

BLOUBERG LOCAL MUNICIPALITY MAYOR, HIS WORSHIP CLLR. MASEKA PHEEDI'S HERITAGE MONTH MESSAGE

Heritage Month is an opportunity for us as South Africans to remember who we are , where we come from and where we are heading as a nation. This month is a reminder for us all to never forget that we are children of the soil and encourage each other to make an effort to learn about our ancestral roots and pass on that knowledge to the youth to ensure that the flame of each culture is preserved and kept alive. This year we celebrate our Heritage month under the theme **"Celebrating South Africa's human living treasures"**

In Blouberg, this month is normally celebrated by launching Tourism and Heritage Month which is characterized by series of events such as cultural performances among others. We celebrate our heritage in conjunction with our traditional authorities as the custodians of culture and heritage. However the coronavirus (Covid-19) outbreak has impacted negatively on both traditional authorities and municipal heritage programmes.

As we celebrate Heritage Day today, it is worth mentioning, that , the importance of lessons that are learnt through one knowing and understanding their culture and traditions help to prevent certain social ills.

The nation is gripped with gender based violence and femicide (GBVF) which is a gross human rights violation. I call on all of us to join hands in order to curb these barbaric acts and create a safer environment wherein women and girls can live without fear.

Due to COVID-19 lockdown regulations the government is unable to host mass gatherings to celebrate this day.

As Blouberg Local Municipality we encourage tourists to visit our heritage sites during this month and beyond. Some of the key attractions that can be visited to learn more (especially with the guidance of a professional tour guide) in terms of Blouberg heritage include; The rock art of the Makgabeng, German Legacy in Senwabarwana, the mission stations in Blouberg, Battlefield of Blouberg, the Cape vulture colony breeding Blouberg and Nature Reserves in Blouberg.

Members of the public are further encouraged to make bookings with relevant organizations and all of that must be done in compliance with Covid-19 protocols.

The country has now moved to Alert Level 1 in terms of the risk-adjusted strategy to manage Covid-19 spread wherein most restrictions were eased in order to rebuild the economy, but we are not out of danger , yet. The virus is still thriving and it is upon us a community, as a country to insure that the spread is curbed by following containment measures in order to prevent resurgence.

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