



25 March 2022

To: Principals, Subject Advisors, Parents, Teachers, Departmental Heads and Library Information Services (LIS) Coordinators.

Topic: Promoting indigenous languages during World Book Day.

Message Objectives is to:

- Establish ways of encouraging reading in indigenous languages at schools and in homes

The 23rd April is International world book day. Learners are encouraged to read books or act as different characters of some books to promote reading at their schools and in homes. This reading message is about the actions taken by the National Reading Coalition (NRC) to promote the use of storybooks to learn in their home languages. The message also aims at preserving linguistic diversity and promoting mother tongue-based multilingual education.

In 2021 the NRC took the initiative of writing 168 storybooks in Tshivenda, Setswana, IsiXhosa Xitsonga, Siswati, Sepedi, IsiZulu, and IsiXhosa. The 21 stories were published in African home languages and focused on Grade one to Grade three. The aim was to have stories suitable for foundation-phase learners which would also be relevant and suitable for more experienced intermediate phase learners, who are from Grades Four to Six. The stories are all topical and cover different topics. The topics were selected by the authors. However, they were encouraged to focus on topics that were of broad relevance and would be of interest to young readers.

Also, the writers have experience in working with teachers and learners in their communities, so they were able to discern relevant themes and topics of interest for young readers.

We encourage parents to take every opportunity to support the development of their child's reading skills whether it is in their home language or a second language. Also, buy books in African languages and read with your children.

The goal is to get the stories into as many hands as possible such as teachers, learners, and parents so that they are read.

For more information visit www.nrc.org.za

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