

MPHATLALATSANE

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

JUL/AUG 2023

PRINCIPAL'S CORNER

Issue 5



18 July 2023 Day was celebrated under the theme: 'CLIMATE, FOOD AND SOLIDARITY'. As South Africans we are all affected by the increasing levels of poverty as well as inequality. We can

also not shy away from the impact of climate change in our country. We need to live up to the legacy that Tata left us.

As a department we official opened the Jan Lebesse Public Library in Van Stadensrus.

Libraries play the essential role of providing access to information and resources to disadvantaged communities. I have often highlighted the importance of literacy and education and having these facilities in our communities is a big step towards bridging the gap between advantaged and previously disadvantaged members of our communities

in a post-apartheid South Africa. I hope that the community of Van Stadensrus will use this Library for its intended purpose and that it will assist to better the community.

In this issue we also bring you the highlights from our annual Basotho New Year Celebration. As expected the event was a huge success and we were all once again reminded of the rich and beautiful heritage of the Basotho people. The presence of Premier Mxolisi Dukwana, Morena E Moholo wa Bakoena, Moremoholo Motebang Mopeli and other equally important

dignitaries made the event more special.

As we close August month I urge all of you to continue the fight against the scourge of Gender-Based Violence that is perpetrated by men on women and children daily. This is a battle that should be fought 365 days of the year. Our country is deeply traumatised by the horrendous acts of extreme violence against women and children and it is up to me and you to be the change that we would like to see in our country.

Mrs L.P. Mahasa

MEC: Sport, Arts, Culture and Recreation



Department of Sport, Arts, Culture and Recreation
FREE STATE PROVINCE

BASOTHO NEW YEAR



In 2024 the Basotho nation will celebrate 200 years since its formation. As preparations are underway for this bicentennial occasion the Department of Sport, Arts, Culture and Recreation has over the years continued to celebrate and preserve the Basotho history.

The Basotho Cultural Village, located in picturesque and mountainous surroundings, is the centrepiece in all the Department's efforts to preserve the heritage and cultural history of the Basotho nation. Through this institution,

which is a living museum, the annual Basotho New Year celebration has been observed over the years.

The 2023 annual Basotho New Year celebration was celebrated on the 5th August 2023 at the Basotho Cultural Village near Phuthaditjhaba.

Scores of people from the Free State and Lesotho came together to celebrate the event which is celebrated annually after the last days of winter (Mariha) to give way to new life after the dry season. Basotho New Year starts in August (Phato), which

is known for its blowing winds and it being the month when fields are cultivated and the first crop from the cultivation is offered as a sacrifice to Tlatlamatjholo (God).

Premier Mxolisi Dukwana and MEC for Sport, Arts, Culture and Recreation, Ms Limakatso Mahasa where ushered into the event venue on a horse drawn carriage escorted by Basotho men on horse backs. The prestigious event was then opened with the traditional healer's ceremony, where traditional healers prayed and

burnt sage to call upon the ancestors to grace and bless the event.

As in previous years the celebration was a demonstration of cultivation, music and dance. Traditional attire and cuisine was the order of the day. Men draped in traditional blankets and women in dishweshwe were treated to traditional Sesotho delicacies such as dipabi, motoho and dikhobe.

In his key note address, Premier Mxolisi Dukwana highlighted the importance of events such as this one. "We are

losing touch with our cultures and heritage and events of this nature are pivotal in keeping our cultures alive", said Dukwana. Morena E Mopholo wa Bakoena, Moremoholo Motebang Mopeli and other dignitaries from House of Traditional Leaders also graced the event. Morena Mopeli expressed his gratitude to the provincial government for honouring this important date in the Basotho calendar and ensuring that their culture is preserved.



DSACR CELEBRATES SESOTHO FEMALE AUTHORS



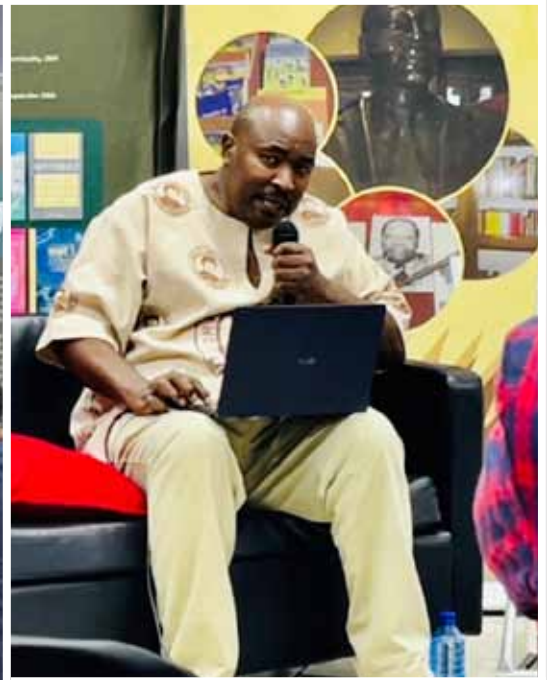
On 25 August 2023, the Department of Sport, Arts, Culture and Recreation through its Sesotho Literature Museum, in partnership with Language Services and the Lejweleputswa Arts Centre in Welkom celebrated the legacy of Sesotho women authors. When outlining the purpose of the event, the curator of the Sesotho Literature Museum and Acting Deputy Director, Tseliso Masolane mentioned that the event was in line with the departmental annual performance outcomes of providing platform for practition-

