

Media Statement

For immediate release

22 September 2017

SALGA COMOMMERATES HERITAGE DAY: 24 SEPTEMBER 2017

South Africa is a nation that emanates from a historical past wherein, among others, culture, tradition and language were employed as apparatuses to perpetuate internal unfair discrimination, divisions and conflict. Since 24 September 1995, the first Heritage Day was celebrated by the country, the nation approached the Day from a perspective of employing race, culture and language as enablers of national reconciliation, national cohesion and national building.

Government defined heritage as everything that the people inherit. These include culture, history, wildlife, monuments, artwork, literature, music, folklore, languages, culinary traditions, and more. It is a powerful tool that is relevant and usable to augment and reconcile a fragmented historical past and to promote unity in diversity and inclusive social cohesion of South Africans into a better future

Every year, the Department of Arts and Culture declares a special theme for the Heritage Day for the nation. This year's is: 'Reclaiming, restoring and celebrating our living heritage'. This declaration is within the context of the year 2017 which marks the centenary of the birth of Oliver Reginald Tambo, a colossus who strode the world leaving a lasting African print.

SALGA through its portfolio dealing with Arts, Culture and Heritage is partnering with relevant entities in order to continue to craft, register and advance the cause. It does this by, among others, working towards a uniform model for local government meant to address issues related to, funding, regulatory and legislative framework, institutional arrangements, capacity building and development of human capital.

SALGA calls on all municipalities and South Africans in general to celebrate the Day by, amongst others, visiting heritage sites; studying the history of South Africa's heritage including the flag and national symbols; celebrating music and art generated from different cultures, traditions and languages of South Africa; organizing talks and lectures on the importance of the South African heritage and living 'botho' and being participatory in sport and recreation.

Let us celebrate our heritage.

Happy Heritage Day!

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