SAMHS INFO BULLETIN

Compiled by Corporate Communication

INTERNATIONAL MOTHER LANGUAGE DAY 21 FEBRUARY 2012

International Mother Language Day was proclaimed by the General Conference of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) in November 1999 (30C/62).

On 16 May 2009 the United Nations General Assembly in its resolution A/RES/61/266 called upon Member States "to promote the preservation and protection of all languages used by peoples of the world". By the same resolution, the General Assembly proclaimed 2008 as the International Year of Languages, to promote unity in diversity and international understanding, through multilingualism and multiculturalism.

International Mother Language Day has been observed every year since February 2000 to promote linguistic and cultural diversity and multilingualism. The date represents the day in 1952 when students demonstrating for recognition of their language, Bangla, as one of the two national languages of the then Pakistan, were shot and killed by police in Dhaka, the capital of what is now Bangladesh.

Languages are the most powerful instruments of preserving and developing our tangible and intangible heritage. All moves to promote the dissemination of mother tongues will serve not only to encourage linguistic diversity and multilingual education but also to develop fuller awareness of linguistic and cultural traditions throughout the world and to inspire solidarity based on understanding, tolerance and dialogue.

11 South African Official Languages		
Language	Greetings	Goodbyes
English	Hello	Goodbye
Afrikaans	Goeiedag	Totsiens
Ndebele	Lotjhani	Uhambe kuhle
Xhosa	Molo	Sala kakuhle
Zulu	Sawubona	Sala kahle
Swati	Sawubona	Sala kahle
Northern Sotho	Dumela	Sala gabotse
Southern Sotho	Dumela	Sala hantle
Tswana	Dumela	Tsamaya sentle
Venda	Ndaa / Aa	Kha vha sale zwavhudi
Tsonga	Avuxeni	Salani kahle

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