

LAUNCH OF THE HERITAGE MONTH CELEBRATIONS & HERITAGE DAY CELEBRATIONS

The theme for the 2011 Heritage Month Celebrations is "*Celebrating the Heroes and Heroines of the Liberation Struggle in South Africa*". The 2011 Heritage Month, through the guidance of the Presidency and the Department of Arts and Culture will help in reconnecting the nation with our rich and diverse collective liberation heritage.

The National Heritage Day Celebrations will be held on September 24, 2011 in the Mpumalanga province. The DAC will work in conjunction with the Presidency and the provincial government of Mpumalanga to identify a relevant venue for the main event.

The President of the Republic of South Africa will be invited to deliver a keynote address at the main event and messages of support from other political parties represented in Parliament will also be delivered at the main event.

This theme will not only allow national, provincial and local spheres of government to celebrate the lasting legacy of the national liberation struggle, but will contribute towards the revival of political and socio-cultural consciousness across the country. The theme will readily capture the imagination of the country as well as assist in promoting inter-generational dialogue. As a social mobiliser the theme will encourage various sectors of the society to identify the need to reconnect with the past in order to shape the direction of the future. Such sectors will include youth, women, people living with disabilities, students, learners, civil society, religious and cultural fraternities, non-governmental organizations trade unions, business and recreation and sport.

The proposed theme renders itself to a more complex and wide range of interpreting Cultural Heritage. Undoubtedly collective memories of the past and present do qualify and form part of our Living Heritage. Liberation Heritage is

about the preservation of the history of the monumental struggle against Imperialism, colonialism and other oppressive and repressive systems in a given society. Africa for example, has a history of liberation movements that were formed particularly to counter imposed repressive systems by Western Countries and/or Colonial Powers. What was common about these movements was the vision to attain political and subsequently economic freedom. But liberation movements cannot solely be tied to the past as they continue to exist in the present. In the South African context, after the attainment of political freedom, a move to elevate the struggle towards the achievement of a better life for all gained momentum post 1994.

The 2011 theme of “celebrating Heroes and Heroines of the Liberation Struggle in South Africa” will assist in branding South Africa as one of the greatest theatres of struggle, spaces of pain, victory over oppressive systems of governance and most importantly a world recognized model of reconciliation and nation–building. Therefore 2011 Heritage Month will be geared towards the construction of awareness through oral history narrations, exhibitions, poetry, dance, songs and site visits so as to reinforce our collective memory and promote national identity.

The National Department of Arts and Culture together with its provincial sister departments as well as associated institutions are mandated to ensure that Cultural Heritage is preserved, promoted and used as a vehicle to foster nation building, inclusive citizenship, economic development and social cohesion. Various Heritage sites and infrastructures in South Africa are named after the Liberation Struggle icons. The Sol Plaatjie Municipality in the Northern Cape; The Nelson Mandela Museum in the Eastern Cape; Luthuli House in Gauteng; Shaka Zulu Airport in Kwa Zulu Natal; Tshwane Municipality in Gauteng; Steve Biko Memorial in the Eastern Cape and many others. In addition to that other liberation struggle heroes from fields such as acting, literature, music, labour movements and so forth includes Rahima Moosa, Bessie Head, Frances Baard,

Ruth First, Princess Magogo, Olive Schreiner and the list is endless. South Africa also acknowledges the support and solidarity provided by its neighbouring African Nation States during the era of oppression and there are Heritage Sites and Infrastructures named after these iconic African leaders. The Samora Machel Monument at Mbuzini in Mpumalanga and the Kenneth Kaunda District Municipality in the North West are some of the examples.

CALENDER OF EVENTS FOR THE HERITAGE MONTH CELEBRATIONS – SEPTEMBER 2011

ITEMS	ACTIVITIES	DATES
1. Heritage Celebration Media Launch/Brief	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Minister to launch Heritage Month. • Liberation Movements to express their views on Liberation Heritage and National Liberation Heritage Route. 	1 September 2011
2. Wreath Laying	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cleaning of graves of the national liberation struggle heroes and heroines in Mpumalanga. • Other provinces will be encouraged to identify and clean graves of cadres of the Liberation Struggle. 	23 September 2011
3. Thanks giving Event	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A lunch with military veterans of the national liberation struggle. 	24 September 2011

4. Heritage Day Celebrations (main event)	• Formal programme which includes the cultural programme and a key note message from the President. The event will take place in Mpumalanga	24 September 2011
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JOY OF JAZZ

The Standard Bank Joy of Jazz is an annual two (2) day event that this year happens on 25 and 26 August 2011. It is recognized as one of Gauteng's most prestigious festivals that join the best of South African artists with international artists. The festival does not only act as one of the biggest cultural tourism attractions but also serves as a developmental platform for musicians and technicians including creating an employment opportunity for South Africans in music and other businesses.

The key objects of this festival are:

- To contribute to the development and establishment of a permanent music performance platform and position the sector as an important contributor to economic growth.
- To use the music industry as a catalyst to promote cultural tourism, nation building and social cohesion.
- To provide a platform for South African local and national artists to showcase their talent and skills.
- To establish the management of arts practitioners for the growth and sustainability of South African music heritage.
- To afford South Africa to benchmark its talent to that of the international arena.

Music business workshops constitute one of the key attractions during the two (2) weeks preceding the event wherein students from various schools are invited to learn about careers in music management. Targeted schools include those located within the Gauteng Province. Furthermore, the business workshops involves artists interacting with children and persons with disabilities at their institutions as part of an outreach programme.

SA/INDIA FESTIVAL

The Department of Arts and Culture and the Ministry of Culture in India signed a Programme of Cooperation (POC) on 15 August 2008 which is automatically renewed after three (3) years in terms of Article 12. The meeting between the India High Commissioner and DAC was held in February 2011 to discuss the implementation of the POC and both parties indicated their readiness and willingness to start with the implementation of the signed POC.

The Indian festival took place from June to August 2011 in South Africa. The festival was held in Nelspruit, Mpumalanga Province. East London and Port Elizabeth in the Eastern Cape Province, Pretoria and Johannesburg in Gauteng, Durban and Pietermaritzburg in KwaZulu Natal and Polokwane in Limpopo.

The Indian Government will reciprocate by hosting a South African festival in the first quarter of 2012. The actual dates will be communicated to India after the completion of the Indian festival in South Africa.