



SPEECH BY MEC BELLA CONSTANCE KUPA-MABUZA, MEC FOR SPORT, ARTS AND CULTURE, LIMPOPO PROVINCIAL GOVERNMENT, AT THE LAUNCH OF *MEMORY FOOTPRINT* BY MR THAMAGA MAXWELL MOJAPELO AND THE TV DOCUMENTARY — 05 SEPTEMBER 2026 | NG KERK, CORNER GROBLER AND BICCARD, POLOKWANE

Programme Director,

Mr Thamaga Maxwell Mojapelo, the Author of the book titled *Memory Footprint*,

The Guest Speaker, Dr. David Maahlamela

The CEO of National Heritage Council Dr. Thabo Manetsi

The Founder and the CEO of Shynebright Mr. Rabbi Mashabela

Dr. Fetsie Maluleke of Maluks Book Publishers

Sponsors and Partners

The producers and creative team of the TV Documentary

Distinguished guest and creatives,

Heritage and Cultural practitioners,

Members of the media,

Ladies and gentlemen,

Thobela! Avuxeni! Aa! Sanibobabi! Lotsha

It is an honour to join you today at the launch of *Memory Footprint* and the accompanying television documentary, taking place during Heritage Month, when our nation celebrates its diverse history, culture and identity.

As the Limpopo Provincial Government, we regard this occasion as an important affirmation of storytelling, heritage preservation, language and culture in building a united and socially cohesive society.

The Limpopo Department of Sport, Arts and Culture has a critical responsibility to protect, promote and pass on our province's rich heritage through arts, culture, literature, archives, museums, libraries and the creative industries.

Distinguished guests,

Limpopo is blessed with rich linguistic and cultural heritage. Our indigenous languages carry knowledge, history and identity, and must be promoted in literature, education, broadcasting, theatre, music, film and daily life.

Arts and culture bring people together across social, cultural and generational boundaries. A book can preserve memory, a documentary can share a forgotten story, and creative expression can strengthen social cohesion and nation-building.

We must therefore continue to support writers, filmmakers, artists and other creatives with opportunities, platforms, markets and partnerships that help turn creativity into sustainable livelihoods.

The work represented by *Memory Footprint* and the TV documentary shows that Limpopo has stories worthy of being read, heard, seen and shared beyond our provincial borders.

Mr Mojapelo, we congratulate you on the launch of *Memory Footprint* and commend you, together with the creative team, for preserving and communicating our experiences through literature and television.

As we celebrate Heritage Month, let this occasion remind us that heritage is not only about remembering the past, but also about shaping the future.

As government, we remain committed to building a province where our diverse cultures are respected, our languages are promoted, our heritage is protected and our creative practitioners are supported to thrive.

We must tell our own stories, in our own voices, in our own languages, and with pride.

Let *Memory Footprint* be a lasting contribution to our collective memory and a reminder of the power of storytelling to preserve our legacy for future generations.

Let us reaffirm: our heritage is our identity, our languages are our memory, our arts are our expression, our culture is our strength, and our stories are our legacy.

In conclusion, let us be reminded of the wise words of former President Nelson Mandela, who said: "If you talk to a man in a language he understands, that goes to his head. If you talk to him in his own language, that goes to his heart."

May this message inspire us to continue preserving our languages, telling our stories with dignity, and passing our heritage on to future generations.

I thank you. Ke a leboga. Na khensa! Ndo Livhuwa.