



PARLIAMENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA



GREAT PYRAMIDS OF EGYPT

25 MAY AFRICA "AFRICAN RENEWAL, ADVANCEMENT AND DEVELOPMENT" DAY

TIMBUKTU MANUSCRIPTS II - MATHEMATICS, ASTRONOMY

GOLDEN RHINO FROM THE KINGDOM OF MAPUNGBUWE (SOUTH AFRICA)

TIMBUKTU MANUSCRIPTS III - ASTRONOMY TABLES

AUSTRALAPITHECUS SEDIBA (SOUTH AFRICA)

CELEBRATING AFRICA DAY

- Africa day is celebrated every year on 25 May
- The Organisation of African Unity (OAU) was formed on 25 May 1963 in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia
- To mark this occasion, Africa Day will be celebrated for the 48th time this year
- The OAU was the forerunner to the African Union (AU) which was launched in Durban, South Africa on 9 July 2002
- There are 54 countries in Africa of which 53 are member states of the AU. Morocco is not an AU member state
- The AU has brought together the continent of Africa to address its many challenges such as armed conflict, climate change and poverty.

THE SIGNIFICANCE OF AFRICA DAY

- Africa Day is a celebration of Africa, its people and unity
- It is an acknowledgement of the progress that Africans have made and a reflection on the common challenges we face in a global context

THE ROLE OF THE AFRICAN UNION (AU) IN THE CONTINENT

- The AU is a premier institution for promoting socio-economic integration of the continent, aiming at greater unity and solidarity between the countries and the people of Africa
- The AU is based on the common vision of a united and strong continent
- It is also based on a need to build a partnership between governments and all segments of civil society, in particular women, youth and the private sector
- As a continental organisation, it focuses on peace, security and stability, and is at the centre of the continent's renewal
- The AU aims to secure democratic rights, human rights and sustainable economies in Africa, especially by ending conflict and creating an effective common market.

VISION

The vision of the African Union is: **“An integrated, prosperous and peaceful Africa, driven by its own citizens and representing a dynamic force in the global arena”.**

COLLECTIVE ACTIONS OF THE AFRICAN UNION

Africans have initiated collective actions through the AU to:

- protect the environment
- fight international terrorism
- combat the scourge of the HIV/AIDS pandemic, malaria and tuberculosis
- deal with humanitarian issues such as the plight of refugees and displaced persons
- promote peace, security and stability, and facilitate cooperation and development in Africa
- strengthen solidarity throughout the continent and build a common destiny among the people of Africa.

SOUTH AFRICA AND AFRICA DAY

- The commemoration of Africa Day highlights South Africa’s contributory role and participation in the continent’s agenda
- Africa Day serves as a day to celebrate our African heritage, and to showcase the continent’s history and culture through art
- It instils a sense of responsibility in all, especially the youth, to improve the quality of life of all people affected in critical areas of social existence, including:
 - Health, safety and security
 - Moral regeneration
 - Social cohesion, culture and education
- In commemorating Africa Day, we have a moment to renew our commitment to ourselves, the African continent and our shared heritage and destiny.

THE ROLE OF PARLIAMENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

- The Parliament of the Republic of South Africa participates in several African organisations, including the Pan-African Parliament (PAP) and the Southern African Development Community Parliamentary Forum (SADC PF)
- In line with the country’s foreign policy, the Parliament of the Republic of South Africa gives special attention to Africa in its overall international relations policy framework. This includes engaging proactively with some legislative assemblies of the countries where the South African government has been involved in peace-building efforts
- This year the Parliament of the Republic of South Africa will be hosting a Joint Sitting of the two Houses on 25 May to celebrate Africa Day.

AFRICA EVENTS 2011

World Economic Forum on Africa 2011: Cape Town, South Africa, 4-6 May 2011

Theme: *"From Vision to Action, Africa's Next Chapter"*.

The World Economic Forum is an independent international organisation committed to improving the state of the world by engaging business, political, academic and leaders of society to shape global, regional and industry agendas.

AFRICA HEALTH EXHIBITION AND CONGRESS 9-11 MAY, 2011

Africa Health Exhibition and Congress was launched in May 2011 at the Johannesburg Expo Centre, Nasrec, South Africa. Africa Health to provide a major 3-day exhibition and congress presenting a diverse range of subject topics relating to healthcare in Africa.

NEW AFRICA DAY FESTIVAL 27 – 29 May

In celebration of Africa Day, from May 27 - 29, Johannesburg will enjoy a weekend festival namely Sanaa Africa, The Spirit of Celebration will embrace Africa's rhythmic heart and vibrant soul by hosting some of the continent's most exhilarating art, entertainment, music and more.

OTHER IMPORTANT DATES FOR AFRICA

16 June: Day of the African Child

9 July: African Union Day • **25 September:** Pan-African Women's Day.



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