

# HERITAGE NEWSLETTER



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## Top Stories

When the Grave Stands Open:  
Heritage, Healing and the Unfinished Work  
of Repatriation.

Protecting Heritage, Empowering  
Communities Through NHC PESP Funding.

*Champions of African  
heritage towards  
social cohesion*



# CONTENTS

- 01** When the Grave Stands Open: Heritage, Healing and the Unfinished Work of Repatriation.
- 02** Protecting Heritage, Empowering Communities Through NHC PESP Funding.
- 03** Youth Camp 2026 Inspires Active Citizenship Through Heritage, Dialogue, and Commemoration.
- 04** Sound of Origin Programme Strengthens Intergenerational Learning and Cultural Exchange at Maropeng.
- 05** NHC Heritage Professional Brings Home Global Museum Insights from China.
- 06** National Heritage Council Opens Nominations for the 13th Annual Golden Shield Heritage Awards.

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## CEOs MESSAGE

*Dr Thabo Manetsi, Chief Executive Officer, National Heritage Council of South Africa*

### Dear Colleagues, Stakeholders and Friends of Heritage.

As we reflect on May and June, we are reminded of the important role that our shared heritage plays in shaping identity, strengthening communities, and inspiring future generations. This edition of our newsletter highlights the National Heritage Council's ongoing efforts to preserve our collective memory while ensuring that heritage remains relevant, inclusive, and impactful in contemporary society.

Our lead story, *When the Grave Stands Open: Heritage, Healing and the Unfinished Work of Repatriation*, explores one of the most significant aspects of our work. The repatriation of ancestral remains and cultural objects is not merely an act of return; it is a process of restoring dignity, addressing historical injustices, and contributing to healing and reconciliation. These efforts demonstrate how heritage can serve as a powerful tool for social justice, nation-building, and community restoration.

We are equally encouraged by the continued impact of the National Heritage Council's Presidential Employment Stimulus Programme (PESP). Through strategic investment in heritage initiatives, the programme creates employment opportunities, supports local communities, and safeguards important cultural resources.

It demonstrates that heritage preservation can contribute meaningfully to both social development and economic empowerment while creating lasting benefits for communities. Investing in young people remains essential to building a sustainable future for the heritage sector. The Youth Camp 2026 initiative provided a valuable platform for dialogue, reflection, and active citizenship, encouraging participants to engage critically with our shared history while contributing positively to society. By connecting young people with heritage, we are nurturing informed, responsible, and engaged leaders who will help shape the future of our country.

This edition also celebrates the continued success of the Sound of Origin Programme at Maropeng. By bringing together different generations to share stories, knowledge, and experiences, the programme promotes intergenerational learning and strengthens cultural continuity. Such initiatives play a vital role in preserving living heritage and ensuring that valuable cultural knowledge and traditions are passed on to future generations.

As we celebrate these achievements, we are also pleased to announce the opening of nominations for the 13th Annual Golden Shield Heritage Awards. These prestigious awards recognise and honour individuals, organisations, and communities whose exceptional contributions continue to preserve, promote, and advance South Africa's rich and diverse heritage. We encourage stakeholders across the sector to nominate deserving heritage champions whose dedication strengthens our national identity and inspires others to safeguard our shared legacy.

Beyond our borders, we continue to benefit from international collaboration. Insights gained through a recent professional exchange in China have highlighted innovative approaches to museum practice, heritage management, and cultural preservation. Such engagements broaden our perspectives, strengthen professional networks, and help position South Africa's heritage sector within a dynamic global context.

I extend my sincere appreciation to our partners, communities, practitioners, and staff whose dedication and commitment make this work possible. Together, we continue to preserve the past, empower communities in the present, and build a future in which heritage serves as a source of pride, healing, learning, and opportunity for all.

