

MPHATLALATSANE

DEPARTMENT OF SPORT, ARTS, CULTURE & RECREATION NEWSLETTER **NALEDI YA MESO**

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PRINCIPAL'S CORNER

Issue 3



On 27 April the way for an equal, representative and non-racial society. The day also affords all of us an opportunity to reflect on the progress we have made as a nation since the ad-

vent of our constitutional democracy in 1994.

Also covered in this issue is the department's National Museum Day celebration which is celebrated on 18 May each year since 1977. Our department hosted an informative and educational event at the Wesleyan Church (Waaioek) in Bloemfontein. The special guests at this event were learners from Grassland Secondary School in Mangaung. One of the departments core mandates is to accelerate the transformation of

the country's heritage landscape by establishing and managing museum and heritage services and hosting events of this nature where young people are equipped with knowledge on the importance of preserving our heritage for future generations.

Furthermore, we recently also celebrated another day of national significance on the 25th of May. Africa Day which is intended to celebrate the formation of the Organisation of African Unity (OAU).

The main objectives of the OAU 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. As we observe and celebrate these days of significance may we also not tire in our efforts to building the South Africa we want to live in.

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sport, arts, culture & recreation
Department of Sport, Arts, Culture and Recreation
FREE STATE PROVINCE

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) commemorated Africa Day by partnering with the National Library of South Africa (NLSA) in hosting a roundtable discussion. The roundtable discussion which was themed: "The Role of the library sector in the Develop-

ment of indigenous languages and building sustained economies", was also hosted in collaboration with the Pan South African Language Board, Free State Language Services, the University of Free State (UFS), and the Sesotho Literature Museum.

The celebrations kicked off on the 25th May 2023 at the William Postmas Building with a creative writing workshop conducted by Mme Nthabiseng JahRose Jafta who is a world renowned poet and author. The workshop was followed by a roundtable discussion that was held at the Uni-

versity of the Free State on the 26th May 2023. Ms Jeanet Molopyane, Director- UFS Library and Information Services from UFS gave a heartwarming welcome to all the guests and participants while Mr Marcus Maphile, Director- Public Engagement and Campus Operations from National Library of South Africa delivered the purpose of the day. DSACR was represented by Mr Tseliso Masolane, Acting Deputy Director for Language Services and Mr Mzwandile Radebe who is a Principal Librarian from the DSACR Thabo Mofutsanyana District office.



FREEDOM DAY 2023

This year, the 27th of April marked the 29th anniversary of South Africa's first democratic elections. This day which is known as Freedom Day is commemorated every year to honour those unsung heroes and heroines who fought for our freedom and paved the way for an equal, representative and non-racial society. Freedom Day is an opportunity to highlight key achievements and milestones in the country's democratic journey, as well as to reflect on

the challenges that still need to be addressed.

Minister of Sport, Arts and Culture, Mr Zizi Kodwa launched Freedom Month at Freedom Park (Pretoria) on the 6th of April 2023 under the theme "Consolidating and Safeguarding Our Democratic Gains", kicking off various events and activities across the country to mark the occasion. The Free State Province hosted its provincial celebration at the Harry Gwala Multi-Purpose Centre in Zamdela (Sasolburg).

In attendance at the event were communities of the Free State as well as guests and stakeholders from government, civil society and the private sector.

The three part programme included, Exhibitions on the history of Freedom Day history, arts and crafts showcasing African culture as well as visual arts. After the formal programme the guests were treated to a Cultural Programme that included musical performances by local artists.





BLOEMSHOW HIGHLIGHTS

2023 marked the 140th celebration of the annual Bloemshow. The Free State Provincial Government stall at the show once again proved to be very resourceful. Dedicated and knowledgeable officials dispersed government services to the patrons and the provincial stall was awarded with a Service Excellence Silver Medal Award.

The Department of Sport, Arts, Culture and Recreation's stall intrigued the visitors with the toy library being a firm favourite with the young ones. The Museum Services unit educated the visitors on all the museums and heritage sites of the province and used the opportunity to educate the visitors on the importance of preserving culture and heritage for future generations. The Arts and Culture directorate had a striking display of visual arts and patrons had an opportunity to have portraits of themselves and their loved ones drawn at the show. On the final day of the show the department supported the Bloemshow with the hosting of the FamFest, where artists such as Legoody, Shaxe Khumalo and Thebe (Lenyora) brought the curtain down with the musical extravaganza.





