Conditions for Africa's Development and Intensifying the Fight Against Covid-19 Pandemic”***. The Free State Department of Sport, Arts, Culture and Recreation (DSACR) encourages the people of the Free State Province to celebrate and embrace this important day in various forms that reflect all aspects of our cultures, traditions and heritage as Africans.

This year's celebrations will happen virtually and online due to the massive impact of COVID-19 pandemic on the continent and the world. The South African government has put measures in place to manage the spread of this pandemic and It is exactly 10 weeks since the declaration of a national state of disaster in response to the coronavirus pandemic. This year's Africa Day is a somber one for nation having recorded over 22 000 positive cases and over 400 deaths due to the pandemic. It is also a moment resilience and tenacity for our public health sector which has managed to record over 10 000 recoveries and continues to save lives of many South Africans despite limited resources.

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The COVID-19 global pandemic has seen libraries and other places of interest being closed in order to curb the spread of the virus and one way of getting to read while our libraries are under lockdown, is to make use of the Free State Provincial e-Book Library Service portal. The e-Book Library Service is open – 24 hours, 7 days a week. The Free State e-Book Library Service consist of fiction and non-fiction titles for children, youth and adults. You are entitled to borrow 6 books from this service for 2 weeks!

Another e-service for your usage is the E-Britannica – the online version of the Britannica encyclopaedia. This is an excellent information resource that is available for your usage, free of charge. E-Britannica is accessible on three levels, namely for children, youth and adults. To access e-books and e-Britannica resources register at: <http://prolib.fs.gov.za/>

Commenting about this day, the Free State MEC for Sport, Arts, Culture and Recreation Mrs. Limakatso Mahasa said, “As a department, we continue to inculcate a culture of unity and cohesion through various programmes that we stage. It is our conviction that Africa Day should serve as a platform that unites all citizens across cultural and racial groups. Indeed we heed the call to celebrate and unite in our diversity as a people.

MEC Mahasa went further to state that, “25 May marks Africa Day – a moment for the continent to pause, reflect, commemorate and celebrate our common identity, and to promote the African agenda that embraces peace and stability, democracy, non-racial, non-sexist, unity and prosperity.”

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

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