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## I am an African

"I Am an African" was a speech delivered by then-Deputy President, Thabo Mbeki, in Cape Town on 8 May 1996, on the passing of the new Constitution of South Africa.

This speech defined the mood of the moment. This Heritage Day, we quote from the opening sentences to remind ourselves that what was said then, remains so relevant now.

*I owe my being to the hills and the valleys, the mountains and the glades, the rivers, the deserts, the trees, the flowers, the seas, and the ever-changing seasons that define the face of our native land.*

*My body has frozen in our frosts and in our latter-day snows. It has thawed in the warmth of our sunshine and melted in the heat of the midday sun. The crack and the rumble of the summer thunders, lashed by startling lightening, have been a cause both of trembling and of hope.*

*The fragrances of nature have been as pleasant to us as the sight of the wild blooms of the citizens of the veld.*

*The dramatic shapes of the Drakensberg, the soil-coloured waters of the Lekoa, iGqili noThukela, and the sands of the Kgalagadi, have all been panels of the set on the natural stage on which we act out the foolish deeds of the theatre of our day.*

*At times, and in fear, I have wondered whether I should concede equal citizenship of our country to the leopard and the lion, the elephant and*

Our country, South Africa is filled with multiple cultures and traditions. We are a vibrant, colourful, energetic, diverse, and beautiful place. These qualities have been evident these past 18 months. We have embraced our diversity and energy as we worked collectively to get our industry open.

So tomorrow we encourage **ALL** to celebrate Heritage Day together and embrace our differences.

We wish all our members, stakeholders, partners, clients a blessed Heritage Day this September 2021 as we celebrate this rich nation, **WE CALL HOME**.



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