

SHORT MESSAGE BY THE PREMIER OF LIMPOPO, MR CHUPU MATHABATHA, ON THE OCCASION OF THE 2020 NATIONAL HERITAGE DAY CELEBRATION.

Program Director of this virtual celebration of our National Heritage Day;

Our President, His Excellency, Matamela Cyril Ramaphosa;

Chairperson of the National House of Traditional Leaders;

The people of South Africa;

I greet you from the beautiful and majestic Limpopo Province,

I greet you from the home of ancient civilisations; a home of multilingualism and certainly a home of rich diversity of cultural heritage.

As Limpopo, we are proud to host this important virtual celebration of our National Heritage Day;

As you know, Limpopo is a home of the great Mapungubwe, South Africa's first City of Gold that flourished in the 12th century.

We are also a home of another great ancient kingdom - the Thulamela Kingdom.

We are also a proud home of the Makapans Valley which is often regarded as a sister to the cradle of humankind.

Our rich heritage includes the majestic Makgabeng plateau which borders the equally impressive Blouberg Mountain Range.

Makgabeng plateau is famous for its ancient rock art paintings dating back to the 1st African ancestors to ever inhabit and walk on the African soil.

We are happy to celebrate this important day under the theme that says **Building South Africa Together: celebrating South Africa's Human Treasures.**

We are indeed committed to this hallowed task of building our country from the inherited legacy of divisions, marginalisation and exclusion.

We are also committed to rebuilding the socio-economic fibre of our country after it was ravaged by the covid-19 pandemic.

In this regard, we are committed to working with stakeholders to use our diverse heritage offering to re-ignite our economy whose growth has been undermined by the covid-19.

Our theme also speaks to the urgency of ending the persisting violence against women and children in this country.

We invite our living human treasures to continue working with us in championing the care of women and children in our communities.

We want to say in one loud voice that Gender-Based-Violence is not our heritage.

On the contrary, it is peace, solidarity and the spirit of common brotherhood that forms part of our collective and shared heritage.

As South Africans, and as Africans we are a people whose actions are always guided by the spirit of Botho / ubuntu. As we say in this part of the country; **Motho ke motho ka batho**.

Those who act outside of these societal norms should be isolated by society and be met with the heavy hand of the law.

There should be no place for abusers in our society.

I thank you!