WORLD READ ALOUD DAY 2023 HIGHLIGHTS



World Read Aloud Day (WRAD) is celebrated annually on the first Wednesday of February. WRAD is an international advocacy day, founded by Lit-World with a mission to underscore the importance of global literacy, promote reading aloud and the power of literacy. This day is about celebrating the power of reading, having fun through reading or telling stories aloud. The day is also about challenging participants

to grab a book, find and audience and read aloud!

Books open up new worlds to children and reading allows children to use their imagination whilst learning at the same time.

Libraries of the Free State Province made WRAD fun by telling stories and reading aloud to pre-scholars, children, teenagers, adults and the elderly.

This year's celebration was different as the department took WRAD to the com-

munities. Libraries participated in celebrating World Read Aloud Day by visiting pre-schools, others went to correctional services departments, some had reading sessions with EPWP workers and others had street sessions where they asked random people in the street to read aloud a paragraph from a book in a language that they are comfortable with.

Unity Dual Purpose Library celebrated World Read Aloud Day for 3

days. On the 1st February the celebration was held at the Library with the libraries club. The South African Preamble was presented and Nalibali reading songs were sung together with the teachers and Mme Mfeku from provincial library. The second and third day the school together with the library celebrated WRAD at in school hall where teachers read aloud in different languages to intermediate learners.

Albertina Si-

sulu Dual Purpose Library and Edenburg Public Library celebrated World Read Aloud day in Edenburg with a read aloud street session where they asked random people to read aloud from book written a language that the reader is comfortable with. This exercise was to show the community of Edenburg the importance of reading. A correctional service department was also visited on the day.

Qalabotsha Public Library celebrated World Read Aloud Day by inviting Miss Palesa Kwebu who is Nalibali agent to do story-telling and read aloud to learners from 3 Primary schools.



Heilbron Public Library celebrated with children from 24 Children aged 7-14 from School of Destiny at the Heilbron Public Library.



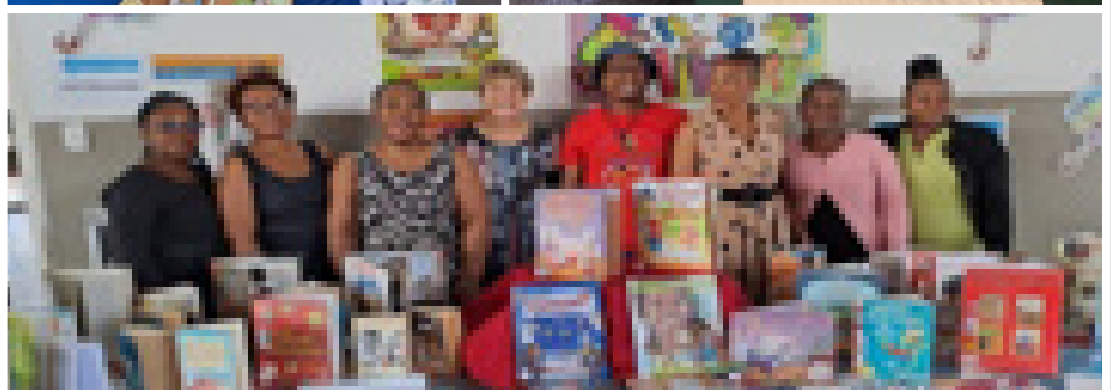
Fichardt Park Public Library celebrated World Read Aloud Day with Patrysis Nursery School at Fichardt Park Library. The children were treated to storytelling, library orientation and playing in the toy library.



Sasolburg and Zamdela celebrated World Read Aloud Day at Bekezela Primary School in Zamdela.



Steynsrus Public Library held an event with the Women in Agriculture Club.



INTERNATIONAL MUSEUM DAY EVENT AT WESLEYAN CHURCH MUSEUM



Celebrated on 18 May each year since 1977, International Museum Day represents a unique moment for the international museum community. The International Council of Museums (ICOM) established International Museum Day to increase public awareness on the role of museums in the development of society.

Museums are trusted institutions and important threads in our shared social fabric. They are uniquely placed to create a cascading effect to foster positive change. There are many ways in which museums

can contribute to achieving sustainable development goals.

Every year on 18 May, participating museums plan creative events and activities related to the International Museum Day theme. The museums engage with the public and highlight the importance of the role of museums as institutions that serve society and its development. The 2023 International Museum Day was celebrated under the theme “Museums, Sustainability, and Well-being”.

The Department of

Sport, Arts, Culture and Recreation celebrated International Museum Day at the Wesleyan Church (Waihoek) in Bloemfontein. The purpose of the event is to increase public awareness on the role of museum in society.

Learners from Grassland Secondary School were the special guests at this important event. The learners were treated to an array of exhibitions, displays and information sharing by different museums in the province.

