

Language Services

The Constitution of the Republic of South Africa, 1996, section 6(1-6), provides for the equitable use of all the official languages of the country, and for the promotion and development of the historically marginalized indigenous languages.

In 2005, the Gauteng Language Policy Framework (GLPF) which is in line with the National Language Policy Framework was approved. The GLPF is also in line with:

- Pan South African Language Board Act, 1995;
- Promotion of Access to Information Act, 2000.

The purpose of the GLPF is to enhance the promotion and development of the historically marginalized indigenous languages in Gauteng.

The Department of Sport, Arts, Culture and Recreation Language Services is positioned under the Heritage Directorate. Language Services is mainly responsible for five programs which are Translating and Editing, International Mother Language Day, Language on the GO, Learn my Language in Pictures and Colours and Writers Workshop.

TRANSLATING AND EDITING:

Translating and Editing unit mainly focuses on translating and editing documents from the provincial governments departments and statutory bodies.

INTERNATIONAL MOTHER LANGUAGE DAY:

This day is celebrated annually on the 21 February to celebrate linguistic and cultural diversity and also to promote multilingualism. In this day Gauteng citizens are encouraged to speak their Mother Language and also to learn other people's language.

LANGUAGE ON THE GO!

This campaign seeks to reach young people in their comfort zones through entertainment. The program runs in two methods through restaurants performances and street performances. All performances are done in indigenous languages where we emphasize the theme My Culture My Language!!

LEARN MY LANGUAGE IN PICTURES AND COLOURS:

This program mainly focuses in pre-primary and primary school children. Children are taught the South African Flag colours in their own languages and they are encouraged to teach one another. The program also focuses on teaching children about the South African Big Five, children are given a chance to name the animals in their mother language.

WRITERS WORKSHOP:

The workshop focuses on skilling the young developing writers. This is where writers are trained and taken through the processes of writing. They are given techniques that they need to use whether they are writing a book, article or journal.