

**SPEECH BY THE HONOURABLE EXECUTIVE MAYOR, CLR RENIAS KHUMALO ON
BLM TOURISM AND HERITAGE DAY CELEBRATION**

17 SEPTEMBER 2011

Moswara Marapo

Maloko a Mayoral committee

Makhanselara a masepala

Ma apara nkwe

Baruti gammogo le dingaka tša setšo

Boradikuranta

Ma CDW, bora dikgwebo le maloko a di ward committees

Ba bereki ba masepala

setšhaba ka moka se selego mo

Thobela

Avuxeni

Sanibonani

Good morning

Goie more

Mufambisi wa nongonoko, hi hlanganile laha namuthla ku tati nyungubyisa hi xinto xa hina tanihi maAfrika-dzonga. MaAfrika-Dzonga lawa hi vulavulaka tindzimi ta khume mbirhi (12) kambe hi twanaka hi minkarhi hinkwayo.

Ka Logo ya hina ya mfumo lowu nga rhangeriwa hi ntlawa wa African National Congress ku kumeka marito lama landzelaka “ike xarra ike” lawa ya tekiweke eka ma Khoisan, leswi vulaka leswaku hi swin’we hiku hambana “united in diversity”.

Programme Director, September month is synonymously known to be a month filled with cultural diversity celebrations all over the country and Bushbuckridge local municipality joins the rest of the country in celebrating this most important moment. Bushbuckridge as one of the most cultural rich region is found in the north eastern part of Mpumalanga and south western part of Limpopo Province. In Bushbuckridge we have the vaTsonga (Shangaans), Mapulana (Sepedi) and AmaSwati as tribes and languages predominantly spoken. We also boost a small percentage of Indians and white people. All these are proof that Bushbuckridge is home to everyone.

We are gathered here today to celebrate both our heritage and tourism, and this event is taking place at Mhlangana High school under Chief Mnisi's Traditional authority. This event of ours takes place a week before South Africa's national heritage day on the 24 of September. Those of you who might be asking yourself what holiday on the 24 of September, the answer is that heritage day as held and celebrated every year in South Africa on the 24 of September "is a public holiday on which South Africa across the spectrum are encouraged to celebrate their cultural heritage and the diversity of their beliefs and traditions, in the wider context of a nation that belongs to all its people.

Heritage day is one of our newly created public holidays and its significant rests in recognising aspects of South African culture which are both tangible and difficult to pin down, such as creative expression, our historical inheritance, language, the food we eat as well as the land in which we live. Within a broader social and political context, the day's events are a powerful agent for promulgating a South African identity, fostering reconciliation and promoting the notion that variety is a national asset as opposed to igniting conflict.

Programme Director, heritage can be defined as "that which we inherit, the sum total of wild life and scenic parks, sites of scientific or historical importance, national monuments, historic buildings, works of art, literature and music, oral traditions and museum collections together with their documentation.

In an address marking heritage day in 1996, former President Nelson Mandela stated, and I quote "when our first democratically elected government decided to make heritage day one of our national days, we did so because we knew that our rich and varied cultural heritage has a profound power to help build our new nation, we did so knowing that the struggles against the injustice and inequalities of the past are part of our nation identity, they are part of our culture. We knew that, if indeed our nation has to rise like the proverbial phoenix from the ashes of division and conflict, we had to acknowledge those whose selfless efforts and talents were dedicated to this goal of non-racial democracy".

Today we are known as the rainbow nation because of the efforts we have made as a whole towards building a new South Africa that is known today to be a peaceful, loving, caring and hospitable nation. It is days like this that makes us introspect and say to ourselves, other than the different languages we speak and our different skin pigmentation, we are indeed one nation that resembles the colours of a rainbow hence we call ourselves the rainbow nation.

Vaka hina, a hi xiximeni xinto na tindzimi ta ka hina, hikuva hiswona leswi endlaka hiva maAfrika Dzonga yo helela.

A hi tinyungubyiseni hiku dya guxe, tihove, miroho kuya hiku hambana hambana ka yona. A hi fanelanga ku chava kuvulavula rirrimi ra hina, ku nga va Xitsonga, xisotho, xiswati ni tin'wana tindzimi hikuva hi maAfrika Dzonga.

