

VIRTUAL ADDRESS BY THE PREMIER OF LIMPOPO, MR. CHUPU MATHABATHA
DURING THE PROVINCIAL HERITAGE DAY CELEBRATIONS.

24 September 2021

Programme Director, MEC Thandi Moraka;
Members of the Executive Council;
Executive Mayor's and Mayor's of our Municipalities;
Our Esteemed Traditional Leaders;
Cultural, Linguistics, Faith and Traditional Groups;
Friends from the Media;
The people of Limpopo:
Rea lotsha rere THOBELA!
NDAA!
AVUXENI!

Before I can proceed any further with my message for this heritage day, I want to take this opportunity, to commend the residents of our province for having taken advantage of the Voter Registration Weekend to register on the national Voters Roll.

I want to specifically commend the young people who went out for the first time to have their names on the Voters Roll.

Your voices as young people are a vital ingredient of our democratic system. Participating in the elections is one of the most important rights available to us as citizens. We therefore look forward to see you casting your votes on the 1st of November later this year.

You must always remember that your vote is your voice.
By electing your own councillors, you are taking the future into your own hands.
We must always remember that our democracy is our common heritage.
Our votes keep this heritage healthy and alive.

Programme Director;

This year is for the second time we celebrate our National Heritage Day in a virtual format. Traditionally, as Limpopo we would be leading celebrations with a blend of colour, song and dance.

However, the reality of Covid-19 pandemic has limited our traditional way of doing things. Covid-19 pandemic has forced us to readjust our way of doing things and live within the ambit of what is now accepted as the new normal.

As the premier of our beautiful province, I want to take this opportunity to salute all those who have already vaccinated against Covid-19.
I was amongst the first to vaccinate.

Our traditional leaders, our traditional healers and our religious leaders have also vaccinated.

We know as a matter of fact that vaccines are safe and effective in preventing severe illness and deaths from Covid-19.

I want to urge those who may have been busy or hesitant, to go out and take their jabs. The truth is that we can go back to our normal lives. We can go back to fill our church halls; We can go back to stadiums to watch our favourite football teams; We can go back to our social lives without any restrictions. But, for all of these to happen, we must have majority of our population fully vaccinated. This is the only way we can undermine the spread of this deadly virus.

Programme Director

The 2021 Heritage month programme focuses on two areas, namely: languages, with specific focus on sign language and Living Legends. This year we are celebrating under the theme "The year of Charlotte Maxeke: Celebrating South Africa's Intangible Cultural Heritage".

We are therefore calling upon all the people of Limpopo to embrace the new normal, whilst celebrating this significant calendar day, the Heritage Day.

On our part as provincial government, we have moved with speed and launched the Deaf Awareness campaign, earlier during the month. We have done that in order to put concrete expression around the need to embrace sign language and use learn it.

On the other hand, we have already embarked on a massive program to celebrate our living legends.

Already, two engagements were held with our military veterans. The first was chaired by Deputy President of our country, Mr David Mabuza.

It was from this engagement that the launch of the Inter-Ministerial Task Team on Military Veterans was successful created.

The Inter-Ministerial Team in Limpopo is headed by MEC Seaparo Sekwati. The main purpose of the team is to look after our living legends, in this case our military veterans.

We are therefore saying that as we celebrate our 2021 Heritage Day, we do so in honour of our cultural heritage and our heroes and heroines.

Programme Director

Before I conclude, please allow me to sharply criticize and condemn the ongoing cases of kidnapping and murder of young girls and women in Limpopo. Recently, our province has been soiled by negative media and police reports regarding missing, kidnapping and murder of the young children, particularly girls.

I am calling upon the law enforcement agencies to show no mercy when dealing with perpetrators of these cowardly acts.
We are saying enough is enough and we shall therefore and collectively fight against the scourge of gender based violence.

It can't be that this beautiful Heritage month is marred by reports of violence against humanity.

Programme Director

Let me conclude by inviting all of you to continue embracing our culture and heritage and be proud of who we are.

Let us be proud about our Xitsonga heritage;

Let us be proud of our Sepedi heritage;

Let us be proud of our Tshivenda heritage;

Let us be proud of our Afrikaner heritage.

Let us be proud of our beautiful rainbow colours.

On behalf of our government, I wish you a beautiful and fulfilled National Heritage Day.

I thank you!