



14 JUNE 2022

DSACR TO HOST RURAL SPORT DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME IN PHUTHADITJHABA

This year marks the 46th anniversary of the 16 June 1976 student uprising. Youth Day commemorates the Soweto youth uprising of 16 June 1976. The day is about paying tribute to the learners who sacrificed and laid down their lives fighting for freedom and the right to equal education.

The 2022 National Youth Month and Youth Day is celebrated under the theme: *'promoting sustainable livelihoods and resilience of young people for a better tomorrow'*.

The Department of Sport, Arts, Culture and Recreation, in partnership with the Thabo Mofutsanyana District Municipality, Maluti A Phofung Local Municipality, Free State House of Traditional Leaders, Netball, Football and Athletics Federations will be hosting a sports day with the youth of Phuthaditjhaba in Qwaqwa to commemorate Youth Day.

The Rural Sport Development programme is aimed at developing sport and providing a platform for the youth in rural areas to showcase their talents in various sporting codes such as netball and football. Fun walk is also added as a recreational activity. The programme is focused on areas that are under Traditional Leadership. This programme was launched nationally in 2016.

In the Free State the programme is currently having 67 under-13 football male clubs, 21 under-15 and 12 under-19 netball, five (5) female football clubs and about 100 athletes actively participating in both track and field events. All these clubs are playing in their respective leagues and have registered with their relevant federations. As part of the June 16 commemoration, clubs will compete against each other as per their clusters to determine the winners that will proceed to the finals on the 16th of June 2022 at Thibella Outdoor Sport Centre in Qwa Qwa.

The day will start with a fun walk at Tsheseng Shopping Centre at 07h00 and thereafter proceed to Thibella Outdoor Sport Centre where all the other activities, including indigenous games and



aerobics, will take place. The programme will conclude with a soccer match between Maluti a Phofung Councillors and House of Traditional Leaders.

Reflecting on this programme, the Member of the Executive Council (MEC) for Sport, Arts, Culture and Recreation, Mrs Limakatso Mahasa, noted that “the Rural Sport Development Programme has been conceptualized out of a realization that, notwithstanding the efforts made by government to promote sport in the country, the state of sport, availability of sport infrastructure as well as participation in sport activities, mirrors the societal disparities between the urban and rural. Through this programme we therefore aim to address these disparities through the promotion of sport in rural areas in partnership if the traditional leadership”.

MEMBERS OF THE MEDIA ARE INVITED TO THIS EVENT THAT WILL TAKE PLACE UNDER THE FOLLOWING DETAILS:

DATE: 16 JUNE 2022
PLACE: THIBELLA OUTDOOR SPORTS CENTRE QWAQWA
TIME: 07:00

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

Enquiries:

Tankiso Zola
Department Spokesperson
Cell: 082 940 2392
Email: tankiso@sacr.fs.gov.za

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