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DEPARTMENT OF
SPORT, ARTS & CULTURE

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LIMPOPO CELEBRATES INTERNATIONAL MOTHER LANGUAGE



By Mkomati Mongwe and Jermina kaka

NKOWANKOWA: The Limpopo Department of sport, Arts and Culture joined the international community in celebrating the International Mother Language Day recently in Bankuna Main Hall at Nkowankowa within the Greater Tzaneen Municipality (GTM) in Mopani District. The day was celebrated under the theme "**Towards Sustainable Futures through Multilingual Education**".

The aim was to foster sustainable development, encourage that learners must have access to education in their mother language and in other languages. It is through the mastery of the first language or mother languages that the basic skills of reading, writing and numeracy are acquired. Through this awareness awareness campaign the department seeks to encourage communities to prioritise their mother tongue; promote multilingualism and language diversity.

During her welcome address Cllr. Letsoalo, said that a learner taught in his/her home language excel academically because content is easily grasped. She further highlighted that the African culture was marginalised "We need to fight for the recognition of the previously disadvantaged and marginalised languages" said Cllr. Letsoalo.

The acting Head of Department The Acting Head of Department, Mr. Mabakane Mangena was impressed with granny's and the youths on traditional attires and showing interest in their home languages. He urged them to participate in the preservation and development of their home languages to be at the same status as English and Afrikaans languages

The United Nations Education, Scientific and Cultural Organisation (UNESCO) yearly celebrate Mother Tongue universally on February 21. 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.

UNESCO supports mother language and multilingual education through International Mother Language Day (IMLD). The overall objective of the Day is to contribute to promoting Global Citizenship education.

On 17 November 1999, UNESCO stated publicly February 21 to be International Mother Tongue Day and it was first observed on 21 February 2000. On International Mother Tongue Day the United Nations Education, Scientific and Cultural Organisation and UN Organisations partake proceedings that encourage linguistic and cultural variety.

MARULA FESTIVAL 2017

By Jermina Kaka

Phalaborwa : Phalaborwa was once again received a high volume of people from all over the country and beyond as Marula Festival commenced with a bang; the colourful Marula Street Carnival. The two departments, the Department of Sport, Arts and Culture and the department of Economic development, Environment and Tourism sees the festival as an important tool to promote social cohesion and nation building, furthermore to discourage xenophobia and tribalism.

The 12th edition of Marula Festival street carnival saw various cultural groups showcasing their cultural diversity of the Limpopo and the South African

National Defence Force. The carnival moved from the inner town of Phalaborwa to Impala Park Stadium was the cultural festival took place.

As if the cultural carnival was not enough, the next day, the programme started with Marula Marathon which attracted people from all over the province and beyond. The same day in the evening it was kwaito and Hip-Hop festival featuring the likes of the award winning artists such as AKA, DJ Shimza, DJ Zinhle, HHP, MiCasa, Heavy K, the legendary Mdu Masilela, Thebe, Brickz and many more.

The festival will culimante in a Gospel and Jazz open air concert which will feature Selaelo Selota, King Monada, Worship

House, Caiphus Semenya, Letta Mbuli and many more.

Through this initiative, the Department of Sport, Arts and Culture aims at promoting national identity, showcases cultural diversity through adopting various measures of creating National Unity.



