

OR TAMBO. CENTENARY

NEWSLETTER

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OR TAMBO AND HERITAGE MONTH by Ayanda Dlodlo

Every year in September, South Africans from all walks of life gather to celebrate their heritage – tangible and intangible. Tangible heritage has to do with buildings, historic places, artefacts and monuments, while intangible is about what we have inherited from past generations such as language and knowledge.

The month allows us to better understand who we are as a people; rich, vibrant and diverse cultures define us as a nation. All South Africans are encouraged to take pride in the country's cultural institutions and heritage sites. These are of special significance as they represent what our forebears such as OR Tambo fought for. They also give credence to our own priority of fostering and growing social cohesion and nation-building.

The National Development Plan identifies social cohesion as an important enabler towards achieving Vision 2030 and it is included as one of the 14 priority outcomes in the Medium Term Strategic Framework 2014-2019.

This year Heritage Month focused on preserving the history of South Africa's armed struggle by honouring men and women who fought against apartheid. All South Africans, particularly young people, are encouraged to visit museums and monuments that form the National Liberation Heritage Route (NLHR) in honour of those who fought for a free, non-racial and democratic South Africa. The NLHR is a network of sites, places, people and stories showing different periods of the struggle for liberation.



REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA



OR TAMBO.
100 YEARS



They encourage current and future generations to treasure their freedom, and to remember that it came at an enormous cost to our country. This freedom was made possible by the sacrifices of thousands of patriots who confronted the evil apartheid government. Tambo is one of those who fought for a democratic South Africa in which black people's culture and heritage are not only recognised but are respected and valued.

“a people without the knowledge of their past history, origin and culture is like a tree without roots.”

He advocated that museums and monuments should not only be accessible to a select few but to all South Africans and that they should reflect the country's diverse history.

Today, our cultural institutions are in line with the ethos of our Constitution and the Bill of Rights, which recognises cultural rights and the right to belong to cultural, religious and linguistic communities.

More importantly, we have named various heritage sites, memorials

and buildings after a number of our icons from South Africa and the African continent. They benefit local businesses as they attract tourists from all over the world and at the same time, create much-needed jobs for our people.

Heritage Month also coincided with the 40th anniversary of the brutal murder of Bantu Steven Biko by the apartheid police. In recognition of his contribution to our struggle for democracy, President Jacob Zuma recently visited the Kgosi Mampuru Correctional Centre in Pretoria and laid wreaths on the door of the cell in which Biko was murdered. The event coincided with the actual date of Biko's passing on 12 September 1977.

Celebrating our heritage is part of government's efforts to heal the divisions of the past and to learn about our history. As the leader of the Pan-Africanism movement Marcus Garvey pointed out that “a people without the knowledge of their past history, origin and culture is like a tree without roots.”

While some might view our past as unimportant, I believe that for us to establish a society based on democratic values, social justice and fundamental human rights, we must know our past and learn from it.

More importantly, hearing stories about our heroes and heroines, especially about how they lived, can be inspiring to many of us and will give us a foundation upon which we can build on and move our country forward.

OR Tambo and many others would be pleased with how far we have come in honouring the women and men who fought against apartheid, and declaring graves of various liberation heroes as heritage sites.



OLIVER REGINALD TAMBO: THE MODEST REVOLUTIONARY (1917 – 1993)

By Oliver and Adelaide Tambo Foundation

As part of the celebrations of what would have been Oliver Tambo's 100th year, had he lived, the "Oliver Reginald Tambo: The Modest Revolutionary 1917-1993" exhibition opened at the Apartheid Museum in Johannesburg on 23 August 2017. The event was opened with a song from the Unity Secondary School Choir.

In his opening remarks, the Director of the Apartheid Museum, Mr Christopher Till, elaborated that Tambo played a pivotal role in the fight against apartheid and was the glue that selflessly held the liberation movement together.

