



translate.org.za
opensource software translation project

PRESS RELEASE:

Save the dictionary on International Mother Tongue Day with Translate.org.za

South Africa, 19 February, 2007: Translate.org.za, award winning multilingual software creators, have launched the "Dictory" initiative to coincide with this year's International Mother Tongue Day, celebrated across the globe on 21 February.

The initiative is gathering dictionaries in all South African languages to create a dictionary library accessible to all language practitioners and translators. Translate.org.za's primary interest in the dictionaries is for the continued enhancement of their existing South African language spell checkers for the OpenOffice.org Office suite and Mozilla Firefox web-browser.

Says Translate.org.za Managing Director, Dwayne Bailey, "Many people have dictionaries sitting on their shelves gathering dust, but nobody likes to throw away a dictionary even if it's no longer used. We'd like to allow people to breath new life into their dictionaries. We promise a good home and our commitment to developing South African languages."

The dictionaries are used to validate words and improve the behaviour of the Translate.org.za spell checkers. They are also used by translators when translating open source software into South African languages. The result is freely distributed software in all South Africans languages for all South Africans.

Of particular interest to Translate.org.za are terminology lists published by various language boards and education departments as well as domain specific organisations such as the Milk Board. Dictionaries as esoteric as the "Sterrekundewoordeboek", grammars such as "Aspects of Venda grammar" or African language dictionaries such as "Thalusamaipfi ya nyambotharu yo khwiniswaho".

Contact Translate.org.za on (012) 460 1095 or info@translate.org.za to make arrangements for your dictionary to gain new life and help grow mother tongue language in Southern Africa.

ENDS

Notes to Editors:

Translate.org.za is a South African non-profit organisation that continues to advance the development of mother tongue language software and technology in South Africa and helps others across Africa to develop software in their own languages. Their work is released as Open Source software and thus available for all to use.

The award from the Pan South African Language Board (PanSALB) (a statutory body established to create conditions to develop and promote the equal use and enjoyment of all the official South African languages) was in the category "Multilingualism and Nation Building: eBusiness Institute of the Decade"

The technologies created by Translate.org.za can be downloaded for free:
<http://www.translate.org.za/>

Dwayne Bailey from Translate.org.za is available for interviews. His fields of specialisation include:

- Free and Open Source Software
- Multilingualism
- Software translation
- Language rights advocacy

**For more information or to arrange an interview, please contact:
Dwayne Bailey (083 443 7114 or +27 21 460 1095)**