



27 April 2020

DSACR STATEMENT ON FREEDOM DAY

The Free State Department of Sport, Arts, Culture and Recreation (DSACR) joins the rest of the South African population in celebrating Freedom Day. This year, 2020, South Africa celebrates Freedom Day under the theme, **“Solidarity and triumph of the human spirit in these challenging times”**.

This year’s celebrations of this important day on our national calendar take place at a time when South Africa and the world at large are waging a huge fight against the COVID-19 pandemic that continues to claim thousands of lives around the world. It is in this context that we are all called upon unite in spirit and in deed to help combat this global health crisis, this includes obeying government regulations on COVID-19.

As South Africa continues to wage its fight against this pandemic, the DSACR is elated about the arrival of more than 200 Cuban medical doctors who have arrived on our shores to join us in solidarity to combat the COVID-19 pandemic. This kind gesture by the Republic of Cuba speaks of the longstanding relations and cooperation that the Cuban people have extended towards South Africa dating back to the dark days when progressive forces of the world fought hard to defeat apartheid in South Africa.

Freedom Day recognizes and celebrates the strides that have been made since 1994, and acknowledges that South Africa is a far better society than it was under apartheid. It is also a period of reflection on what else needs to be done collectively towards the goal of building a prosperous society and improving the quality of life for all.

Freedom Day is a significant occasion and it is an opportunity not only to celebrate our freedom and democracy, but to reflect on how South Africa’s

Private Bag X20606, Bloemfontein, 9300

Business Partners Building, Cnr Henry and East Burger Streets, Bloemfontein

Tel: (051) 410 4735 Fax: (051) 410 4786 Email: tankiso@sacr.fs.gov.za

democracy and freedom was achieved, the progress made in the past 26 years and how South Africans should work together to implement the National Development Plan (NDP).

Speaking about the importance of this day, the Free State MEC for Sport, Arts, Culture and Recreation Mrs. Limakatso Mahasa said, “Our country’s history of division, injustice and suffering should inspire us to a better and more united nation. We have collectively made significant progress in transforming our country from an apartheid state into a democratic one. We must continue to address the triple threat of poverty, inequality and unemployment. It is also worth noting that our transformation initiatives are helping us deracialise the economy and ensure the majority of South Africans enjoy the economic gains from our liberation”.

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

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