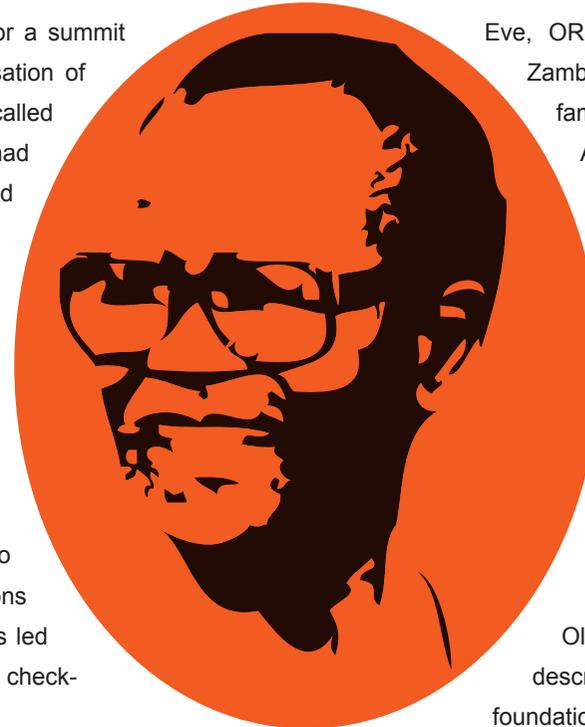
Lamenting the fact that OR was not being celebrated and recognised as he should be today, he described the exhibition as one of the ways in which Tambo's legacy would be restored to its rightful place.

The keynote speaker, Chief Executive Officer of Brand South Africa, Dr Kingsley Makhubela – who was also OR's bodyguard in exile – described him as a negotiator and a man thoroughly committed to the Struggle. Focusing his talk on the Harare Declaration and its toll on OR's health, Dr Makhubela told the audience how, when Tambo saw peaceful liberation movements reaching the shores of South Africa, it became clear to him that South Africa would also soon be liberated. This prompted him to start working on a document that would form a blueprint for negotiations for a democratic South Africa – the Consensus Resolution. True to his nature, OR consulted with the African National Congress (ANC) leadership and frontline countries on this document; enriching it further with their input and working

tirelessly to have it ready for a summit hosted by the then Organisation of African Unity (OAU), (now called the African Union), where it had been agreed that he would present it. This intensive process led to him missing his medical check-up. When the heads of state at the OAU summit had endorsed the document, OR further enhanced it with the recommendations he had received, preparing to present it to the United Nations (UN) a few weeks later. This led him to miss another medical check-up.

In true OR fashion, he had a final consultation with all frontline states on the document before it was presented to the UN and he travelled six countries in three days. Although he returned visibly exhausted and in dire need of rest, he continued to work on the document. He had a stroke a few days later. The UN unanimously adopted the Consensus Resolution, which was later renamed the Harare Declaration.

Illustrating his unwavering commitment to the struggle for liberation, Dr Makhubela relayed how on one Christmas



Eve, OR travelled from London to Lusaka in Zambia, missing spending Christmas with his family in order to convene a meeting with ANC leaders. Shocked and disgruntled, Dr Makhubela asked why they had to work on Christmas Day. OR answered by telling him that "the Struggle does not rest – the people in South Africa are having a miserable Christmas and they need us to keep moving". He described OR as not wanting them to get too comfortable in exile, as that would lead them to shun returning home.

Ms Linda Vilakazi, the CEO of the Oliver and Adelaide Tambo Foundation, described the day as special not only for the foundation and the Tambo family, but for South Africa as a whole.

The audience was led to an exhibition depicting OR's early life, his days while training as a teacher, his legal practice, entry to politics and life in exile. Closing off the event, the Unity Secondary School Choir entertained the audience with a few more songs.

The exhibition was open until the end of September.



