

PHAPHAMA BOOK FESTIVAL 2026

VENUE: Sesotho Literary Museum (Dingolweng) housed in NALN building

THEME: Woven Words: Where Art, Story, Innovation, and Freedom Converge

DATE: 14 – 17 October 2026

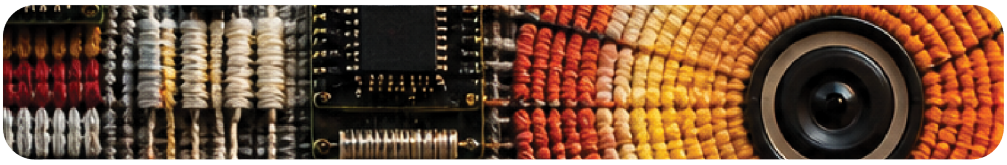
Day 1: Venue preparation and set up

Time	Agenda	Speakers
10:00 – 12:00	Venue Preparation	Exhibitors
18:00 – 20:00	Sesotho Literature Museum 20 year's celebration dinner	Selected Delegation

Day 2: Opening Ceremony

Time	Agenda	Speakers
09:00 – 09:30	Arrival and Registration	All Delegates
09:30 – 9:35	National and African Union Anthem	Programme Director
09:35 – 09:40	Opening Protocols	
09:40 – 09:45	Official Welcome	Dr MA Maharaswa
09:45 – 10:00	**Message of Support**	Host
10:00 – 10:45	**Keynote Address**	Dr Alex Thabane - PhD in Health Research Methodology at McMaster University, Canada
10:45 – 11:45	**Panel Discussion** Topic: *Preserving Freedom: How Stories Safeguard the Memory, Resilience, and Future of Nations*	Panelist: • Adv K Ditira- Advocate | Author | Motivational speaker | Philanthropist | Community Builder • Mr S Mapefane – Curator | Multidisciplinary Artist • Dr MC Molete - Acting Head of Academics, Central University of Technology, Free State, Welkom Campus • Ms E Netshifhire – Multimedia Producer
11:45 – 12:00	Tea/Coffee Break	





12:00 – 13:00	**Books meet Music**	Mr T Masoloane – Dept of Sports, Arts, Culture and Recreation
13:00 – 14:00	Lunch Break	
14:00 – 15:00	**Masterclass** Topic: *Who tells the Robot's story? Diversity, Representation and Bias in Robotics.*	Mr T Mpekoa – WorldSkills Robotics Expert | Entrepreneur
15:00– 16:00	**Masterclass** Topic: *BEYOND PLAY: How Technology Is Redefining Storytelling, Creativity and Opportunity*	Mr N Mongana – Gaming, AI & Digital Innovation Leader
16:00 – 16:15	Closing Remarks	Programme Director

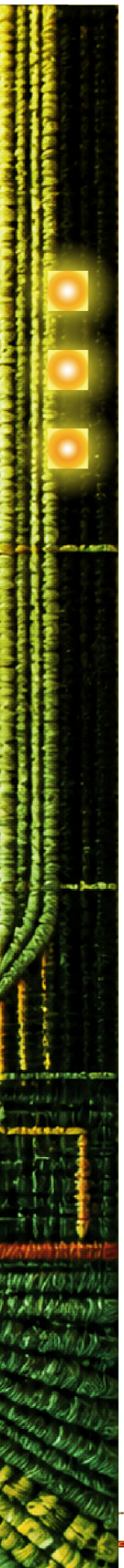
Day 3: Creative industries masterclass and gala dinner book launch

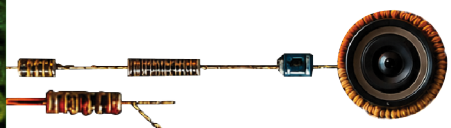
Time	Agenda	Speakers
09:00 – 09:30	Arrival and Registration	All Delegates
09:30 – 11:30	**Masterclass** Topic: *The Business of Adaptation: How Books Feed the Film Economy*	Mr M "MQ" Ngubane – Filmmaker & co-founder of Vignette Africa
11:30 – 13:30	Literary Tour	The National Museum
13:30 – 14:30	Lunch	