ers to benefit from capacity-building opportunities. Masolane added that it was a rare and privileged moment for attendees to benefit from the immense research work done by Mr Pule Lechesa. Attendees also had an opportunity to engage in dialogue and map a way forward in ensuring the sustained effort of preserving and developing the African literature, and increase the number of books written by women. Mr Pule Lechesa, who was the keynote speaker aligned his message with the theme, “Celebrat-

ing the Legacy of Sesotho Women Authors”. In his message, Lechesa who is dubbed “the backdrop upon which Sesotho writers shine” by his mentor and role model, Professor Nhlanhla Maake, focused on the exceptional work done by foundational writers such as Mme Mamosili Mokorosi, Dr Masechele Ntšeliseng Khaketla and Mme Makhokolotso Albertina Mokhomo. Lechesa explained that contrary to popular belief Mme Mamosili Mokorosi was the first Mosotho female writer to write a

book in Southern Africa, and not Dr Masechele Ntšeliseng Khaketla like many believed. Dr Masechele Ntšeliseng Khaketla published her first book in 1954, and it was called Mosali eo u mphileng eena. Mme Mamosili Mokorosi published her book, Bolebali, in 1951, making her the first Mosotho woman to publish a book in Southern Africa. Lechesa explained that Dr Khaketla’s husband, the late Bennett Khaketla, who was also a respected writer and politician, also confirmed this in his

book, Lipshamathe. The event was preceded by a script-writing workshop in partnership with Nkgo ya Lethabo Writers Forum. The event was hosted to speak to the Language Services Sub-Directorate’s Annual Performance Plan Indicator, for practitioners to benefit from capacity building opportunities. The session which was facilitated by the renowned script-writer and film guru, Mr Skeelo Khumalo targeted 20 practitioners in order to ensure an impact-based outcome.



NELSON MANDELA PROVINCIAL CHALLENGE

During the month of July the international community observes International Mandela Month in honour of the liberation stalwart and the first president of the democratic state of South Africa, the late former President Nelson Mandela. Through

sport, arts and cultural programmes the Department of Sport, Arts, Culture and Recreation will forge ahead with programmes in honour of the late former President.

The Department of Sport, Arts, Culture and Recreation hosted the Nelson

Mandela Provincial Tournament in a quest to continue with the preservation of the legacy of this struggle icon. The tournament was staged on the 29 and 30 July 2023 at, Itumeleng Stadium in Zastron. The Provincial Tournament was preceded by district

eliminations that were staged in all the districts on 22 and 23 July 2023.

Sport programmes that were staged during the Provincial Mandela Tournament included netball and football.

Each district was represented by two

(2) netball and two (2) football teams. The overall winner for the Netball Tournament was from Lejweleputswa and the overall winner for football was Mangaung Metro Municipality.



OPENING OF VAN STADENSUS LIBRARY



On Thursday, 13 July 2023, The Premier of the Free State Province, Mr. Mxolisi Dukwana and the Member of the Executive Council (MEC) for Sport, Arts, Culture and Recreation, Mrs Limakatso Mahasa, presented the community of Van Stadensrus with a state of the arts, modern and spacious library.

The Jan Lebesse Public Library was built at a cost of around R 17 million. The library funding for the construction of the library was availed as part of government efforts to transform

and upgrade public library services in disadvantaged communities.

This library will fill a huge gap pertaining to information needs of the community of Van Stadensrus who can look forward to moving from a one-roomed library to a fully-fledged centre of information excellence.

As an information centre, it is expected that the library will serve as an empowerment tool for the local community in general and learners in respect of improvement of literacy levels

as well as access to newspapers for job opportunities searches.

This well-furnished library consists of the following facilities:

- 1) Children and adult lending sections
- 2) Reading area
- 3) Reference section with a capacity of 12 people
- 4) An activity hall
- 5) A study area with a capacity of 55 people
- 6) Computer room with a total number of 23 computers providing free internet access, e-mail and word

processing facilities.

7) A toy library service area which will not only support early childhood development but provide entertainment and educational games such as chess, scrabble, monopoly and others to cater for the needs of children and adults.

The following services will be provided in the library:

- Book lending services with approximately 8 000 library materials.
- Reference services with reference

collection of encyclopedias, dictionaries, atlases and yearbooks.

