



06 September 2023

ANNUAL HERITAGE DAY CELEBRATION: CELEBRATING OUR CULTURAL DIVERSITY IN A DEMOCRATIC SOUTH AFRICA

Annually, September marks Heritage Month with Heritage Day celebrated on 24 September by showcasing our nation's diverse culture and heritage. The Free State Province will again celebrate the annual Heritage Day on 24 September 2023 at Meqheleng/Ficksburg in the Setsoto Local Municipality. After a three-year hiatus the celebration will again be staged under the national theme: **"Celebrating our Cultural Diversity in a Democratic South Africa"**. The last celebration was in 2019 and, following the eruption of COVID-19 pandemic, the celebration could not be staged through large public gatherings.

In celebrating the 2023 Heritage Day South Africans are called upon to internalise the following key messages:

- 1) Celebrate our rich and diverse cultural traditions and heritage.
- 2) Our cultural diversity can ensure greater social cohesion and nation-building.
- 3) The values of ubuntu are an integral part of who we are.
- 4) Together we can ensure that our heritage lives on.
- 5) Let us work together to ensure that harmful cultural practices that infringe on human rights do not find a place in our daily lives.

The celebration will take place under the following arrangements:

Date: Sunday, 24th September 2023

Time: 10:00

Venue: Meqheleng Stadium (Meqheleng/Ficksburg)

Various cultural activities and traditions will be showcased as well as music programmes that will provide the much-needed performance opportunities for local artists. Exhibitions of various government services and provision of 'services on wheels' by various government departments and entities such as Home Affairs will also feature prominently during the celebration in a quest to promote public access to government services.

The celebration is expected to be graced by leaders of government, civil society structures and the broader communities of the Free State.

End.

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

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