



25 May 2023

## AFRICA DAY 2023

Annually on the 25th of May, South Africa joins the rest of the African continent and the world in commemorating Africa Day. Africa Day is intended to celebrate the formation of the Organisation of African Unity (OAU) on May 25 1963. The OAU's main objectives were amongst others to rid the continent of colonisation and apartheid, to enhance unity and solidarity amongst the African States and to promote international cooperation. In 2002 the African Union (AU) was launched following a decision by the OAU to create a new continental organisation as there was a need to refocus attention from the fight for decolonisation and ridding the continent of apartheid towards increased cooperation and integration of African states to drive Africa's growth and economic development.

This year we celebrate Africa Day under the theme, "**Accelerating the implementation of the African Continental free trade area (AFCFTA) to bring greater prosperity to the continent**". The AFCFTA is a flagship project of Agenda 2063 aimed at creating a single African market for goods and services facilitated by free movement persons, capital, investment to deepen economic integration, promote and attain sustainable and inclusive socio-economic development, gender equality, industrialization, agricultural development, food security, and structural transformation.

The Free State Department of Sport, Arts, Culture and Recreation (DSACR) will be commemorating Africa Day by partnering with the National Library of South Africa (NLSA) by hosting a roundtable discussion. The roundtable discussion which is themed: "**The Role of the library sector in the Development of indigenous languages and building sustained economies**", will also be hosted in collaboration the Pan South African Language Board, Free State Language Services, the University of Free State, and the Sesotho Literature Museum. The event will take place under the following details:

**Date:** 26 May 2023

**Place:** University of Free State, Bloemfontein Campus

**Time:** 11:00

The roundtable discussion theme encourages the people of the Free State Province to celebrate and embrace this important day. The purpose of this roundtable discussion, is to promote social cohesion, develop, promote, and sustain a culture of reading, writing, and



publishing in local African languages, as well as provide easy access to local African indigenous books.

The DSACR further urges all citizens of the province to take part in conversations and initiatives that seek to advance the promotion and appreciation of the vast diversity and cultural heritage of Africans as well as to promote the African agenda that embraces a non-racial, non-sexist, peaceful and stable nation.

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

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