



GAUTENG PROVINCE

SPORT, ARTS, CULTURE AND RECREATION
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

STATEMENT

To: All Media

Att: News Editors/Journalists

Date: 15 March 2016

Premier Makhura to launch Anti-Racism movement on Human Rights Day

Gauteng Premier David Makhura will lead the Human Rights Day celebrations 21 March, at the Sharpeville Cricket Pitch. The day will also be an occasion to commemorate the Sharpeville Day by paying tribute to the 69 protestors who were shot and killed by apartheid police whilst marching against the pass laws in Sharpeville on 21 March 1960.

Government believes that Human Rights Day is an occasion that must bring South Africans together to promote social cohesion and nation-building. The theme "Gauteng United Against Racism" has been adopted for this year's to reaffirm our commitment to non-racialism, unity in diversity and embrace our common national identity.

"We commemorate Human Rights Day to remind ourselves about the selfless sacrifices that accompanied the struggle for the attainment of freedom and democracy and to recommit ourselves to build a South Africa free from all forms of discrimination", Premier Makhura said.

The Nelson Mandela and Ahmed Kathrada Foundations under the umbrella organisation Anti-Racism Network South Africa will participate as partners in the Human Rights Day. 69 Members of the Anti-Racism Network South Africa will lay wreaths at the graves of the 69 persons who died during the Sharpeville march as a symbolic gesture as well as to reaffirm the commitment to build South Africa into a non-racial, non-sexist society.

The Premier will also use the commemorative occasion to announce the names of the Eminent Persons Group that will work with government and civil society to promote social cohesion and non-racialism. This is in fulfillment of the undertaking he made during his State of the Province Address on 22 February this year.

This year's Human Rights Day coincides with the 20th anniversary of the signing into law of the South Africa's Constitution on 10 December 1996 in Sharpeville. The South African Constitution declares that South Africa belongs to all who live in it, united in our diversity. It also calls for the healing of the wounds of the past and establish a society based on democratic values, social justice and fundamental human rights.

"The Constitution of the Republic is the supreme law of our land. Inspired by the Constitution, we will continue to mobilise all the people of our province, from all walks of life, to work together towards a society free from racism, xenophobia, sexism, and all forms of prejudice," said Makhura.

Other events scheduled for Human Rights Month include:

- **Khulumani support group candle- and soap-making training, Sharpeville Exhibition Centre, 15 to 21 March**
- **School debates on Human Rights by schools across the province- Sharpeville Library, 18 March**
- **Cleaning of the graves - Pelindaba Cemetery 19 March 2015**
- **Puisano Jazz Festival – Dlhomo Dam, Sharpeville -19 March**
- **Imbawula-story telling and Candle light memorial- Sharpeville Exhibition Centre -20 March**

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