Thank you for your continued support and commitment to advancing South Africa's heritage.  
Yours sincerely,

**Warm regards,**  
**Dr. Thabo Manetsi**  
**Chief Executive Officer, National Heritage Council of South Africa**



## WHEN THE GRAVE STANDS OPEN: HERITAGE, HEALING AND THE UNFINISHED WORK OF REPATRIATION

At a workshop hosted by the Freedom Park Interfaith Committee on 21 May 2026, an important but often overlooked question emerged during discussions on reconciliation and heritage: what happens to a grave after exhumation? “What happens to a grave after exhumation is not simply an administrative question.

It sits at the intersection of law, culture, spirituality, and lived experience. “Says Ms Matanato Ngwaila South Africa has made significant progress in repatriating the remains of those who died during apartheid and other periods of conflict, returning them to their families and ancestral lands. Yet far less attention has been paid to what remains once those remains are removed. The question is not only administrative.

It touches on law, culture, spirituality, and the lived realities of communities whose connection to ancestors remains central to identity and belonging.

For many African communities, graves are more than burial sites. They are sacred places that sustain an ongoing relationship between the living and the departed. When a grave is opened and remains are exhumed, communities often regard the site as requiring spiritual restoration, ritual attention, and communal acknowledgement.

Leaving it unaddressed may be experienced as a disruption of cultural and ancestral obligations.

“For many African communities, graves are not just burial sites. They are sacred places that sustain an ongoing relationship between the living and the departed.” Ms Ngwaila shared.

The National Heritage Council (NHC) has a mandate to preserve, promote and develop South Africa's living heritage, including rituals, indigenous knowledge systems and cultural practices. This places the Council squarely within the conversation about what should happen after exhumation.

The primary legislation governing graves and burial grounds is the National Heritage Resources Act (NHRA) 25 of 1999, administered by the South African Heritage Resources Agency (SAHRA).

Section 36 prohibits the disturbance or exhumation of graves older than 60 years and those of conflict victims without a permit.

Importantly, permits may only be issued after meaningful consultation with descendants and communities who have a traditional interest in the site.

The National Policy on Repatriation and Restitution of Human Remains further requires that graves be restored after exhumation, refilled with soil and properly closed, where resources permit.

These provisions are important safeguards. However, they focus primarily on the physical and procedural aspects of exhumation. They do not adequately address the spiritual and cultural obligations that arise once a grave has been opened.

Across many communities, exhumation is accompanied by rituals intended to communicate with ancestors, seek permission, restore balance, and cleanse the affected site.

Such practices may include prayers, traditional ceremonies, or blessings. These are not symbolic additions. They are central to how many communities understand healing and restoration.

“Current legislation provides strong procedural safeguards, but it does not fully address the spiritual and cultural responsibilities that arise once a grave has been opened.” Said Ms Matanato Ngwaila on behalf of the NHC.

This understanding is reinforced by the Promotion of Indigenous Knowledge Systems Act 6 of 2019, which recognizes indigenous knowledge in governance and decision-making. South Africa's commitment to the UNESCO Convention for the Safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage (2003) further affirms the need to protect rituals and cultural practices as living heritage.

Discussions at the Freedom Park workshop highlighted key principles for responsible practice. Grave sites must be treated with dignity and restored rather than abandoned.

Consultation with families, traditional leaders, and faith communities must be meaningful and continuous. Cultural and religious protocols must be respected, recognizing that communities have distinct spiritual requirements.

Where restoration is not possible, memorialization can provide closure through markers, commemorative spaces, or ceremonies.

South Africa's repatriation experience supports these principles. The return of Sarah Baartman, Khoi and San ancestral remains, and liberation struggle figures demonstrated that ceremonial practice and community participation are not peripheral.

They are central to restoring dignity. “Repatriation is not only about the return of human remains. It is about restoring dignity, identity and belonging.” Ms. Ngwaila noted

Yet a gap remains in current law and policy. Neither the NHRA nor the National Heritage Council Act explicitly addresses the intangible heritage obligations that arise after exhumation. Communities are often left without clear guidance on how spiritual responsibilities should be recognized.

“Reconciliation cannot be reduced to legal and forensic processes alone. Healing is also spiritual, emotional and deeply human,” She added

The NHC is therefore considering a position paper on the intangible heritage dimensions of exhumation, alongside engagement with policy-makers to ensure that spiritual and cultural obligations are formally recognized within heritage frameworks.

