



15 March 2023

NATIONAL AFRIKAANS LITERARY MUSEUM AND RESEARCH CENTRE (NALN) 50TH CELEBRATION

The National Afrikaans Literary Museum and Research Centre (NALN), celebrates its 50th anniversary in March 2023. NALN was founded in 1973 by the Free State provincial government and is located in the Old Free State Government Building. The building was commissioned by President Johannes Brand to house various government departments of the Orange Free State government.

The NALN building, which was completed in 1877 used to be the seat of Government of the former Republic of the Free State and the Free State House of Assembly used to gather in the Third Raadsaal, which forms part of the NALN building.

NALN is dedicated to the preservation and promotion of all forms of word art in Afrikaans and has been a central archive for material and information on the history, development, and scope of literature, music, and drama in the Afrikaans language.

The museum will celebrate its 50th anniversary with book launches and other events throughout the year. The highlights of the celebrations will be the festival lecture, the opening of the Volksblad Room and an information session about NALN, as well as the building's history.

Prof Bernard Odendaal, former head of the ATKV writing school at the Northwest University in Potchefstroom, delivered the festival lecture on Thursday 9 March 2023. Network24 supported the opening of the Volksblad room which was moved from the Volksblad building in 2021 and established at NALN in 2022. The opening of the Volksblad room took place on Friday 10 March 2023.



On Saturday 11 March 2023 at 10:00, Mrs Leana Lategan, former chief subject advisor, gave a talk about the history of NALN. A talk on the history of the building was delivered at the same event by Mr Kobus du Preez, a lecturer from the Department of Architecture at the University of the Free State.

Prof. Jerzy Koch from Poland will launch his poetry anthology Polkadraai (Turksvy Publications) at NALN on 16 March. On the 11th of May Hertzog Prize Winner Johan Myburg will be discussing his poetry anthology Narreskip and an Afrikaans music concert will be held on the 18th of May as part of the main celebrations.

As a central archive for material and information about the all-encompassing history and development of Afrikaans literature, music and theatre, it is imperative that this Afrikaans treasure trove is celebrated and preserved for future generations.

Members of the public are invited to attend the events at no fee. RSVP to Annelien Diedericks at annelien.naln@gmail.com, (051) 405 4013/ 5407

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