

Media release

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AmaTuks visit Freedom Park

Today, Freedom Park hosts the University of Pretoria PSL team, AmaTuks, together with 35 learners from Jopie Fourie Primary School in Salvokop. The Salvokop youth will come to Freedom Park to see their favourite players, interact with them and acquire some football skills.

The chief executive officer of the park, Mr Fana Jiyane, says sport has a big role to play in the promotion of social cohesion and continental unity, as the 2010 soccer world cup and the recent AFCON tournament have demonstrated.

“South Africans as a nation suffer from deep scars of brokenness and woundedness, as the recent events of Marikana, De Doorns, Sasolburg and Bredasdorp illustrate. Sport has an amazing ability, if used properly, to enable us to find our true humanity and inherent dignity as persons, and can help us reconcile with ourselves and the world outside us. We need all the resources that our society offers to achieve this, and the role that sport, and in particular the beautiful game, can play in this process should not be underestimated. During apartheid, football was the only major sport that accepted people of all races at professional level. I am hoping that we will be able not too long from now to honour on our famed Wall of Names those heroes and heroines who contributed to our freedom and humanity through sport,” Jiyane says.

The team will undertake a tour of the park together with the school children, and then they will have an opportunity to interact with them and to transfer football skills to the learners.

According to Jiyane football stars who are good role models can instil a sense of pride in our youth, enabling them to act as worthy ambassadors and agents of social change for the type of society patriotic South Africans want to build.

“We hope that by creating the opportunity for the learners in our neighbourhood to meet their heroes we will motivate them to take pride and ownership in acting as ambassadors of South Africa, its heritage, culture and history” Jiyane says.

Freedom Park is one of South Africa’s heritage tourism destinations and the most ambitious heritage project of the post-1994 democratic government. A first of its kind internationally, it is a space that fuses history, heritage, culture and spirituality. Freedom Park offers visitors an exceptional opportunity to experience and feel our history, to walk where our fore-bearers have walked and to know our shared history as diverse brothers and sisters belonging to one nation.

Daily tours take place at 9:00, 12:00 and 15:00. Guests are also welcome to pick up an information leaflet at reception and tour the Park on their own.

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For more information:

Rogini Govender

+27 (0)12 336 4092

+27 (0)82 4452618