As South Africa continues its journey of reconciliation, the question of what happens after exhumation remains central. True repatriation is not only the return of remains, but the restoration of dignity, memory and meaning to the communities left behind.

End.....

# PROTECTING HERITAGE, EMPOWERING COMMUNITIES THROUGH NHC PESP FUNDING



The National Heritage Council's (NHC) Presidential Employment Stimulus Programme (PESP) continues to demonstrate how heritage preservation can contribute to job creation, skills development, and community empowerment. One such success story is Reish Divine Institute's project, *An Ecology of a PEOPLE*. The Reish Divine Institute has worked to preserve cultural heritage, promote indigenous knowledge systems, and empower communities through education, environmental sustainability, and skills development for the past seven years.

Through PESP funding, the organization implemented a project focused on documenting and preserving the spiritual dance traditions and cultural heritage of the Khoi and San peoples. The project brought together elders, cultural practitioners, and young people through community workshops, oral history collection, storytelling sessions, and heritage research. These activities created opportunities for intergenerational learning while ensuring that valuable indigenous knowledge is documented and preserved for future generations.

“The project has strengthened community pride and cultural identity while creating important educational resources for future generations. Bringing elders and young people together, we have helped preserve knowledge that might otherwise be lost,” said Sylvia Maseko, Project Leader of An Ecology of a PEOPLE.

A key outcome of the project was employment creation. The initiative generated 68 direct and 22 indirect employment opportunities, including positions for researchers, facilitators, cultural practitioners, and community participants.

Although most positions were temporary, they provided valuable work experience and skills development. The overwhelming response to recruitment showed the challenge of youth unemployment within local communities.

“When applications opened, more than 300 young people arrived to submit their CVs on the same day. It was a powerful reminder of the scale of youth unemployment and the urgent need for programmes that create meaningful opportunities for young people,” said Maseko.

**A**part from employment, participants received additional training in entrepreneurship, leadership, funding applications, compliance, digital skills, and community development.

These interventions were designed to equip participants with practical skills that extend beyond the project’s duration and support future economic participation.

One of the most important achievements was the collection of oral



histories that revealed deep connections between spiritual practices, traditional ecological knowledge, sacred landscapes, healing traditions, and community identity.

Elders shared stories of ceremonial dances, ancestral communication, and traditional methods of preserving social harmony, demonstrating how indigenous knowledge has survived through generations despite historical disruptions.

The research findings have been documented in a heritage handbook and incorporated into a digital heritage toolkit to support accessibility and long-term preservation.

According to Maseko, projects such as An Ecology of a PEOPLE show that heritage can catalyse economic and social development.

“By combining heritage preservation with skills development and entrepreneurship, young people can become custodians of heritage, innovators, and job creators within their own communities.

Heritage is not only about preserving the past; it is also about creating opportunities for the future,” she said.

Through initiatives such as PESP funding, the NHC continues to advance heritage preservation while creating opportunities for employment, education, social cohesion, and sustainable community development across South Africa. End....



## YOUTH CAMP 2026: HONOURING THE LEGACY OF JUNE 16 AND CELEBRATING 70 YEARS OF THE FREEDOM CHARTER

In commemoration of Youth Month, the National Heritage Council (NHC), in partnership with Robben Island Museum (RIM), Constitution Hill, and the Apartheid Museum, hosted the four-day Youth Camp 2026 from 13 to 16 June 2026 in Maropeng, Gauteng. The camp was held under the theme of intergenerational dialogue, nation building, and heritage preservation.

The programme brought together learners from diverse communities across the country, creating a shared space for reflection, learning, and connection. It aimed to deepen understanding of South Africa's liberation history, mark 31 years of democracy, and commemorate the 70th anniversary of the Freedom Charter. Through meaningful engagement, the initiative sought to inspire young people to become active citizens while recognizing the enduring role of heritage in shaping a democratic and inclusive society.

Speaking at the youth camp, NHC Chairperson Mr Tau Masemola said, "We honor a generation of young people

who stood against injustice and changed the course of our nation. The youth of 1976 were driven by a deep desire for equality, dignity, and access to quality education.