Various speakers from the Museum

Services unit gave the learners information on all the museums of the Free State province as well as the various career paths that are available in this sector.

The programme was directed by Mr Molale Shuping who is a Museum Human Scientist at the Sesotho Literature Museum (SLM). Mr Shuping also gave a brief overview of the Sesotho Literature Museum and what the learners should expect to see when they visit SLM.

Ntate Msibi gave the learners a talk

of the history of the South African flag and what each of its colours symbolizes. Mr Msibi also went through the South African National Anthem protocols and educated the learners on the do's and don'ts when singing the anthem.

Mr George Tladi addressed the learners on the history of apartheid in South Africa. Mr Tladi spoke about the role that was played by struggle icons such as Mme Winnie Mandela in the fight against apartheid, struggles that brought about the freedom that these young people

are now enjoying.

Mr Wyno Simes from the National Afrikaans Literature Museum (NALN) gave the learners a talk on the history of Afrikaans and a short description of what is preserved at NALN. Mr Simes invited the learners

to visit NALN for more information.

Ntate Lehlohonolo Lefalatsa from Basotho Culture Village (BCV) spoke about the role that BCV is playing in the preservation of the Basotho culture. He encouraged the learners to visit such museums

and heritage sites for a first-hand experience of the rich culture of the Basotho people.

Mme Millicent Mokomela who is a collection assistant represented the Queens Fort Military Museum that is situated in OR Tambo road in Blo-

emfontein. Mme Nthabiseng Molusi represented the old Presidency Museum which was the residence of three former Presidents of the Orange Free State.

In his closing remarks Mr Tlhabi who is the Acting Director respon-

sible for this unit, expressed his gratitude to everyone who attended the event and further encouraged everyone present to take advantage of the information and experience that these museums offer.



DSACR EMPLOYEES PROGRESSES BOYS CHOIR TO NATIONAL COMPETITION



Mr Mtwagae Edward Shago who works at Free State Musicon under the EPWP program was deployed to assist Albertina Sisulu High School in the Xhariep District with preparations for a choral competition. The boys choir that he was conducting got position one in the district and in the province. The choir will represent the Free State Province in the National SASCE (South Africa School Choral Eistedfodd) competition on the 30th of June 2023.

FREE STATE DEPARTMENT OF SPORT ARTS CULTURE AND RECREATION (DSACR) HOSTS COMMUNITY CONVERSATIONS ON SOCIAL COHESION AND NATION BUILDING



Pillar two of the National Development Plan aims to “Encourage citizens to be active in their own development, in strengthening democracy and in holding their government accountable”. The highest number of GBV perpetrators in South Africa are men and the highest number of suicide cases is also amongst men. This is alarming and needs urgent attention because it exposes the fact

that there are a number of issues faced by men that aren’t dealt with. DSACR hosted a dialogue on 31 May 2023 that was targeted at young boys and men. These dialogues are created as a platform for men to share their issues and also find ways and tools to assist them when they are faced with challenges. Amongst the speakers was Heartlines, they used their storytelling approach as a tool for healing.

They showcased one of their short films which is also aired on SABC 2. The short film highlights issues faced by men and how the broader society responds to those issues. The storyline was of a young man who is unemployed and cannot afford to contribute financially for his new-born child, the story then highlighted that even though the character is unemployed there are other means to support a

child and still be a present father. The discussion then was then centred around how society navigates around what is regarded as taboo and how we all need to challenge our thoughts and ideas around present fatherhood. Mr Vusi Galane, an employee of DSACR was also one of the speakers, he focused on men and spirituality and how important it is to be a complete man by understanding that some of the attitudes that

men have are due to the fact that they aren’t balanced human beings and are operating on their shadow masculinity. The National Prosecuting Authority’s (NPA) Court Preparation Services in particular gave a presentation on court proceedings for victims of GBV and femicide. It has been noted that victims sometimes avoid pressing charges as they feel victimized by certain laws or are fearful of court

processes. There is also an existing belief that South African laws protect the perpetrator. The NPA's presentation focused on assuring the attendees that there is support for victims who feel intimidated by court processes.

Other speakers included Mr Sabata Marumo who runs the It's a Boy Programme. The programme encourages men in communities to "adopt" and become father figures for young boys who may not have positive male

role models. There was also a financial literacy workshop conducted by Mr Julius Nthoba and the attendees received certificates thereafter. The spiritual session that was led by Pastor RL Masisi focused on the importance

of fathers listening and paying attention to their sons needs instead of assuming they know their needs or challenges. At the conclusion of the dialogue, delegates expressed the need to have more dialogues

of this nature and wished that these sessions would be extended to more days in order to allow broader issues to be addressed.



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