

**Emfuleni Local Municipality's Executive Mayor, Her Worship,
Councilor Dikeledi Tsotetsi, during the heritage Festival taking place
at Vanderbijl Park Library Gardens.**

Program Director
Fellow Councilors present
Communities of Emfuleni
Ladies and Gentlemen,

21st September 2007

September is devoted to heritage and tourism month and Gauteng Government launched Pale ya Rona, Carnival serving to celebrate our communities' diverse heritage wealth.

Today's program is part and continuation of Emfuleni Vaal River Carnival, annual program of celebrating our Heritage.

One of the most wonderful aspects about culture is that it makes all of us equals.

Our presence here today must serve as a platform for public awareness education about importance for preservation of our Heritage and exploiting Heritage as means of economic empowerment, job creation for all our government designated groups namely youth, women as most vulnerable groups in terms employment and skills development equity targets.

The National Department of Arts & Culture runs a number of covering all sections of our society.

1. Arts Social Development & Youth programs and Projects

All nine provinces are working in collaboration with Department of education in promoting Arts in schools also extending it to communities' arts centres. National Arts learner ship to all deserving potential and performing artists.

It remains every ones task present here to go back and ensure such structures are created at wards as platforms to share and exchange useful information for purposes of youth empowerment by taking advantages of opportunities created by our democratic government infighting poverty alleviation and underdevelopment.

2. Youth expression campaigns

Focuses on civic health of youth, Awareness on gender relations, Building self-esteem, role models, moral regeneration of our Society and recognition of women contributions,

Heritage of a society embraces the languages, Indigenous knowledge systems, Artifacts, Structures, Plants, National symbols-Government coat of arms, flag national anthem etc.

Aspects of our celebrated living heritage include cultural traditions, Oral history, performances, and rituals.

Investing in culture projects

Is a critical intervention program with the potential for funding youth focus projects by IDP, this does need endorsement of Provincial SRAC alignment in their Expanded Public Works Programs.

Heritage institutions like SAGNC&PNGC are charged with the responsibility of process of naming and renaming of places of Geographical names, promotion and preservation and establishment of new museums.

Local municipalities as part of government entity have the authority to initiate names changes, by following all guidelines as stated by act of Parliament supported by due legal processes.

“If we neglect culture we actually are neglecting the Soul of the nation that binds us together and makes us the same and makes us have common identity”

With this program of cultural empowerment, we are building up momentum for the celebration of our annual Heritage Day on 24th September at Mogale City.

Heritage resource facilitates community bridges and contributes positively towards social cohesion.

On behalf of the Emfuleni Local Municipality, I would like to acknowledge that this event means a great deal, not only to those who are being entertained and invested, but also to all the people of Emfuleni

In conclusion

We the people of Emfuleni add our voice that Gauteng is the home of
champions,
We are nation united in our diversity, and pride ourselves of all our
national colours, and symbols
Let the games begins,

You belong, we Care

I thank you.