



23 July 2024

## **BASOTHO NEW YEAR CELEBRATION**

The Free State Department of Sport, Arts, Culture and Recreation (SACR), in partnership with various stakeholders, has embarked on the annual celebration of Basotho New Year in line with the Basotho calendar.

Basotho New Year is celebrated annually after the last days of winter (Mariha) to give way to new life after the dry season. Basotho New Year starts in August (Phato), which is known for its blowing winds and it being the month when fields are cultivated and the first crop from the cultivation is offered as a sacrifice to Tlatlamatjholo (God).

The celebration of Basotho New Year serves as one of the important vehicles towards the realization of the following objectives:

- 1) Promotion of nation building and social cohesion
- 2) Promotion unity in diversity
- 3) Advancement of our heritage and culture
- 4) Transformation of the heritage landscape
- 5) Honouring our heroes and heroines
- 6) Promotion of Sesotho language in particular and multi-lingualism in general.

In 2024, the celebration takes place against the following background:

- 30 Years of Democracy
- 30 Years Anniversary of Basotho Cultural Village and
- Bicentenary of the Basotho Nation.

“The bicentenary celebration of the Basotho nation provides an important backdrop for the 2024 Basotho New Year celebration. It is an important milestone in the history of any nation to reach two centuries of existence. In

celebrating the 2024 Basotho New Year we join all the Basotho people in our country, in Lesotho and beyond in wishing more years to this nation of Morena Moshoeshe”, stated the Member of the Executive Council for SACR, Me Ntombizanele Sifuba.

The celebration will take place as follows:

**Date:** 03 August 2024

**Time:** 10:00

**Venue:** Basotho Cultural Village, Qwa Qwa

**Activities:** horse riding, grand parade, demonstration of Sesotho traditional cultivation, music and dance (Mohobelo, Accordion music, Serobolelo, Sesotho hip hop) as well as Zulu and Tswana traditional dances. A variety of Basotho traditional food will also be on display. Messages from leaders of government and stakeholders will be delivered.

**Issued by the Free State Department of Sport, Arts, Culture and Recreation (DSACR)**

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