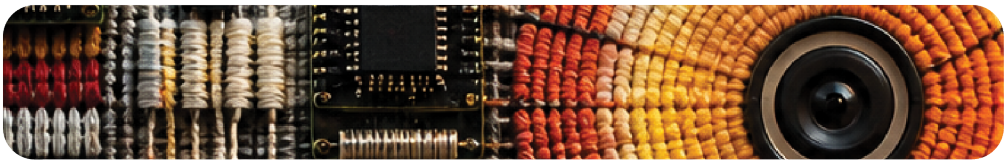
Book Launch Programme

Venue: Windmill Casino, Bloemfontein
ME RAW by Dr Maboreng Maharaswa
Producer \| Publisher \| Skills Development & IKS
In conversation with Mr Mqondisi "MQ" Ngubane

18:00 – 18:30	Arrival canapes	All Delegates
18:30 – 18:35	**Opening Remarks**	Programme Director





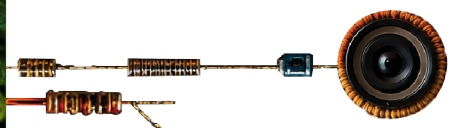


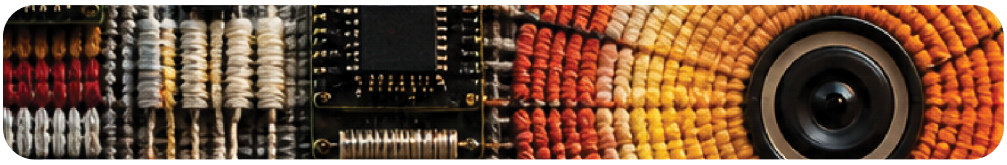
18:35 – 18:40	National & African Union Anthem	Programme Director
18:40 – 18:50	**Message of Support**	Hon M Metsing – Former Deputy Prime Minister, Lesotho
18:50 – 19:00	**Reflections:** ***The Heart Remembers:*** *Somatic Footprints of Abuse and Chronic Stress on Cardiovascular Health*	Prof EM Makotoko – Cardiologist
19:00 – 19:05	Entertainment	Ms H Mokhele – Poet, Writer & Performance Artist, and Musicon Band
19:05 – 19:10	Introduction of Author	Programme Director
19:10 – 19:30	**Author's Address**	Dr Maboreng Maharaswa
19:30 – 20:15	In conversation with Dr Maboreng Maharaswa	Mr M "MQ" Ngubane - Moderator
20:15 – 20:45	Audience interactions with the author	
20:45 – 21:15	Dinner	
21:15 – 21:20	Vote of thanks and Group Photos	Ms N Maharaswa – Managing Director at St Francis Productions

Day 4: Phaphama High School Debate and Mental Wellness Brunch

Mental Wellness Brunch

Time	Session	Speaker/Details
10:00 – 10:30	Arrival and Registration	All Delegates
10:30 – 10:45	**Opening Protocols**	Programme Director
10:45 – 11:00	Introduction of Speaker of the Day	Ms N Maharaswa – Managing Director at St Francis Productions
11:00 – 12:30	**Topic:** *The importance of Spirituality in Mental Health*	Dr Nikki Fitz - Psychiatrist





12:30 – 13:00	Brunch	Networking
13:00 – 13:30	**Screening: *Humdrum***	Directed by Elelwani Netshifhire. Produced by Elelwani Netshifhire and Dr Maboreng Maharaswa.
13:30 – 13:40	Closing Remarks	

Phaphama High School Debate

Time	Session	Details
14:00 – 14:30	Registration	Participating Schools
	Welcome & Introduction	Opening remarks and outline of the days Structure
	Round 1: Opening debate	Teams face off in the first public debate
	Round 2	Preparation session & Debate Match
	Round 3	Preparation session & Debate Match
	Break	
	Final debate	Preparation session & Debate Match
16:15 – 16:30	Closing	Reflection, Acknowledgments & Prize Giving