OR TAMBO CENTENARY: LIFE IS CHANGING FOR THE BETTER FOR THE PEOPLE OF ALFRED NZO

By Ndyebo Kopo



Construction of the tar road from R61 to Nkantolo village is in progress.

Mount Ayliff:

The community of Ezitapile expressed jubilation after receiving the good news that a contractor had been appointed to construct a R3.4-million water infrastructure project.

Sharing drinking water with animals will soon be a thing of the past for the people of Ezitapile. About 250 households in that area will receive clean, running water for the first time. Currently, people fetch water to drink, cook, bath and wash clothes from the nearby river and streams.

The project is expected to be completed within three months and create about 20 labour-intensive jobs during the construction phase, which consists of the construction of a borehole, reticulation and about 15 communal taps to service the entire area.

The appointed consultant of the project will provide much-needed skills development training to the community.

When introducing the contractor to the community, the Portfolio Councillor Simthembile Kulu said the project was a result of the 1955 Freedom Charter goals to change the lives of the people of South Africa. He lauded OR Tambo as a person who, despite being a qualified lawyer, abandoned all the benefits concomitant with his profession to live all of his life fighting for the total liberation of the people of South Africa.

The Ezitapile water scheme development is one of the many water and sanitation projects across the district officially dedicated to honour the legacy of OR Tambo for his contribution to the liberation of South Africa. Thus far, the local Inter-Mayoral Committee on OR Tambo Centenary has reached out to all four local municipalities of the Alfred Nzo District and handed over water and sanitation services worth R16.8 million for the benefit of close to 800 households.

“What was always at the centre of what OR Tambo and others fought for during the days of the liberation struggle was the restoration of human dignity for black people. That is what characterised the Struggle of our forefathers. The sanitation facilities that we are handing over to our people represent the restoration of dignity,” said the Executive Mayor of the Alfred Nzo District Municipality, Cllr Sixolile Mehlomakhulu.



Nompumzile Khele, Ezitapile

“We can't wait for it to start; our children will get jobs. Life has been very difficult for us all these past years, especially for us with children who still attend school.”

Vuyisile Gwejana, Ezitapile

“I am overjoyed with the announcement of this water project for our area. Although we are used to it but life is difficult without clean water to drink. It is indeed an important project to us.”



The lives of the people of Mbizana in Nkantolo – where OR Tambo was born – will also not be the same, as the provincial and local governments are busy with infrastructure projects. This is part of the Eastern Cape Infrastructure Plan Vision 2030, which includes a series of projects such as access roads, a bridge and housing.

The access roads network will link Nkantolo and surrounding communities to Mbizana and the N2 Wild Coast road from KwaZulu-Natal to East London.



TOURISM MONTH PROMOTES ECONOMIC SUSTAINABILITY

By Tokozile Xasa

In October, as we celebrate the Centenary of Oliver Reginald Tambo in the Eastern Cape, I am pleased to announce that this province will host Tourism Month in 2018.

The Eastern Cape is the birthplace of OR Tambo and boasts a rich liberation history. I hope that the people of this province would take advantage of the existing tourism opportunities from our rich liberation heritage.

Tourism Month is celebrated annually in September, with the highlight being World Tourism Day on 27 September. The United Nation's World Tourism Organisation (UNWTO) World Tourism Day theme in 2017 was: "Sustainable Tourism – A Tool for Development," which the Department of Tourism and South African Tourism then localised as "We Do Tourism Sustainably".

World Tourism Day was launched on 27 July 2017 in Dullstroom, Mpumalanga, where government urged all South Africans to travel the country to appreciate it. Both Tourism Month and Heritage Month are celebrated in September.

World Tourism Day celebrations took place on 27 September 2017 in Kanyamazane, Mbombela in Mpumalanga. The event was characterised by the exhibition of beautiful arts and crafts, and attendees danced to local music. During World Tourism Day, different countries and cultures celebrated a diversity of region-based activities such as the promotion of special tariffs and/or broadening access to facilities, mass-based free access to parks and gardens, and various engagements with stakeholders.

