



PRESS RELEASE
For Immediate Release

International Mother Language Day event 2026 to Take Place at the Goethe-Institut Johannesburg

The Goethe-Institut South Africa will host the International Mother Language Day event on Saturday, 21 February 2026, from 10:00 to 16:00, at its premises on 119 Jan Smuts Avenue in Parkwood. The event highlights the importance of multilingualism, cultural identity, and language education, bringing together organisations, educators, artists, and community members from across the country.

The event features a full programme of storytelling sessions, language crash and flirt courses in different target languages, films, workshops, music, and learning activities, all aimed at promoting the value of mother languages and the role they play in social connection, education, and heritage. These details are confirmed in the official programme.

Visitors will have the opportunity to participate in crash language classes, speak-dating sessions, STEM activities, and cultural workshops. Storytelling will be presented in multiple languages, including Italian, French, English and Kiswahili. Film screenings include *Almanya – Welcome to Germany* and *The Life of the Forest – Birds*.

A special feature of this year's event is the live performance by Johannesburg flautist, composer, and vocalist Vuyo Viwe Tshwele, who will perform at 12:30 and again at 14:30 in the Atrium. Her appearance is listed in the official event schedule. Vuyo Viwe is known for blending South African traditional music with orchestral elements, alternative vocals, and electronic sounds. She has performed at venues such as YoungBlood, Baxter Theatre, The Homecoming Theatre, and Nirox Sculpture Park, and has composed music featured in film and multimedia projects.

The event will also include a panel discussion titled "Language, Power and the Struggle for Social Justice," running from 11:00 to 12:30 in the Auditorium. The discussion will explore how language shapes access to opportunities, education, and identity in South Africa and beyond. This information is taken from the official panel invitation. The panel will be moderated by Philina Wittke, with speakers Zukiswa Pikoli, Lina Puleng Tshehla, and Rendani Tshitangano offering diverse perspectives on this relevant topic.

The event is presented in collaboration with a wide network of partners, including the German Embassy, Austrian Embassy, Austrian Cultural Forum, Embassy of Portugal – Camões IP, British Council, Alliance Française Johannesburg, Embassy of Poland, Delegation of Flanders, Embassy of the Kingdom of the Netherlands, Deutsche Internationale Schule Johannesburg, DAAD, Japanese Language Club of South Africa, Ambani Africa, BK Publishing, Colegio Español, Dante Alighieri Society,

and Swahili Africa. These groups contribute through cultural stands, workshops, language offerings, and community engagement.

Entry to the event is free, and all members of the public are welcome to attend.

For more information, contact:

Goethe-Institut Johannesburg

Tel: +27 11 442 3232

Email: LearnGermanEvents-Johannesburg@goethe.de