



22 February 2022

## DR KPD MAPHALLA TO BE CELEBRATED POSTHUMOUSLY

The Free State Department of Sport, Arts, Culture and Recreation (DSACR) will honour and celebrate the late Dr Khotso Pieter David Maphalla (popularly known as KPD) who departed on 05 April 2021 at the age of 66. Following his departure, the late Dr KPD Maphalla was posthumously awarded with the Order of Ikhamanga Award by the State President of the Republic of South Africa, His Excellency Matamela Cyril Ramaphosa for his outstanding literary work.

Due to the advent of COVID-19 lockdown regulations, the Free State Province has not had an opportunity to celebrate this milestone achieved by its son of the soil. DSACR has, however, decided to host an event in celebration of this late icon on 25 February 2022, a day on which he would have celebrated his birthday.

Born in the Free State in 1955 Dr KPD Maphalla was a renowned and prolific writer in the Sesotho language. Unequaled in Sesotho literature, he has authored more than 70 literary books. His works, which span across all genres, have been prescribed for use in schools and tertiary institutions. They have also been the subject of research by Masters and PhD students at universities.

During his lifetime Dr KPD Maphalla received numerous accolades including an honorary doctorate from the University of the Free State. From winning the Orator of the Year award as a student at Tshiya College of Education, in 1976, he went on to amass a string of awards which included Radio Sesotho Astera, Thomas Mofolo Floating Trophy and recognition from a number of publishing houses.

The Dr KPD Maphalla Celebration will be hosted as follows:

**DATE: 25 FEBRUARY 2022**

**TIME: 17H30**

**VENUE: BRAM FISCHER BUILDING, ROSE A HALL, MANGAUNG**

The Free State MEC for Sport, Arts, Culture and Recreation Me Limakatso Mahasa commented that, “As a Department we were honoured to work closely with Dr Maphalla through his works; and were able to recognize his contribution to Sesotho literature with a Lifetime Achievement Award in 2006. The Department also has a repository of Dr Maphalla’s work which the public can view at the Sesotho Literary Museum in Mangaung.”

MEC Mahasa went on to state that, “The loss of Dr Maphalla is akin to a closure of a resourceful library which many of us looked upon as a lodestar for the development of literature in the Free State Province and beyond. Gems of the calibre of Dr Maphalla are rare and never easy to find. We are, therefore, not going to tire in our efforts to celebrate him posthumously as a son of the Free State soil.” concluded MEC Mahasa.

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

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