All provinces celebrated Tourism Month through various activities and festivals to showcase local tourism



Minister Tokozile Xasa doing a media interview to promote tourism.

and highlight the significant contribution of tourism to the economy, while promoting the culture of travel.

To promote and encourage sustainable tourism development among all stakeholders, a Public Lecture was held at the University of Mpumalanga in Mbombela on 26 September 2017, in line with the UNWTO theme. Government emphasised the importance of sustainable

tourism practices for business, society and the environment. Sustainable tourism is crucial for the country's economic growth, and requires commitment and resourcing from all role players.

By travelling, each of us can leave a financial footprint where we visit. We want to make sure that tourism is a sustainable driver of economic growth.



THE NATIONAL DEVELOPMENT PLAN (NDP) DEBATE AND DIALOGUE SERIES PRESENTED BY THE OLIVER AND ADELAIDE TAMBO FOUNDATION, SPONSORED BY ABSA

A key objective of the Oliver and Adelaide Tambo Foundation is to promote and popularise the legacy of its honourees who devoted virtually their entire adult lives to the fight for the liberation of South Africa. The series is anchored on OR Tambo's attributes as a social-justice advocate, a strategic thinker, a prolific document developer and a formidable debater.

Better known for maintaining the unity of the African National Congress as its President in tough conditions of exile, OR Tambo recognised diplomacy, discussion and debate, both nationally and internationally, as vital ingredients in the building of a democracy. It is, therefore, fitting that we encourage the OR Tambo spirit of debate and dialogue in his quest to deliver a democratic society that is just, open, inclusive and equitable. In honour of his legacy, the implementation of the NDP has been recognised as a suitable and compellingly urgent topic of exploration and discussion.

On 26 September 2017, the Oliver and Adelaide Tambo Foundation, in collaboration with ABSA, presented the fifth instalment of the debate and dialogue series at the University of the Free State (UFS).

The topic: **Educating Africa's Future: How are we faring in providing young Africans with the requisite quality education and skills that will expand their capacity, thinking and expertise to enable them to become more meaningful contributors in the development of this continent?**



The panel consisted of:

- **Dr Pali Lehohla** – Statistician-General of the Republic of South Africa.
- **Prof Peliwe Lolwana** – Associate Professor at Wits University's Centre for Researching Education and Labour.
- **Mr Mabu Raphotle** – Senior Manager: Research and Skills Planning at the Education and Training Development Practices Sector Education and Training Authority.
- **Mr Sikhululekile Luwaca** – Former president of the UFS Student Representative Council (SRC).
- **Ms Linda Vilakazi** – Chief Executive Officer of the Oliver and Adelaide Tambo Foundation.

Mr Phiwe Mathe, Media Officer in the Office of the Chief Whip of the Free State Legislature and former UFS SRC president, facilitated the discussion using a research note written by Dr Linda Zuze.



Panellists: Dr Pali Lehohla, Ms Linda Vilakazi, Mr Phiwe Mathe, Prof Peliwe Lolwana, Mr Mabu Raphotle and Mr Sikhululekile Luwaca.

Questions and further input into the dialogue from the audience

1. The first issue raised was that graduates from Technical and Vocational Education and Training institutions struggled to find employment. This was attributed to the quality of the vocational education and training. A question was asked on how to address this critical shortcoming, which was deemed to be failing to prepare graduates for the real world of work and industry.
2. The second issue was on how the younger generation could take responsibility for their own education.
3. The third issue was that black African students, in particular, struggled in institutions of higher learning when the bursary only provided funding for tuition and not for day-to-day living and academic expenses.





English first language speakers and therefore struggled to succeed in a system whose notion of success was based on the command of English.

