

MEDIA RELEASE

Thursday, 24 February 2022

For attention Editors and Journalists

DSAC COMMEMORATES THE 2022 INTERNATIONAL MOTHER TONGUE DAY

The Limpopo MEC for Sport, Arts and Culture, Ms. Thandi Moraka, invites communities and the media to join the department in commemorating the International Mother Tongue Day by hosting Literary Awards. Every year the department decides on the specific genre for the literary competition. For the current financial year, the genre for the competition was a novel. The Literary Awards seek to promote the previously marginalised indigenous languages. The main aim is to promote multilingualism and language diversity; encourage communities to prioritise their mother tongue; and to instil the culture of learning and reading in mother tongue.

The day will be commemorated under the theme **“Using technology for multilingual learning: Challenges and opportunities”**. In the Province of Limpopo, the commemoration of the International Mother Tongue Day and Literary Awards ceremony is arranged as follows;

Date	:	25 February 2022
Time	:	17:00 for 18:00
Venue	:	Meropa Casino, Polokwane Municipality Capricorn District

On 17 November 1999, the United Nations Education, Scientific and Cultural Organisation (UNESCO) declared February 21 to be International Mother Tongue Day and it was first observed on 21 February 2000. It also keeps in mind events for example, the killing of four students on 21 February 1952, because they fought to formally bring into play their mother language, Bengal, in Bangladesh and the 1976 South African students uprising against Afrikaans as the medium of instruction. UNESCO supports mother language and multilingual education through International Mother Tongue Day.

The overall objective of the Day is to contribute to promoting Global Citizenship education. Globally 40 per cent of the population does not have access to an education in a language they speak or understand. Nevertheless, progress is being made in mother tongue-based multilingual education with growing understanding of its importance, particularly in early schooling, and more commitment to its development in public life. On this day, the province will also be launching the “Decade of indigenous languages (2022-2032)” also as declared by UNESCO.

For more information, please contact Mr. Lucky Tshilimandila – 082 222 2930 OR Ms. Jermina Kaka 060 997 7078.