



**nhc**

**National Heritage Council**  
SOUTH AFRICA

**an agency of the**  
Department of Arts and Culture

Domus Building Office no. 016  
57 kasteel Road | Lynwood Glen | P.O Box 74097  
Lynwood Ridge South Africa | 0040  
T: +27 12 348 1663/8223 | F: +27 12 348 2833

[www.nhc.org.za](http://www.nhc.org.za)

## **MEDIA STATEMENT**

Friday, 06 November 2018

**For Immediate Release**

To: **All Media**

### **A PASSENGER PROHIBITED FROM USING THE GAUTRAIN SERVICES DUE TO HIS CULTURAL ATTIRE**

The National Heritage Council (NHC) of South Africa was disturbed by the recent incident of an isolated treatment that a cultural activist, Mr Mahlangu experienced from Gautrain due to his cultural attire.

South Africa is a democratic country that embraces diversity and should respect it. In a country that is still battling with social inclusion and integration in communities at large due to our indifferences, every Heritage Day on 24 September, South Africans are encouraged to dress up in their traditional garbs to promote their national identity and celebrate their African heritage.

'It is rather disappointing and sad to experience our Africaness getting reduced to this level of being prohibited to wearing one's cultural or traditional attire instead of

***MEDIA STATEMENT: ISOLATION TREATMENT OF A CULTURAL ACTIVIST DRESSED IN HIS TRADITIONAL ATTIRE IN A GAUTRAIN***

celebrating our country's living heritage", says the Council's Chief Executive, Adv. Sonwabile Mancotywa.

For a nation that is proud of its African heritage and identity, dressing up in your traditional garb, signifies pride in your identity, culture, heritage and tradition.

The Council applauds active citizens like Mr Mahlangu for embracing his culture and tradition everyday beyond Heritage Month and Heritage Day.

"No any other South African citizen should be degraded to this level of humiliation in the era the country is at, let us continue to be proud of our heritage and embrace our differences for a united nation" adds Adv. Mancotywa.

Ends/

---

**Issued by:** National Heritage Council (NHC)

**Contact:** Danny Goulkan (Communications Manager), 012 348 1663/ 072 952 2260/  
[danny@nhc.org.za](mailto:danny@nhc.org.za)

For interview arrangements please contact Linda Shilakwe, 012 348 1663/ 082 657 7064/ [danny@nhc.org.za](mailto:danny@nhc.org.za)