



Media Release

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Celebrating International Museums Day: Theme - "Museum and Memory"

1. Robert Broom Memorial Lecture: Professor Lee Berger

The Ditsong National Museum of Natural History (former Transvaal Museum) will be having a Robert Broom Memorial Lecture (public lecture) on Tuesday the 17th of May in celebration of International Museum's Day. The talk will be presented by Prof. Lee Berger and is titled "*Extraordinary 2 million year old hominin of Malapa*". The talk will be on *Australopithecus sediba* a new species of early hominin discovered by Lee and Matthew Berger in August 2008.

Prof. Lee R Berger is the Reader in Human Evolution and the Public Understanding of Science in the Institute for Human Evolution, School of Geosciences at the University of the Witwatersrand, Johannesburg, South Africa. He discovered the site of Malapa in 2008 and is the discoverer of the female skeleton MH-2. He is the Director and Principal Investigator of the Project. Berger, an award-winning researcher, author and speaker is the recipient of the Friedel Sellschop Award for Young Researchers and the National Geographic Society's First Prize for Research and Exploration. He has appeared in numerous television documentaries and is a regular commentator on evolution and palaeontology.

After the lecture, a handover ceremony will take place at the museum, in which Prof. Berger will donate casts of *Australopithecus sediba* to the CEO of DITSONG Museums of South Africa, Mr. Makgolo Makgolo. This donation forms part of the collaborative work

between Prof. Berger's team and the fossil collection from the museum that was studied in the research that led to identifying this new species, *Australopithecus sediba*.

The public is invited to attend this talk and the details are as follows:

Event: Talk titled the “*Extraordinary 2 million year old hominin of Malapa*” presented by Prof. Lee Berger.

Venue: Ditsong National Museum of Natural History – Auditorium

Date: Tuesday, the 17th of May 2011

Time: 18h00

Cost: FREE. Safe parking available behind the Museum: Entrance in Minnaar Street

Enquiries: Stephany Potze (stephany.potze@gmail.com) and Bona Nyawose (bona@ditsong.org.za), or 012 3227632.

2. FREE ENTRY

Ditsong Museums of South Africa will also be giving FREE entry to all visitors on the 17th of May 2011.

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