7. Regarding the question on whether government was listening and working to address the challenges, it was highlighted that government realised that the challenges in education were not limited to the education sector, but there were various other shortcomings across sectors in society. For example, the challenge of conflict in society was not only found in families, but also in communities, schools and universities. Hence government was trying to find a holistic approach to address these challenges.
8. On this point, it was proposed that government should also bring in the younger generation in an attempt to provide solutions, policies and programmes to the challenges. It was not good enough for only the older generation to be attempting to find solutions to the challenges of the younger generation.
9. The issue of free, decolonized, quality and compulsory education was raised as being something that needed urgent attention and buy-in from all parties.
10. Various models to fund education were discussed. However, the dialogue ended on the understanding that the funding of education could not be resolved without addressing the issue of industrial development and employment.

Statistics on the actual number of affected Black African students should be generated to make bursary providers aware about this challenge.

4. The fourth issue was in relation to how the younger generation could address Intra-Africa trade and development issues.

5. The fifth issue related to understanding how the love for learning and teaching could be instilled amongst educators.
6. The audience agreed that the issue of language was problematic, not only in schooling, but also in further and higher education. A majority of students were not



A PANEL DISCUSSION REFLECTING ON THE ROLE OF TAMBO IN MEDIA FREEDOM

By Ireen Magwai



Panelists: Mr Sam Mkokeli (SANEF), Mr Thami Ntteni (former director at Radio Freedom), Ms Linda Vilakazi (CEO: Oliver and Adelaide Tambo Foundation) and Dr Kingsley Makhubela (CEO: Brand SA) at the OR Tambo “media freedom” panel discussion co-hosted by GCIS and the National Press Club to reflect on the legacy of OR Tambo.

On 20 September 2017, the Government Communication and Information System (GCIS) co-hosted a panel discussion with the National Press Club to reflect on the contributions of Oliver Reginald Tambo in media freedom. The event took place at the GCIS head office in Hatfield, Pretoria, under the theme “The Year of OR Tambo: Celebrating the Legacy and Contributions of Tambo in Advocating for Media Freedom”.

The session was attended by journalists from community media, mainstream and international media, as well as government communicators from national departments.

In his opening remarks, the Chief Executive Officer of Brand South Africa, Dr Kingsley Makhubela, mentioned that OR Tambo saw the media as the Fourth Estate that was

fundamental to the checks and balances of a constitutional democracy.

“Mr Tambo believed in the necessity of a free press to safeguard against absolute power of government post-apartheid. He believed that in order to build a strong society, start by building strong public institutions,” said Dr Makhubela, who once served at Tambo’s bodyguard in exile.

In sharing his experience as the Director of Radio Freedom, Mr Thami Ntteni mentioned that Radio Freedom operated in exile and the first broadcast was done by Walter Sisulu.

“The ANC in exile understood the importance of communications. Mr Tambo valued the media as a way to get the message to the people. He persuaded me and

other comrades to attend journalism training while in exile. I did not want to be a journalist; all I wanted was to be a soldier. Tambo took it upon himself to share his insights about the significance of media and made us understand that communications is important in building a united, well-informed society” said Mr Ntteni.

He further said “Tambo valued the listener as the most important person. The first request that he made to the Tanzanian government while in exile was for the provision of radio facilities and he ensured that the radio operated against all odds,”.

In responding to the anecdote, Mr Sam Mkokeli from the South African National Editors’ Forum (SANEF) expressed his appreciation to the panel for sharing the vision of OR Tambo on the media and communications.

“As the media operating in a free South Africa, it is important to understand the sacrifices made by great leaders like Oliver Tambo in attaining the freedom we have today. Media houses operating in other countries do not have the free press that we have in the country,” said Mr Mkokeli.

The CEO of the Oliver and Adelaide Tambo Foundation, Ms Linda Vilakazi, emphasised the prominence of preserving the legacy of Struggle stalwarts like Oliver Tambo and attributed the importance of continuous engagements in public education. She stressed that it was everyone’s responsibility to share “our African stories and educate society about the history of our country”.



