

ACSR CELEBRATES NATIONAL BOOK WEEK

By Maboni Kgabi

MAFIKENG – Several schools around Mahikeng benefited from donations which included toys and reading material as part of the annual National Book Week celebrations, which ran from September 7-13.

This was courtesy of the Provincial Department of Arts and Culture, Sport and Recreation (ACSR) through its Provincial library services wing. The 2020 National Book Week was celebrated under the theme: ***“Passport to Tomorrow”***. Strict Covid 19 regulations were observed.

The week-long awareness programme is hosted by the South African Book Development Council in partnership with the national Department of Arts, Culture. It is designed to encourage and promote book reading, writing and creativity through story-telling and poetry sessions, among others.

MEC for ACSR Virginia Tlhapi said the initiative by the department sought to instil a culture of reading amongst learners, particularly at primary level.

“As the department we would ensure that school going children develop reading habits through our programmes that cater for both young and old.”

Mr Bontsi Rasephehi, the Principal at Lotlamoreng Primary School – which hosted the event, said though the pandemic had impacted on a lot of activities, they were delighted to have been part of this year’s celebration.

“We would have loved to see more learners participating in various activities as it was the case in the past years. However we would still encourage our learners to get involved in book reading sessions to broaden their knowledge,” said Rasephehi.

A grade 6 learner at the school, Tsholofelo Abueng who recited a poem on adhering to safety measures during Covid 19 said she developed the love of reading and reciting poems when she was 11 years old.

“It was the same celebration of the National Book Week when we were requested to participate in the day long activities and that in itself made me develop the love for reading.

“Our teachers also encourage us to acquire more books that we would be able read at our homes. It’s fun and enjoyable,” added Abueng.

Goodwill Primary School Principal, Lucia Seremo, said they felt honoured to have received such a donation.

“I have no doubt that our children would enjoy using their new toys and as for the activity book, creativity is bound to be unleashed”, said Seremo

Other schools included Victory Primary school, Ratanang Early Learning Centre, and Bubble Gubbies Early learning Centre.

Children under the age of 10 were also encouraged to enter an online competition on connecting the dots and magic maze. Winners will be awarded with t-shirts, wax crayons, pens and activity books.