Their courage, resilience, and sacrifice became a catalyst for change and helped shape the democratic South Africa we know today." He further encouraged young people to draw inspiration from this legacy and to actively contribute to building stronger communities rooted in education, responsibility, and service.

The camp emphasized the enduring significance of 16 June 1976, when thousands of young people courageously stood against the apartheid regime's oppressive education policies. Learners reflected on the sacrifices made by the youth of 1976 and expressed a deeper emotional understanding of how those struggles continue to shape the freedoms they experience today.

The programme featured intergenerational dialogue sessions in which learners engaged directly with survivors and participants of the 1976 Soweto Uprising, including Mr. Seth Mazibuko. These personal exchanges gave young people the opportunity to hear firsthand accounts of struggle, resilience, and hope.

Speakers also reflected on how the Freedom Charter shaped their activism, while learners shared their perspectives on contemporary challenges facing education and society. The discussions further examined the role of the Constitution in safeguarding democracy and protecting human rights.

As part of the educational programme, learners visited heritage sites, including the Cradle of Humankind, Liliesleaf, Constitutional Hill, and the Hector Pieterse Museum in Orlando West. These visits offered learners a powerful and, at times, emotional connection to South Africa's history, helping them appreciate the long and difficult journey towards freedom.

One learner reflected emotionally on the experience, saying, "Participating in Youth Camp 2026 was a life-changing experience for me. Listening to the stories of the 1976 Soweto Uprising survivors helped me understand the sacrifices young people made for the freedoms we enjoy today. Visiting heritage sites such as Constitutional Hill



staff and chairperson

and the Hector Pieterse Museum made history feel real and deeply personal. The camp inspired me to become a more active citizen and to play my part in building a united, equal, and prosperous South Africa."

The final day of the camp was marked by a special commemoration and awards ceremony attended by activists, dignitaries, and heritage practitioners. Learners reaffirmed their commitment to building a united and prosperous South Africa through a youth pledge reflecting their hopes, responsibilities, and vision for the future. Provincial teams also participated in group presentation activities, with the Northern Cape securing first place, North-West second place, and Gauteng third place. The awards ceremony celebrated excellence,

effort, and meaningful participation. Two top achievers in the essay competition, from Gauteng and Limpopo, respectively, each received a tablet, while the overall winner from Gauteng was awarded a laptop in recognition of outstanding performance.

All participants received certificates and commemorative gifts in appreciation of their engagement and contribution throughout the camp. Youth Camp 2026 concluded as a reminder that heritage is not only about preserving the past but also about nurturing empathy, identity, and responsibility among young people. It confirmed the importance of ensuring that the stories of those who came before continuing to inspire a more just, inclusive, and compassionate future. End...





## SOUND OF ORIGIN CONNECTS GENERATIONS THROUGH HERITAGE AND INDIGENOUS KNOWLEDGE AT MAROPENG

The crackling of a fire, the aroma of indigenous tea, and the exchange of stories between elders and young people created a warm atmosphere at the Maropeng Visitor Centre during the Sound of Origin Cultural Exchange and Intergenerational Dialogue Programme from 23 to 25 May 2026.

Hosted by the National Heritage Council of South Africa (NHC) in partnership with the Cradle of Humankind and Diamond Edge as part of Africa Month commemorations, the three-day programme brought together young people, elders, cultural practitioners, and heritage professionals to celebrate African heritage,

exchange knowledge, and strengthen connections across generations.

**A**t a time when many traditional practices and oral histories risk being lost, the programme highlighted the importance of sharing knowledge and fostering dialogue between generations. Participants were encouraged to learn from one another while appreciating the stories, experiences, and values that continue to shape communities.

One of the programme's highlights was the Indigenous Tea Preparation and Storytelling Session.

As traditional herbal teas were prepared and shared, community elders recounted stories rich with cultural wisdom, life lessons, and values passed down through generations.

Learners listened attentively, asking questions and reflecting on the experiences shared.

