



Dear Sir/Madam,

It was an honour and privilege to host the 14th International Festival of Language and Culture (IFLC) in South Africa. It was a very successful and highly acclaimed festival.

**A few highlight leading up to the 14th International Festival of Language and Culture, South Africa (IFLCSA) 2016:**

On 18 April, THI & SATBA and Horizon Arts and Culture Institute hosted IFLC performers and delegates at a welcome dinner event.

On 18 April, IFLC performers and delegates visited the Ministry of Education and Union Building in Pretoria.

On 19 April, IFLC performers and delegates were hosted by the Nelson Mandela Foundation.

On 19 April, IFLC performers and delegates visited the embassies of their respective countries that include Brazil, Tanzania, Ukraine, Philippines and Egypt embassies.

On 20 April, the City of Johannesburg hosted IFLC delegates in Melrose Arch at a dinner event ahead of the International Festival of Language and Culture (IFLC).

On 21 April, SABC News (Morning Live) hosted IFLC organizers and performers.

An eclectic celebration of diverse international cultures hit the Johannesburg stage as the 14th International Festival of Language and Culture (IFLC) on the 21<sup>st</sup> of April 2016.

150 students from 14 different *countries (Brazil, Ukraine, Germany, Mozambique, India, Malawi, Egypt, Philippines, USA, Tanzania, Zambia, Kazakhstan, Madagascar and South Africa)* performed with great enthusiasm for an audience of more than 2000 people at Jo'burg Theatre and around 5000 people watched programme live through our live stream broadcasting.

The young performers showcased the extent of their unique talent in various fields such as dancing and singing. The show entitled "Colours of the World" hosted by "The Princess of Africa" Yvonne Chaka Chaka, attracted prominent South Africans. Among the dignitaries present on the night were National Assembly Speaker Baleka Mbete, Science and Technology Minister Naledi Pandor, Minister of Women in the Presidency Suzan Shabangu, Telecommunications and Postal Services Deputy Minister Prof. Hlengiwe, Acting Premier MEC for Finance Barbara Creecy, MEC for SACR Faith Mazibuko, MEC for RT Dr Ismail Vadi, MEC for SD Nandi Mayathula-Khoza, EC Provincial Speaker Noxolo Kiviet, Acting Mayor MMC Geoffrey Makhubo and South Africa's legendary jazz artist Sibongile Khumalo.

One of the highlights of the Festival was the presentation of prestigious IFLC awards. Globally renowned songstress, Ms Sibongile Khumalo for her lifelong and invaluable contribution to the development of arts and culture in South Africa was awarded with the IFLC Arts and Culture award, MEC for SACR Faith Mazibuko and Acting Mayor Geoffrey Makhubo were awarded with Support and Encouragement award.

After a short performance Khumalo expressed her feelings, "I am privileged, I feel honored, I feel humbled and yet I feel particularly proud to stand in front of you, to stand here amongst the beautiful young people, who have come out here to support their peers, their friends. I am very grateful to the Horizon Education Trust."

Guest of Honor for the night, Parliament Speaker Baleke Mbete began her speech by humorously stating "I wish parliament would be like this". "This festival is truly unique in that it is able to bring together youth, possible future leaders, from so many diverse countries and backgrounds to engage and find each other," Mbete said in her speech. Parliament Speaker highlighted that she agreed full with the assertion stated in the objectives of the Festival that "the best way to combat violence and injustice is through education and sharing of cultural values".

"This evening has been a wonderful expression of cultural diversity, of unity in diversity, has been a wonderful expression of talent of international collaboration of a society in a world that can indeed reflect many cultures in just one setting." stated Minister Pandor in her closing remarks speech.

Vote of thanks was done by Deputy Minister Suzan Chabangu, she thanked all performers and participants and she stated that Horizon Educational Trust is a friend of South Africa.

On 22 April, IFLC team had sightseeing tour of Johannesburg and Closing dinner.

Horizon Education Trust would like to thank the National and International performers and delegations, IFLC international organizing committee, IFLC local organizing committee (Gauteng Department of Sport, Arts, Culture and Recreation, Community Development of City of Joburg, National Arts Council of South Africa, Turquoise Harmony Institute and SATBA), South African Schools particularly Horizon High School, Star Colleges, National school of Arts, Mavis Community Hall and all participants for the successful festival programme.

Warm regards



Ilhami Demirtas  
IFLC South Africa Coordinator

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