



## SOUTH AFRICAN NATIONAL LEXICOGRAPHY UNITS



### Presentation to the Parliamentary Portfolio Committee on Basic Education by the South African National Commission for UNESCO and the South African National Lexicography Units

16<sup>th</sup> October 2019

- 1) Introduction, background to the Units and location.
- 2) a) Constitutional and Legislative obligations to our indigenous languages.  
b) Parliamentary instruction on implementation.
- 3) Brief summary of campaign actions to date.
  - a) Meeting with Hon DM R. Mabudafasi.
  - b) DAC press release announcing launch of fourteen new and revised high level dictionaries.
  - c) Distribution of letters of announcement to Presidency, Parliament, Legislatures, Ministers, DMs and DGs, Premier's Offices, MECs HoDs (Basic Education and Arts and Culture)
  - d) Presentations to Legislatures and State Agencies eg. Umalusi, SAQA, NECT etc.
- 4) Publication of ten illustrated Indigenous Language – English CAPS linked Foundation Phase dictionaries.
  - a) Letters of announcement to 3c) above, and in addition COGTA.
  - b) UNESCO partnership.
  - c) SADiLAR / Units UNESCO Partnership: Celebration of Indigenous Languages.
  - d) Submission to UNESCO IYoL competition to identify the best language project internationally.
  - e) Dictionary exhibitions at PanSALB's Khoi, Nama and San languages function in Northern Cape and DSAC Indigenous Language conference in Gauteng.
- 5) Second round of Legislature Presentations made and schedule.
- 6) Requests made of Legislatures and responses.
- 7) Communication and meetings with DBE.
- 8) Request for action from the Parliamentary Portfolio Committee:
  - a) Presentation to Council of Ministers and Headcom on a MoU between the parties.
  - b) Echo Arts and Culture Parliamentary instruction on implementation with matching statement.
  - c) Regular – six monthly? – presentations on the progress of this initiative.

Driving Implementation of National Language Policy

"Recognising the historically diminished use and status of the indigenous languages of our people, the state must take practical and positive measures to elevate the status and advance the use of these languages."

Constitution Chap 1 clause 6(2)



2019 | INTERNATIONAL YEAR OF  
Indigenous Languages

- d) Leave dictionary display in Parliament until end UNESCO IYoL?
- e) Presentation of “time frames” to Parliament in early/mid 2020.
- f) Amend Language in Education Policy to reflect existence of the Units and entrench co-operation between DBE, Provincial Departments of Education and the Lexicography Units
- g) Include progress report on this campaign in SONA.

9) Conclusion and questions.

10) Thanks