IN CELEBRATING OUR HERITAGE

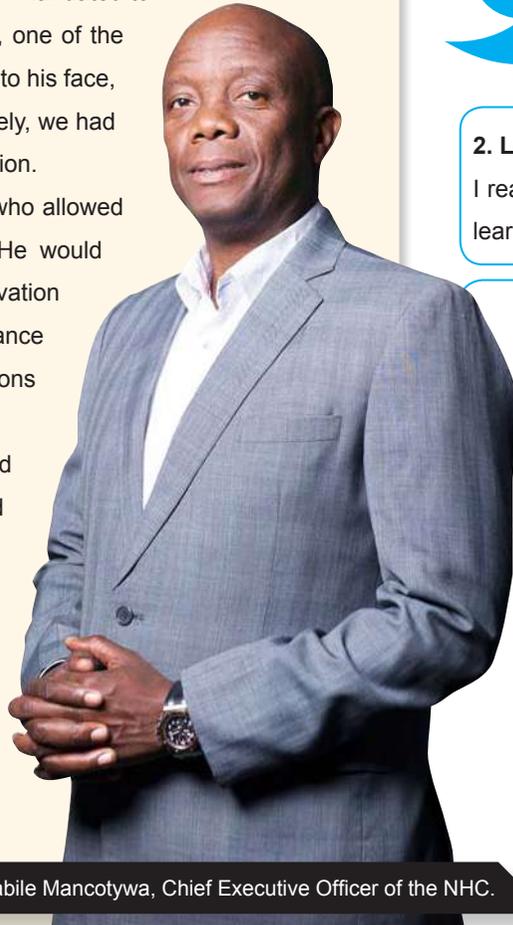
By Sonwabile Mancotywa

It is not so easy to guess right what Oliver Tambo would have proposed as a celebration of our heritage during this year of the centenary of his life. Mainly because he was such an impeccable visionary. One thing for certain is that he would not have encouraged the nation to celebrate him. I can only imagine, as a person who has been mandated to lead the National Heritage Council (NHC) of South Africa that, one of the ways of celebrating with OR, which would have brought a smile to his face, is a Choir Festival. He was a choral music enthusiast. Fortunately, we had such a project called the Ekurhuleni Melting Pot Choir Competition.

I imagine Tambo talking about how grateful he is for those who allowed him to lead and reminisce about his experiences in exile. He would have been generally proud of how we have taken the preservation of the Liberation Heritage seriously by registering the Resistance and Liberation Heritage Route (RLHR) with the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization.

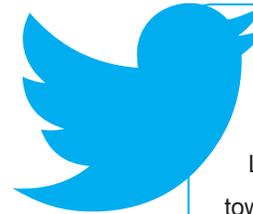
The RLHR project is a national memory project implemented by the NHC on behalf of the Republic of South Africa, aimed at establishing a network of liberation heritage sites that can collectively narrate the miraculous story of freedom that amazed the world.

Over and above the economic value that the sites can unlock in tourism, infrastructure and job creation, it will contribute to commemorating, celebrating, educating, promoting and preserving, as well as providing a durable testament of South Africa's road to independence.



Mr Sonwabile Mancotywa, Chief Executive Officer of the NHC.

COMMENTS AND REFLECTIONS FROM SOCIAL MEDIA PLATFORMS



Hashtag: #ORTambo100

1. Jeremia Lombard; @JeremiaLombard

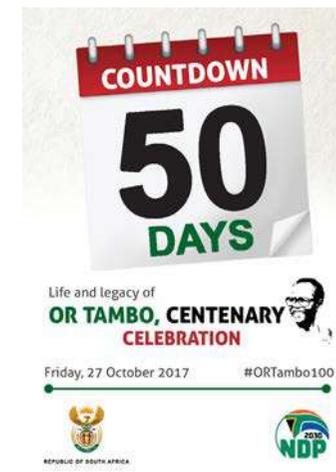
Let's honour the sacrifices and contributions of OR Tambo towards a free, non-racial & democratic SA #ORTambo100