Adding to the session, Mr Lucky Khalaki spoke about the role of traditional herbal teas in promoting good health.

He shared insights into the benefits of various indigenous teas and encouraged learners to value traditional knowledge.

"We are what we eat. Traditional herbal teas have many health benefits and can be more beneficial than some of the foods and beverages we consume today. If you understand and embrace indigenous plants, you can make healthier choices while preserving our cultural heritage," he said.

The discussion helped learners gain a deeper appreciation of indigenous wellness practices and the knowledge embedded within their communities. For many participants, the stories also sparked conversations about identity, belonging, and the importance of understanding their roots.

Complementing the storytelling session was a live fire-making demonstration which was, where indigenous knowledge holders showcased traditional methods of creating fire and explained their significance within African communities. Watching sparks emerge through age-old techniques provided participants with a tangible connection to the ingenuity and resourcefulness of earlier generations.

Our indigenous knowledge is a living heritage that continues to guide our communities. When we share this knowledge with young people, we ensure that it remains alive for future generations," Said one of the indigenous knowledge practitioners.

The second day focused on cultural exchange, skills transfer, and Indigenous Knowledge Systems (IKS). Proceedings began with a presentation by Dr Miriam Tawane from the Executive Core Business team at the National Heritage Council of South Africa, who unpacked the Council's mandate and reflected on the significance of Africa Day and Pan-African unity.

"Africa Day reminds us of our shared history, our collective aspirations, and the importance of preserving our heritage while building a united future," Dr Tawane told attendees.

Participants then moved through interactive rotation sessions designed to facilitate skills transfer and indigenous knowledge exchange. These engagements created opportunities for young people to learn directly from knowledge holders while allowing elders to share practices and experiences accumulated over many years.

The programme also created space for reflection through intergenerational dialogue circles, where elders and young people exchanged perspectives, experiences, and lessons learned.

These conversations encouraged mutual respect and understanding while highlighting the value of listening across generational divides.

"The wisdom shared by elders is invaluable. Learning directly from those who have preserved these traditions helps us better understand who we are and where we come from." Said one youth participant.

The final day concluded in the Africa Forward Dialogue, which brought together liberation veterans, academics, heritage practitioners, and youth representatives to discuss liberation history, national memory, and the role of heritage in contemporary society.

Through panel discussions and personal testimonies, participants heard firsthand accounts of resilience, sacrifice, and determination during the struggle for freedom. For many young attendees, these stories transformed historical events from distant narratives into lived experiences shared by those who had witnessed them.

Participants also reflected on the responsibility of documenting oral histories and ensuring future generations remain connected to the stories that continue to shape South Africa. The discussions reinforced the role of heritage in promoting social cohesion, strengthening identity, and building a shared future.

As the programme concluded, participants expressed gratitude for the knowledge exchanged and the relationships formed over the three days. The Sound of Origin Programme proved the value of creating spaces where generations can connect, learn from one another, and celebrate the rich cultural traditions that continue to shape South Africa's future.

End...



**Ms. Matanato Ngwaila**  
Preservation and Promotion Coordinator

## NHC HERITAGE PROFESSIONAL BRINGS HOME GLOBAL MUSEUM INSIGHTS FROM CHINA

A heritage professional from South Africa's National Heritage Council (NHC) has returned from China with valuable new perspectives on museum leadership, innovation, and cultural diplomacy after participating in a two-week international training programme focused on strengthening museum management in developing countries.

Ms. Matanato Ngwaila represented South Africa at the Seminar on Museum Management Capacity Building for Developing Countries, held in Beijing and Fuzhou from 27 May to 9 June 2026. The programme brought together museum practitioners, cultural managers, and government representatives from ten countries to share experiences and explore new approaches to heritage preservation and institutional development.

The seminar covered key aspects of modern museum management, including governance, strategic planning, collections management, exhibition design, audience engagement, digital transformation, and cultural tourism.

Reflecting on the experience, Ms Ngwaila noted that museums are evolving far beyond their traditional role as places that simply house collections.

“The programme demonstrated that museums today are no longer static repositories, but dynamic institutions that shape education, identity, and sustainable development,” she said.

