



Let us
SING AS ONE

FROM THE DESK OF
THE CFO

Robyn Vilakazi

Heritage Month is an opportunity to preserve and remember the history of South Africa's struggle for freedom and democracy. The 2022 theme for Heritage Month is 'Celebrating the Legacy of Solomon Linda and South Africa's Indigenous Music'.

Solomon Popoli Linda, a South African musician, singer and composer is best known for his song 'Mbube', which later became the popular music success 'The Lion Sleeps Tonight'. The Mbube style of isicathamiya a cappella was later popularised by Ladysmith Black Mambazo.

There are many aspects of life in South Africa that I believe serves to foster social cohesion and nation building. Whether it is watching rugby or soccer as a group, time spent with family and friends around a braai, or maybe even a trip into nature, there are many activities that bring us together as a nation, but one of the most powerful has to be music.

I challenge you to not be drawn in by Miriam Makeba's 'click song', Ladysmith Black Mambazo's 'Homeless', Vicky Sampson's very beautiful 'African Dream', Johnny Clegg's hit 'Impi' and let's not forget 'Mama Tembu's Wedding' by Margaret Singana.

Tomorrow is Heritage Day, and I sincerely hope that it will be a day on which you take a trip down memory lane and play a selection of fantastic South African music that has time and again brought South Africans together as one.

As the CFO of EWSETA, I would like to divert for a moment to the subject of skills development within the context of Heritage Month. In my opening line of this communication, I talk about the role that Heritage Month plays in preserving and remembering the history of South Africa's struggle for freedom and democracy. We are not there yet and there is a lot that needs to be done.

I do believe that developing skills and providing a future for young people in this country will play an extremely important role in South Africa achieving true democracy and freedom. As an organisation that is mandated to drive skills development in the energy and water sectors, in collaboration with our many stakeholders, we have an important part to play in achieving what our country needs.

I leave you with possibly one of the most iconic, nation-building songs that each time, has the country singing as one:

*Shosholoza
Ku lezontaba
Stimela si qhamuka e South
Africa
Shosholoza
Stimela si qhamuka e South
Africa
Wena u ya baleka
Wena u ya baleka
Ku lezontaba
Stimela si qhamuka e South
Africa*

*Work, work, working in the sun
We will work as one
Shosholoza
Work, work, working in the rain
Till there's sun again
Shosholoza
Push, push pushing on and on
There's much to be done
Shosholoza
Push, push, pushing in the sun
We will push as one.*

Happy Heritage Day!

Robyn Vilakazi