- E-publications and e-Britannica reference sources will be provided online through the internet, making it possible for the community to gain access to e-reference resources
- Newspapers and periodicals in hard copy and digital formats
- Educational Toy Library Services
- Storytelling, reading clubs and community-based literacy activities will be hosted in the Activity Hall.
- Holiday Programmes.



WESLEYAN CHURCH IN WAAIHOEK TO RECEIVE WORLD HERITAGE SITE STATUS



The Free State Department of Sport, Arts, Culture and Recreation welcomed the International Council on Monuments and Sites (ICOMOS), the UNESCO's World Heritage Convention Committee (WHCC) Sub-Committee to

evaluate Waihoek Wesleyan Church for possible inscription on the World Heritage list. The Department had made a strong case in support of the unique and aesthetic founding venue of the ANC to be declared a World Heritage Site

and the 2nd World Heritage Site in our province after the declaration of Vrededorp Dome Meteoritic Site in 2005. On 16 August 2023 Premier Mxolisi Dukwana was joined by MEC Limakatso Mahasa and Cllr Gregory Nthatisi, Acting

Executive Mayor of Mangaung Metro Municipality at the Wesleyan Church in Waihoek which is one of the National Heritage Sites found in Mangaung, Free State. The purpose of the visit was to evaluate whether the Na-

tional Heritage Site is in the correct state to be given a World Heritage Site status. The Department will await the outcome of the decision by the relevant bodies in the declaration of World Heritage Sites.



WOMEN IN ARTS IMBIZO



As part of celebrating women's month, MEC for the Free State Department of Sport, Arts, Culture and Recreation, Ms Limakatso Mahasa hosted an Imbizo for women in the creative sector. The

event was aimed at providing women in the creative and cultural industry with an opportunity to interact with the MEC and share their experiences and challenges. It has been observed that women

in this sector are still side-lined and that the sector is still male dominated. Female artists are still affected by gender stereotypes and are often marginalised from prestigious creative roles. The depart-

ment is committed to using culture and the creative industry to fight social ills such as gender based violence by empowering women to be independent and active participants in job creation and growth

ing the economy of the province. This session served as a pivotal platform for open discussions for the advancement of women in the creative industry in the province.



FREE STATE MUSICON NATIONAL ANNUAL VOCAL SOLOIST COMPETITION WINNERS

CATEGORY 7-8 YEARS

Neliswa Stuurman	Relebeletse Primary
Karabo Lekgare	Relebeletse Primary
Reanetse Lipholo	Relebeletse Primary
Category 9-10	
Hlonolofatso Khetsi	Relebeletse Primary
Zanele Phuma	Matlafalang Primary
Kamohelo Mukopu	Matlafalang Primary

CATEGORY 11-13

Kgalaletsang Nkgwedi	Matlafalang Primary
Dimakatso Sephapho	Botshabelo
Lerato Lekaola	Botshabelo
Category 13-15	
Nthabiseng Lebuso	Commtch
Lesedi Prins	Bloemfontein
Palesa Seeikoei	Bloemfontein
Category 16-19	

Soprano

Xoliswa Memani	Bloemfontein UFS
Thato Madikane	Lere la Thuto High
Galaletsang Pitso	Bloem South High
Mezzo Soprano	
Nongqele Kometsi	Lere la Thuto High
Kellelo Thamae	Bloemfontein
Dieketseng Ditholeng	Vulamasango High

Tenor

Amogelang Khoaripe	Botshabelo
Itumeleng Majoro	Reamohetse (Articon)
Siyabonga Tshaka	Reamohetse (Articon)

Bassbaritone

Thato Morutle	Bloemfontein
Itumeleng Rakoata	CUT Bloemfontein
Karabo Mohapi	Lere la Thuto High

OPEN SECTION (20 YEARS AND ABOVE)

Soprano

Dikeledi Segalo	Welkom
Dineo Bokala	Bloemfontein
Thulisiwe Danisa	Mpumalanga
Mezzo Soprano	
Rethabile Khaile	Potchefstroom
Zenande Lewela	Eastern Cape
Lerato Monatsi	Lesotho



Tenor

Maruping Mokalake
Khotso Tsekeletsa
Katleho Mathinya
Baritone
Tsotetsi kamohelo
Dumisani Rini
Piet Olifant

Soutpan
Bloemfontein
Bloemfontein
Kroonstad
Bloemfontein
Welkom

Bass

Ronald Melato
Paul MdBeng
Mzukisi Duzisa

Kroonstad
Bloemfontein
Welkom

**FOLLOW US ON:**

FREE STATE DEPARTMENT OF SPORT, ARTS, CULTURE AND RECREATION



WWW.FSSACR.GOV.ZA



@FSSACR



@FREESTATEDSACR

SEND US YOUR STORIES

Mphatlalatsane: Naledi ya meso Corner of East Burger and Henry Street
2nd Floor, Business Partners Bloemfontein, 9300

Tel:051 410 4700, Email:tankiso@sacr.fs.gov.za

Website:www.fssacr.gov.za