Halala Bushbuckridge Halala

Tinyungubyise Bushbuckridge tinyungubyise

Halala Bushbuckridge Halala

maAfrika, a hi cineni mincino ya hina ya xinto, makhwaya, xigubu na xibelani hikuva hiswona swiendlaka leswaku hiva maAfrika yo helela.

Moswara marapo, bjalo ka badudi ba Bushbuckridge re swanela go se lebale meetlo ya rena. A re ruteng bana ba rena setšo gore ditšo tša rena bjalo ka maAfrika di se jewe ke sekgowa sa Maisemane. Re tšwa gole le bo Afrika bja rena, gomme re ka se dumele sekgowa se bolaya setšo sa rena.

Programme Director, there is a saying that “for one to know where he is going, he must know where he comes from”. I therefore wish to encourage everyone of us to treat our cultures and traditions with respect. Amongst the many things we fought for pre democracy was that we wanted our languages and cultures to be given the same status as Afrikaans and English. To the youth present here today, I challenge you to emulate the youth of 1976 who stood and fought passionately against the apartheid regime that which prioritized the use of Afrikaans at schools at the expense of other languages.

The constitution of the Republic of South Africa speaks volume on human rights. Therefore you have a right to speak your mother tongue and to be assisted in the language you understand in government institutions.

I stand here as the Executive Mayor acknowledging that much has been done to afford all languages same status, but more is still to be done as our deaf people are still marginalised. To ensure that the municipality heed to government's call that which says deaf people must also be given user friendly services at all government institutions, the municipality has heeded the call by appointing two (2) sign language interpreters whose contract of appointment, I hope has finally been processed. This newly appointed sign language interpreters will ensure that all our deaf people in Bushbuckridge receives the services of the municipality in the language they understand.

In a Council sitting of the 09th of September 2011, Bushbuckridge local municipality Council adopted a language policy.

This language policy challenges the municipality to also ensure that municipal documents are also read in the local languages spoken in Bushbuckridge e.g. Siswati, Xitsonga and Sepedi (Sepulana). The management of the municipality has been tasked to ensure that there is appointment of language practitioners for the municipality to realize this dream. But because we are a rural municipality with a zero revenue collection, the appointment of language practitioners may not be as soon as possible as we rely heavily on grants from the National Treasury.

Programme Director, I am aware that ours is not only to celebrate heritage day but tourism as well in Bushbuckridge. The municipality is also rich with tourism destinations, who do not know of our prestigious, Thabakgolo found under Chief Mashego Traditional Authority. We have Manyeleti and Andover Game Reserves, but most importantly our municipality is an open gate to Kruger National Park that is known globally. It is indeed true that tens of thousands visitors are witnessed per year inside the Kruger National Park.

We are indeed blessed to be located in a region that boost both tourism and heritage sites. Apart from the above, we also have a number of mushrooming guest houses here in Bushbuckridge, thus availing to our visitors dozens of facilities to choose from for accommodation.

Programme Director, on the issue of tourism allow me speak with reference to Salique picnics that which found within the Bushbuckridge territory. Under Salique you have Mariepskop which is 2000 metres situated at 30 52 East and 24 30 South in the province of Mpumalanga, at the foot of the Drakensburg mountain. In here tourists and visitors can experience a life time experience of a true African mountainous forest with picnics, hiking trails, indigenous forest. Manyeleti game reserves is also one other critical and important tourism destination, and so is Andover which makes Bushbuckridge a best place to visit. The Kruger National Park which is frequently visited can be accessed via the Skukuza gate in Mkhuhlu presents tourists with the opportunity to see the BIG FIVE (5). It is the only Park in South Africa that houses the BIG FIVE (5) thus showing that it should be everyone's dream to visit the Kruger National Park

Halala Bushbuckridge Halala

Tinyungubyise Bushbuckridge tinyungubyise

Halala Bushbuckridge halala

Halala maAfrika halala

Inkomu

Ke a leboga

I thank you

Baie dankie