



## PUBLIC SERVICE MONTH 2021 KEY MESSAGES

### **BRIEF:**

September marks Public Service Month (PSM) in our country. The integrated government wide programme will encompass:

- Public Service Month
- Heritage Day
- Tourism Month
- Police – Commemoration Day; to remember the fallen heroes and heroines

The 2021 PSM celebrations are taking place within the context of our continued fight against the COVID-19 pandemic and our efforts to build back stronger and better.

The 2021 Heritage programme focuses on two areas official languages and sign language; and Living Legends under ***“The year of Charlotte Maxeke: Celebrating South Africa’s Intangible Cultural Heritage”***

World Tourism Day is celebrated worldwide on 27 September. The event seeks to address global challenges outlined in the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals and highlights the contribution that the tourism sector can make in attaining these goals. **2021 Theme “Tourism for Inclusive Growth – Covid-19 Recovery – Building Back Better.”**

Public Service Month will be commemorated under the theme: **“The Year of Charlotte Maxeke – building the capacity of the state through a resilient workforce that responds to the coronavirus pandemic”**

The theme reinforces government’s commitment to continue serving the public despite an ever-changing service delivery environment shaped by the coronavirus pandemic and other external forces.

Public Service Month serves as a reminder of what it is to serve, and offers us an opportunity to reflect on our services, their impact, and how the work of government is changing the lives of communities.

KEY MESSAGES	SUPPORTING STATEMENTS
<b><i>We are taking services to the people.</i></b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The challenges of COVID-19 have not prevented us from taking services to the people.</li> <li>• We applaud the courage and resilience of public servants who continue to go the extra mile in these unprecedented times.</li> <li>• The public service continues to implement government's priorities of defeating the coronavirus pandemic, accelerating economic recovery, creating sustainable jobs, and strengthening state capacity and capability.</li> <li>• We are working to ensure an efficient and effective public service.</li> <li>• We are working to ensure integrated and aligned service delivery efforts across government.</li> </ul>
<b><i>We are committed to serve.</i></b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Employees in the public service are required to maintain a high standard of professional ethics.</li> <li>• All employees in the public service are required to report unethical conduct, corruption and non-compliance with the law or government policies.</li> <li>• We call on public servants to continue to ensure that their professional ethics are beyond reproach.</li> <li>• The Public Service is committed to the economic and effective use of resources, and to provide services in an impartial, fair and equitable way.</li> <li>• We remain committed to ensuring that public servants serve citizens promptly and courteously, while assisting them to make informed choices when accessing services.</li> <li>• We are building a public service that is instilled with the culture of innovation, volunteerism and service.</li> <li>• We are working to ensure that we provide services in an impartial, fair and equitable way, without bias.</li> </ul>
<b><i>The Public Service is critical in our efforts to rebuild.</i></b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Our country is slowly emerging from the devastating era of State Capture, and more recently the violence and looting in KwaZulu-Natal and Gauteng.</li> <li>• We also continue to grapple with the untold consequences of COVID-19.</li> <li>• As we rebuild and ignite renewed hope we will look to public servants to lead the way.</li> <li>• The services we deliver to people and communities daily are key to changing lives.</li> <li>• The massive rebuilding efforts in KwaZulu-Natal and Gauteng will require a myriad of services that are provided by the public service.</li> <li>• We call on all public servants to go the extra mile to ensure that we can build back better and stronger.</li> </ul>

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<b><i>We have decisively broken with the past.</i></b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• As government we are determined that the abuses and malfeasance suffered during the State Capture era must never occur again.</li> <li>• We will reinforce the checks and balances within our democratic dispensation that are meant to prevent the abuse of power, and call on public servants to always adhere to the highest ethical standards.</li> <li>• We will need the help of dedicated public servants as we continue to strengthen institutions that support democracy, and further strengthen our law enforcement agencies.</li> <li>• Public servants are crucial in ensuring that we undertake measures to ensure sound governance and administration.</li> <li>• We call on public servants to be the vanguard of our new path of rebuilding, renewal, transparency, accountability, justice and the rule of law.</li> <li>• We are all guardians of our precious democracy and freedom, and we call on everyone to join us as we strive to build a better tomorrow.</li> </ul>
<b><i>The Constitution anchors our vision of a South Africa that belongs to all who live in it.</i></b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• This year South Africa marks the 25th anniversary of the signing into law of the Constitution.</li> <li>• Former President Nelson Mandela signed the final draft into law in December 1996 and it came into force in February 1997.</li> <li>• The Constitution laid the foundation for a democratic and open society in which government is based on the will of the people.</li> <li>• The Constitution is our founding charter that provides the basis for genuine democracy; the rule of law and the enjoyment of fundamental rights.</li> <li>• The work of public servants in building and sustaining our Constitutional democracy can never be overlooked.</li> <li>• Public servants through their work give life to the provisions of building a better future for all as imagined in the Constitution.</li> </ul>
<b><i>Our democracy, freedom and our human rights was forged on the shoulders of giants.</i></b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Government has declared 2021 as the year of Charlotte Manna Maxeke.</li> <li>• 2021 marks the 150th anniversary of struggle icon and human rights campaigner Charlotte Maxeke.</li> <li>• She and other selfless women of her generation fought against oppression at a time when such defiance was met with unrelenting force.</li> <li>• She helped organise the anti-pass movement in Bloemfontein in 1913 and was at the forefront of fighting for social justice.</li> <li>• The 2021 Public Service Month will celebrate the life of Charlotte Maxeke by emulating the ethos and values that she espoused as a public servant as reflected in the Public Service charter.</li> </ul>

