



29 September 2021

## PROVINCIAL MUSEUMS SERVICES TO HOST HERITAGE & TOURISM MONTH CELEBRATION

The Free State Department of Sport, Arts, Culture and Recreation (DSACR), through its Caledon River Museum in Smithfield, will host the celebration of Heritage and Tourism month.

Caledon River Museum is situated in Mofulatshepe, Smithfield. The museum houses collections on various themes ranging from the history of Basotho, The Bersheeba Massacre and the famous military cannon affectionately known as “Ou Grietjie”.

The event is aimed at celebrating both Heritage & Tourism month under themes; ***“The Year of Charlotte Maxeke: celebrating SA’s intangible cultural heritage”*** and ***“Tourism for inclusive growth”***.

In South Africa, the term “intangible cultural heritage” is used interchangeably with the term “living heritage”. Living heritage is the foundation of all communities and an essential source of identity and continuity. Aspects of living heritage include: cultural tradition, oral history, performance, ritual, popular memory, skills and techniques, indigenous knowledge system and the holistic approach to nature, society and social relationships. Living heritage plays an important role in promoting cultural diversity, social cohesion, reconciliation, peace and economic development.

It is against this background that Provincial Museums Services through Caledon River museum will commemorate the living heritage of Basotho, Xhosa and Coloured communities which are considered major cultures within Mofulatshepe community. This will be done through showcasing of traditional food and dances as well as indigenous games amongst the abovementioned

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cultural groups. The museum aims to continuously improve its exhibition through including all aspects of living heritage hence this event.

Amongst other prominent local people who will be attending the event, Ntate Tsoamotse, a knowledgeable cultural holders or cultural practitioner will share the history of the formation of Mofulatshepe community. In line with Tourism Month, Caledon River museum supports tourism initiatives, hence, museums are tourist attraction centres and all aspects of our living heritage inform tourism.

Furthermore, Provincial Museums Services acknowledges its social responsibility to ensure that museums are accessible to all citizens and people living with disability; must observe museums as places for educational and recreational purposes. Access to museums for people with disabilities should be prioritized and this can only be realized by provision of resources, for example; exhibitions with braille captions for the blind, sign language interpreters for the deaf, access ramp for physical impaired users.

DSACR, therefore, supports the deaf awareness and blind awareness month hence as part of the event we will engage on a discussion on the challenges faced by people living with disabilities and how can we learn to improve our services that will benefit them.

The Provincial Museums Services heritage & tourism month celebration will take place as follows:

**Date: 01 October 2021**

**Venue: Caledon River Museum, Smithfield**

**Time: 10h00**

**Attendance by invitation only!**

COVID-19 regulations to be strictly observed.

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

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