

MEDIA STATEMENT

At its meeting at Tuynhuys in Cape Town on Wednesday, 25 April 2018, Cabinet approved the **hosting of the Annual Africa Month Programme** for May 2018 under the theme: “A Year of Nelson Mandela – Building a Better Africa and a Better World”.

The Acting Director-General (ADG) of the Government Communication and Information System (GCIS), Ms Phumla Williams, said: “Africa Month provides an opportunity to recommit to the efforts of building communities grounded on positive shared African values and principles. We should also reflect on the philosophies and values of our great leaders such as Kwame Nkrumah, Léopold Sédar Senghor, Ellen Johnson-Sirleaf, Samora Machel, Julius Nyerere and many others.”

African Union (AU) Member States acknowledge and observe Africa Month by celebrating achievements and taking stock of progress made towards realising the ideals of Agenda 2063, which is a strategic framework for the socio-economic transformation of the continent over the next 50 years. The Africa Month Programme will comprise celebratory and educational activities. The celebrations are also in support of Africa Day, which was declared by the AU to take place annually on 25 May, to recognise and celebrate the founding of the Organisation of African Unity and the AU.

“The continued hosting of Africa Month by South Africa is with a view to celebrating the gains we have made as South Africa and as a continent. We encourage the people of South Africa and the rest of the continent to continue celebrating their Africanness,” Ms Williams explained.

The 2018 programme would see South Africa engaging with the Southern African Development Community on the Resistance and Liberation Heritage Route, Centenary Celebrations of Nelson Mandela and Albertina Sisulu, African Youth Public Arts Manifestation, Dialogue and Site Visits, Archives Week, and a variety of cultural programmes and colloquiums organised by the South African Department of Arts and Culture.

“Let us use Africa Month to focus on our Africanness, African Unity, African Identity and Pride,” added Ms Williams.

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