2. Lebo; @DatLebo

I really thought OR was in Robben Island *nabo* (with) Tata __ Good thing I'm learning about our legends. #ORTambo100 lives

3. Malavi Mapimele; @Malavi_Mapimele

This is the history that should be taught at schools, leaders fought a system. #ORTambo100



UPCOMING EVENTS

Life and legacy of **OR TAMBO.** **100 YEARS**



4 October: Oliver Tambo Centenary coins

Launch of the Oliver Tambo Centenary coins. The event - hosted by the Governor of the Reserve Bank, Mr Lesetja Kganyago, the City of Ekurhuleni, SA Mint, and the Oliver and Adelaide Tambo Foundation - will take place at the OR Tambo Narrative Centre in Wattville, Benoni. The Narrative Centre houses a permanent Oliver Tambo exhibition and is a fitting kick-off to the Tambo Centenary Month.

4-6 October: Children's Parliament

The Department of Social Development will host Children from the Northern Cape for the Children's Parliament in Kimberley. The kids will be taught about the life and legacy of OR Tambo and be inspired to draw from his life teachings, especially the importance of good and ethical leadership to assist with developing South Africa to be the greatest country it could be.

5 October: OR Tambo Lecture

The Oliver and Adelaide Tambo Foundation, in partnership with the University of Fort Hare (UFH) will host an OR Tambo lecture at the UFH in Alice, Eastern Cape.

17 October: Opening of the Botlokwa (Road) Interchange

President Jacob Zuma, together with the Department of Transport, will hand over the newly built road to the community of Botlokwa as one of government's service-delivery projects.

19 October: OR Tambo dialogues

The Department of Social Development will host a number of dialogues in Bizana and Nkantolo. These dialogues are part of planned events towards the centenary celebration on 27 October 2017. The dialogues will focus on issues of food and nutrition programmes, early childhood development and the well-being of older persons in those areas. The department chose the venue and the topics specifically to honour OR Tambo's legacy as he was passionate about the empowerment of women and well-being of South African citizens.

20 October: Unveiling of the OR Tambo Statue at the OR Tambo International Airport

In celebration of OR Tambo's life and legacy, the City of Ekurhuleni, Department of Transport and Airports Company South Africa, will unveil an OR Tambo life-size statue at the airport.

21-22 October: Provincial Choral Music Festival

The Department of Arts and Culture will host a Choral Musical Tribute to OR Tambo at the Mzamba Wild Coast Sun in Mbizana.

Friday, 27 October:

OR Tambo Centenary Celebration

The Inter-Ministerial Committee responsible for the planning and coordination of the OR Tambo Centenary Celebration has embarked on several build-up activities leading to the centenary date, 27 October 2017, as the country gets ready to celebrate the marking of 100 years since the birth of our Struggle legend.

President Zuma will deliver the keynote address at the national OR Tambo Centenary Celebration event at Nkantolo, Mbizana in the Eastern Cape, which was the birthplace of OR Tambo. The centenary celebrations will be held under the theme "Celebration of the 100 years of the birth of OR Tambo" and will see a number of international and national delegates attending this auspicious event to celebrate the life and legacy of OR Tambo.

The Eastern Cape has been working tirelessly to ensure that the province and its people are ready to successfully host the centenary celebration event.

The public is invited to participate in the centenary celebrations at planned events around the country. The main event will be broadcast on your favourite radio and TV channels.

27 October: OR Tambo Memorial Lecture

Former President Thabo Mbeki will deliver the OR Tambo Centenary Memorial Lecture, on 27 October 2017. The Memorial Lecture hosted by the Oliver and Adelaide Tambo Foundation, will take place at the University of the Witwatersrand in Braamfontein at 18:00.

CONTACT US

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