



**nhc**

National Heritage Council  
SOUTH AFRICA

an agency of the  
Department of Sport, Arts and Culture

www.nhc.org.za

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## **MEDIA RELEASE**

### **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**Date:** 07 May 2026

## **NHC INVITES SOUTH AFRICANS TO DRIVE HERITAGE-BASED EMPLOYMENT THROUGH PESP7 FUNDING**

The National Heritage Council of South Africa (NHC), an entity of the Department of Sport, Arts and Culture (DSAC), has opened applications for the 2026/27 Presidential Employment Stimulus Programme (PESP7), inviting heritage practitioners, community organisations, researchers, and institutions to submit projects that aim to promote and preserve South Africa's heritage while creating sustainable employment opportunities.

The funding programme forms part of the government's ongoing commitment to economic recovery and social development in the cultural and heritage sectors. Through PESP7, the NHC aims to support impactful community-based heritage initiatives that create work opportunities, particularly for women, youth, and persons with disabilities.

Priority will be given to projects that focusses on research, documentation, heritage education, and the transfer of heritage knowledge and skills.

Applications are invited under the following categories:

- Living Heritage
- Cultural and Natural Heritage
- Education and Training

Projects may include oral history documentation, indigenous knowledge preservation, archival and heritage research, cultural education initiatives, intergenerational storytelling, language preservation projects, heritage skills transfer, and other initiatives that contribute to safeguarding South Africa's diverse heritage landscape.

The funding programme is open to:

- Educational and Academic Institutions involved in heritage projects
- Non-Profit Organisations (NPOs)
- Non-Profit Companies (NPCs)
- Community-Based Organisations (CBOs)
- Non-Governmental Organisations (NGOs)
- Associations
- Foundations

**NHC CALL FOR PESP7 APPLICATIONS 2026/2027**

- Community Trusts (excluding Family Trusts)
- Traditional Councils
- Individuals involved in heritage research projects in partnership with qualifying organisations or entities

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Applications must be submitted online using the NHC's Praxis Grant Management System, which can be accessed from the NHC website – <https://nhc.praxisgms.co.za/>. The NHC will not accept emailed or hand-delivered applications.

Chief Executive Officer of the NHC, Dr Thabo Manetsi, said the programme represents more than financial support for heritage initiatives.

“PESP7 presents an opportunity for communities to become active custodians of South Africa's heritage while participating meaningfully in the country's economic recovery efforts. We are particularly interested in projects that amplify local voices, preserve indigenous knowledge systems, and create employment pathways for young people and marginalised groups within the heritage sector.”

Dr Manetsi added that heritage has the power to strengthen social cohesion and contribute to inclusive development.

“Our heritage tells the story of who we are as a nation. Through this funding initiative, the NHC seeks to support projects that not only preserve that story but also ensure that heritage becomes a catalyst for skills development, social inclusion, and community empowerment.

Interested applicants are encouraged to review the funding guidelines and eligibility requirements available on the NHC website before submitting their applications.

**Closing date for applications: 31 May 2026**

For enquiries, applicants may contact the PESP team via email at [pespfunding@nhc.org.za](mailto:pespfunding@nhc.org.za) or telephonically on (012) 748 3910.

For media enquiries, please contact Mr. Tsireledzo Mandane (Communication Officer) at 079 298 9394 or [t.mandane@nhc.org.za](mailto:t.mandane@nhc.org.za)

For further information, please contact: Ms Tebogo Shilakwe – Stakeholder Engagement Officer – [t.shilakwe@nhc.org.za](mailto:t.shilakwe@nhc.org.za) – 071 308 9305.

**Ends/**

**Issued by the National Heritage Council of South Africa**

