

# PREMIER DAVID MAKHURA'S MESSAGE TO THE PEOPLE OF GAUTENG ON HERITAGE DAY



Today, our country, South Africa, celebrates Heritage Day. **National Heritage is about understanding the collective memory and common identity** of a nation. How have we evolved as nation? **What should be the common national identity that should define us as South Africans** and the **shared values** that should be celebrated and **promoted by our diverse people?**

On this day, we commemorate our painful past and celebrate the heroic struggles of the diverse people of our land against all forms of domination, discrimination, oppression and exploitation. In line with the vision and values espoused in the Constitution of our country, we recommit ourselves to the ongoing struggle to build social cohesion and a common national identity free from all forms of injustices, and to redress the inequities and ills of centuries of colonial conquest, racial oppression, class exploitation and women oppression.

The core defining features of our national identity should, among others, be the need for a caring and more humane society where no one is left out or left behind; a developmental, accountable, transparent, people-driven, people-centred and clean government.

We in Gauteng, have been working tirelessly to build the Gauteng of our dreams, in line with the vision and values outlined in the Constitution of our country. We are the most diverse, cosmopolitan and Afropolitan province in Southern Africa. We strive to be the leading province in cultivating values of shared prosperity, non-racialism and



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non-sexism. Homophobia, xenophobia and all forms of discrimination should have no place in our province. We strive for transparent, accountable and ethical governance in a transformed economy, more equal and caring society.

Heritage Day is also about infusing ubuntu and celebrating our cultural diversity. We must also show enormous support for Caster Semenya in her fight against discrimination in global athletics. Caster Semenya has raised our national Symbol high which includes our national flag and national anthem. Gauteng supports the fair treatment of Caster Semenya by global athletic institutions.

Although we continue to suffer setbacks and sometimes experienced unsatisfactory progress, we will never give up on our dream for a better

Gauteng for all, espoused in "Growing Gauteng Together, Vision 2030".

There is no retreat on the need for radical or fundamental socioeconomic change.

There is no retreat in the fight against women oppression and gender-based violence.

There is no retreat on the need for a developmental, accountable and ethical state.

A radically transformed economy, a more equal and caring society, as well as a developmental and ethical state should be part of the New Heritage we want to leave to future generations of South Africans.

Ubuntu/Botho/human solidarity is a collective heritage that we as Africans must bequeath to the world. As Africans, we must reject the value system that seeks to define "survival of the fittest" and greed as human nature.

It is for this reason that we must fight corruption to the bitter end. Corruption



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undermines our values of ubuntu and human solidarity. Corruption is an existential threat to humanity.

Under the harsh and life-threatening conditions of COVID-19, we commemorate those who have lost their lives in the battle against this global pandemic. We also celebrate the heroic actions of our healthcare workers and other frontline workers, as well as the contributions and sacrifices made by various sectors of society in containing the spread of the deadly coronavirus in our province.

We have seen public servants who have served with dedication, commitment and perseverance in our police stations, public health facilities to save lives. Our public system was tested during the pandemic, but the spirit of professionalism, Batho Pele and ubuntu that engulfs us, has seen many people recovering from our public health facilities.

We have also seen greater collaboration between the public and the private health sector. This collaboration and co-operation to save lives is part of the heritage we must bequeath to future generations.

We have also seen greed and corruption of the worst degree pertaining to PPE procurement. This must be tackled decisively and now, so that a clear message can be sent out that greed and corruption is not part of our heritage. Corruption must not be allowed to thrive in our society and economy. It must be shunned and punished.

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We have seen many people embrace our now global hit Jerusalema Dance Challenge, from a song produced by two talented young Black South Africans, Master KG and Nomcebo. This song is now being embraced globally as one of the greatest inspirations during the time the world was facing the COVID-19 pandemic.

This song is the kind of artistic and creative talent that contributes to our national identity and global standing as a country. This is the South African identity that Madiba spoke about when he said our country will no longer be the skunk of the world but rather we will take our rightful place, that of influencing and shaping the global world, a peaceful, democratic and prosperous world.



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Let us join the call by President Ramaphosa, to go out and dance to the talent of our country produced by the creative and cultural industries. We know that the industry has been hard hit by the pandemic, we are confident that like all other sectors it will be revived including using the digital platforms that can take our cultural and creative industries sector to a global scale.

There is a growing single language in the world, that language is from Africa and as a people, we must continue to embrace one another and ensure that the world equally embraces our diversity as we seek to build a united and prosperous world.

The state must be free from corruption, it must lead with integrity, lead with a greater sense of inclusivity. Together let us say corruption is not our heritage, it must be fought everywhere it raises its ugly head. We must do so because corruption takes away from the people and it will create a foreign culture.

Let us heed the call by President Cyril Ramaphosa to use this public holiday as family time, to reflect on the difficult COVID-19 journey we have travelled over the past six months and to remember those who have lost their lives.

Let us also remember that the coronavirus pandemic is still in our midst.

Let us **continue wearing masks** whenever we are in public and visiting families, **wash our hands regularly** with soap and water, or use an alcohol-based sanitiser and maintain a **physical distance of 1,5 metres from other people**.

**Happy Heritage Day!**

**David Makhura**  
Gauteng Premier



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