**A** recurring theme throughout the training was the importance of leadership and institutional resilience in ensuring museums remain relevant in rapidly changing social and technological environments.

“Strong governance and visionary leadership are essential for museums to remain relevant in rapidly changing social and technological environments,” Ms Ngwaila added.

Participants gained first-hand exposure to China's extensive museum and heritage landscape through expert-led lectures and visits to some of the country's most

significant cultural sites, including the Temple of Heaven, the Great Wall of China, and the National Museum of China.

At the National Museum of China, delegates explored innovative exhibition design and storytelling techniques, while visits to heritage sites demonstrated how conservation can be balanced with the demands of large-scale tourism.

**A**ccording to Ms Ngwaila, these experiences offered lessons for countries seeking to strengthen their own heritage sectors.

“Seeing how China integrates technology, conservation, and public access at scale offers important lessons for countries working to strengthen their own heritage systems.”

The programme also highlighted the growing role of technology in museums, showcasing immersive exhibitions and advanced collections management systems that enhance both visitor experiences and heritage preservation.

In Fuzhou, participants visited sites such as the Sanfang Qixiang Historical and Cultural Block and the Museum of Fuzhou Arsenal 1866. These visits provided insight into heritage-led urban regeneration and the preservation of industrial heritage.

A visit to the China Underwater Archaeology Pingtan Exhibition further showcased advances in maritime archaeology and underwater cultural heritage conservation. Beyond technology and infrastructure, the seminar highlighted the importance of community-centred heritage practices.

Heritage must live within communities. The most effective museums are those that connect history with people's everyday experiences," said Ms Ngwaila.

One of the programme's most valuable outcomes was the opportunity for international collaboration. Delegates exchanged ideas on shared challenges facing museums in developing countries, including limited funding, digitization gaps, and the need to attract and engage wider audiences. "Despite our different national contexts, we share similar challenges.

The seminar created a platform for practical collaboration and long-term professional networks," Ms Ngwaila observed. The knowledge gained through the programme is expected to support efforts in South Africa to strengthen museum governance, expand digital access, and promote heritage-led development.



Concluding her reflections, Ms Ngwaila emphasized the importance of continued investment in people, innovation, and partnerships.

"The seminar confirmed that investment in skills, innovation, and international cooperation is essential if museums are to contribute meaningfully to national development and social cohesion."

The seminar highlighted the growing global role of museums as centres of education, cultural diplomacy, and sustainable development. Ms Ngwaila's participation represents an important step toward strengthening institutional capacity, promoting international partnerships, and ensuring that heritage remains a powerful resource for future generations.

End.....

13<sup>th</sup>  
Annual

# GOLDEN SHIELD HERITAGE AWARDS

HONOURING CHAMPIONS OF HERITAGE

## CALL FOR NOMINATIONS OPEN!

OPENING DATE: 10 JUNE 2026 CLOSING DATE: 14 AUGUST 2026

### NATIONAL HERITAGE COUNCIL OPENS NOMINATIONS FOR THE 13TH ANNUAL GOLDEN SHIELD HERITAGE AWARDS

South Africans now have the opportunity to recognize and celebrate the country's heritage champions as the National Heritage Council of South Africa (NHC) opens nominations for the 13th Annual Golden Shield Heritage Awards (GOSHA). The awards honor individuals, communities, organizations, and institutions whose efforts have made a meaningful contribution to safeguarding, promoting, conserving, and interpreting South Africa's rich cultural and natural heritage.

The NHC, an entity of the Department of Sport, Arts and Culture, is calling on members of the public, heritage practitioners, educational institutions, municipalities, civil society organizations, and heritage stakeholders to nominate deserving candidates whose work has helped preserve the nation's diverse heritage and strengthen cultural identity.

"The Golden Shield Heritage Awards recognize the remarkable individuals and organizations whose dedication helps preserve South Africa's heritage and ensures that it remains relevant and accessible for future generations," said Dr Thabo Manetsi, the NHC Chief executive Officer.