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<b><i>We salute our dedicated public service.</i></b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Everyday thousands of public servants, including doctors, nurses, teachers and members of the security cluster work to ensure a better and safer South Africa.</li> <li>• Public servants are the frontline of service delivery and play a key role in our response to the COVID-19 pandemic.</li> <li>• Through their work and responsiveness, they have contributed to addressing the impact of the pandemic.</li> <li>• Our nation owes them a debt that we cannot repay and we remain committed to providing the best possible care and support to those who serve.</li> <li>• Since 1994 the democratic government has relied on public servants to help transform and better our country.</li> <li>• We are confident that public servants will continue to serve the millions of South Africans with dedication and pride.</li> </ul>
<b><i>Let us celebrate our rich and unique heritage.</i></b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The transformation of the heritage landscape of our country has ensured that it truly represents the diversity of our society.</li> <li>• It has allowed us to move away from the vestiges of apartheid to reflect a non-racial, non-sexist, democratic and prosperous society.</li> <li>• In reconfiguring our arts and cultural spaces we have helped redress past imbalances and reflect a more inclusive nation.</li> <li>• Let us continue preserve our unique heritage for the benefit of ourselves and future generations.</li> <li>• South Africans are socially diverse, yet are united by their love for our country and our flag.</li> </ul>
<b><i>The Bill of Rights promotes our linguistic diversity and encourages respect for language rights.</i></b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Bill of Rights promotes our linguistic diversity and encourages respect for language rights.</li> <li>• As a nation we must promote and support the preservation and revival of indigenous languages.</li> <li>• Language is an important instrument for educational development, and can be used to enhance our culture, self-identity, and contribute to our national building.</li> <li>• It is every citizen's right to use their language and to celebrate their heritage and culture.</li> <li>• We call on everyone to protect and preserve indigenous languages.</li> <li>• Preserving and promoting our indigenous languages will keep them alive and help us to connect with our history.</li> </ul>

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<b><i>Let us celebrate our living human treasures.</i></b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• In South Africa our unique and diverse indigenous knowledge systems that have endured for generations, and our elders are the repositories of all we hold dear as a nation.</li> <li>• In today's fast paced and ever more technological world it is sometimes easy to forget about the vast reservoir of knowledge that resides in living human treasures.</li> <li>• These living human treasures are the bearers of all we hold dear as a continent, as people and as communities.</li> <li>• They are the people who promote and preserve our cultural traditions, our artistic expressions, our languages, our rites of passage, our science and innovations and our education.</li> <li>• The indigenous knowledge holders are the reservoirs of African indigenous knowledge that has sustained our societies since time immemorial.</li> </ul>
<b><i>Government is committed to promoting healthy lifestyles.</i></b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The annual Indigenous Games Festival is intended to popularise those cultural activities that have a particular appeal to vast sectors of the South African society in order to get more South Africans more active.</li> <li>• We call on sports and recreation clubs to actively encourage South Africans to take up a healthy lifestyle.</li> <li>• The social benefits of physical activity include long-term health benefits, stronger and more secure communities, closer family units and better social cohesion.</li> <li>• Sports and recreational activities can break down social and cultural barriers as they usually bring people from different backgrounds together.</li> <li>• Communities and individuals who participate in sports and recreational activities are less likely to fall prey to drug and alcohol abuse.</li> <li>• Sports and recreational programmes can empower and promote the inclusion of marginalised groups; especially women, the youth, rural communities and people with disabilities.</li> <li>•</li> </ul>