



basic education

Department:
Basic Education
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

Address by the Minister of Basic Education Mrs Angie Motshekga, MP, at the SADTU Heritage Day Virtual Celebrations

24 September 2021

President: Cde Magope Maphila

Deputy President: Cde Mabutho Cele

General Secretary: Cde Mugwena Maluleke

Deputy General Secretary: Cde Nkosana Dolopi

National Treasurer: Cde Lindiwe Motshwane

Vice President (Education): Cde Faseega Solomon

Vice President (Sports, Art & Culture): Cde Nolitha Mboniswa

Comrades and Compatriots

It is my great honour and privilege to be here this morning and be part of SADTU's Heritage Day Virtual Celebrations.

SADTU celebrates Heritage Day under the theme: "Celebrating our Cultural Diversity and Heritage to uphold Our Human Dignity."

The idea is to revive the spirit of Ubuntu in uncertain times occasioned by the Covid-19 pandemic.

Today gives us a chance to pause and take stock of how the rich diversity of our country can build a better nation.

It also serves as an occasion to reflect on what we can learn from the past, what we can do to preserve its meaning and how diverse cultures and traditions can co-exist in harmony.

As a country, our strength is found in our diversity.

Today, like we do every year, we celebrate what sets us apart, which makes us unique, precisely what makes our country a melting pot of cultures and customs yet united in diversity.

It is in the unique cultural expressions and traditions that our South Africanness is embedded.

Our world-renowned Constitution protects and promotes our multiple cultures and traditions as part of a rich mosaic of our motherland, a place we call South Africa.

The Preamble to the Constitution states that South Africa “belongs to all who live in it, united in our diversity.”

While section 1 notes that the founding provisions of our country are “human dignity, the achievement of equality and the advancement of human rights and freedoms.”

This reflects a commitment to ensure that the nation is an inclusive one that places equal value on all customs, traditions, and practices.

Similarly, section 9 of the Constitution prohibits unfair discrimination based on race, religion, culture, language and 12 other grounds.

SADTU, as a revolutionary trade union, is uniquely poised to promote diversity and ensure the protection of all fundamental human freedoms and social justice in the workplace and in society.

All teachers are members of society before becoming teachers.

Thus, you have a unique role to play in society as holders of light.

In other words, teachers are moral agents.

The moral agency theory of the teachers hold that teachers 1) perform professional acts ethically and 2) as moral educators who teach the virtues of prosperity to the students so that they become human.

I urge SADTU membership as a whole to take up a leading role as moral agents of society and teach our learners to become human.

Suppose we succeed in this lofty goal of expounding the virtues of humanness; in that case, the scourge of gender-based violence and other enduring social ills may be eliminated and limited only to the misfits of society.

I, thank you.