Now in its 13th year, GOSHA has become a prestigious national platform that celebrates excellence, innovation, and commitment within the heritage sector. The awards acknowledge the outstanding contributions of those who work tirelessly to protect heritage resources, promote cultural awareness, advance heritage education, and preserve important historical narratives.

#### Award Categories

Nominations are invited in the following categories:

◇ Preferred Heritage Destination (Provincial/National Category): Recognizing heritage sites, museums, interpretation centers, and destinations that offer exceptional cultural heritage experiences.

◇ Young Heritage Activist: Celebrating young people who actively contribute to heritage awareness and preservation.

◇ Voice of Heritage: Honoring individuals and institutions that document and share heritage through publications, documentaries, music, digital platforms, and other creative mediums.

- ◇ Recognizing journalists and media platforms that contribute to heritage storytelling and cultural reporting.
- ◇ Corporate Heritage Management: Acknowledging businesses that integrate heritage conservation and support into their operations.
- ◇ Liberation Heritage Steward: Celebrating those who safeguard and promote South Africa's liberation history and legacy.
- ◇ **Heritage Education:** Recognizing educational programmes, research projects, and initiatives that foster heritage awareness and pride.
- ◇ **Heritage Social Media Influencer:** Honoring digital storytellers who use online platforms to showcase and promote South African culture and heritage.
- ◇ **National Living Treasure:** Recognizing custodians who preserve and pass on intangible cultural heritage, traditional knowledge, and cultural practices.

### Submit Your Nomination

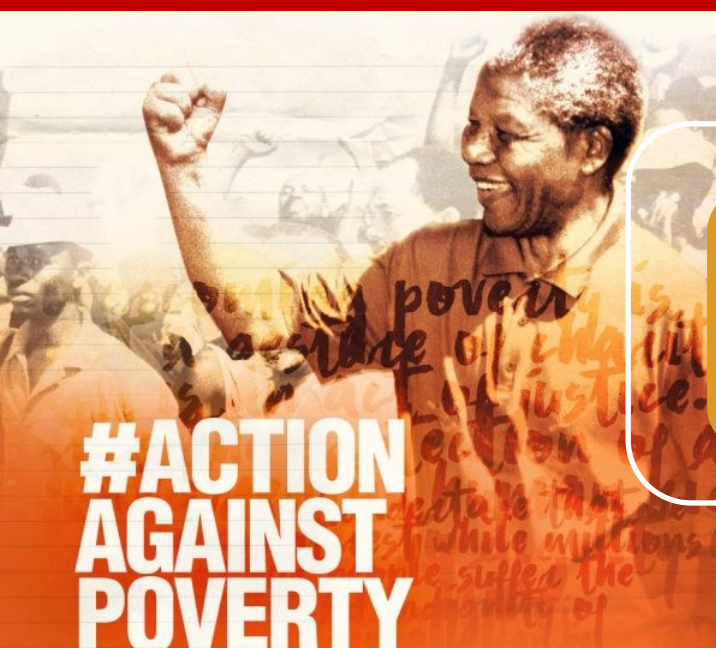
The NHC encourages South Africans from all sectors of society to participate in recognising the individuals and organisations making a lasting impact in the heritage landscape. Nominees should demonstrate measurable contributions to heritage preservation, promotion, research, education, conservation, or interpretation.

**The closing date for nominations is Friday, 14**

August 2026 at 23:59. Nomination forms are available for download from the National Heritage Council website at [www.nhc.org.za](http://www.nhc.org.za) or directly via <https://bit.ly/43H3ePe>.

**For further information,** email [gosha@nhc.org.za](mailto:gosha@nhc.org.za) or contact (012) 748 3910. As South Africa continues to celebrate its diverse cultural and historical legacy, the Golden Shield Heritage Awards provide an important opportunity to recognize those whose dedication ensures that the country's heritage remains vibrant, protected, and accessible for generations to come. By nominating a heritage champion, South Africans can help honor the people and institutions that keep the nation's stories, traditions, and collective memory alive.

## UPCOMING EVENTS



**THE NELSON MANDELA  
UBUNTU INITIATIVES**



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