



26 July 2019

## **BASOTHO NEW YEAR CELEBRATION**

Basotho cultural practitioners, traditional leaders, traditional healers, Sesotho wordsmiths and Basotho nation as a whole will gather for the annual celebration of Basotho New Year (*Selemo sa Basotho*) to mark the commencement of the ancient Basotho calendar which commences immediately after the last days of the winter season in August (*Phato*). This season is characterised by blowing winds and the cultivation of fields hence the first crop from this cultivation is customarily served as a sacred offering to God.

Celebrated with traditional songs, dance, customs and food this event is expected to serve as a platform to inculcate the Sesotho culture on the young generation and foster education about all aspects of this culture. The event's highlight is the parade composed of patrons clad in cultural blankets and attire, men on horses as well as cultural artists rendering traditional music. The 2019 celebrations of the Basotho New Year Celebration will be held as follows:

**Date : 03 August 2019**

**Venue : Basotho Cultural Village (Phuthaditjhaba)**

**Time : 09:00 AM**

The 2019 Basotho New Year will be preceded by an Outreach Programme which will start from 30 July 2019 and will end on 02 August 2019. This Outreach Programme will also serve as an activation campaign about the Basotho New Year celebrations and will focus on various schools around Fouriesburg, Bethlehem, Kestell, Harrismith and Qwaqwa. Speaking about the 2019 edition of Basotho New Year celebration, MEC Limakatso Mahasa stated that, "The Department is committed to the preservation and promotion of our heritage and culture by managing several museums and heritage sites across the province. The Basotho New Year Celebration speaks to

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our quest to promote social cohesion by embracing all cultures. It also deepens our drive towards cultural self-awareness in our communities. Only when communities are aware of their history and cultural identity can we be able to build a prosperous society that is united in its diversity. Sesotho is the most common language spoken by 64% of the population in the Free State Province, therefore, we have to preserve and promote it as we do with other languages”

**Your media house is invited to attend this event.**

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

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