



## INTERNET ARTICLE

### **DWS's Heritage Month celebration reaffirms SA's cultural diversity**

27 September 2017

The celebration of the Gauteng Provincial Office Heritage Month was a melting pot of different cultures that make up the diverse landscape of the South African community.

True to the spirit of African cultures, the celebration which was held at the Roodeplaat Training Centre on Tuesday, 26 September 2017, was marked by a bright and colourful display of traditional regalia.

The event was held as part of the annual Heritage celebration, which seeks to recognise and celebrate each culture's unique traits while encouraging social cohesion and common purpose.

Speaking during the event, Gauteng Provincial Office, Mr Sibusiso Mthembu commended the initiative and reiterated the importance of coming together as the country to recognise and celebrate the cultural wealth of our nation.

"It's important to celebrate our heritage as it reminds us of who we are and where we are going as a nation," said Mthembu.

Mthembu added that celebrating heritage through attire and food should be done constantly and throughout the year.

"I would love to see these beautiful colours in the office; we should not wait to wear them only during this month," Mthembu added.

Groups gave presentations on different topics. The Tsongas spoke about marriage and how married women should carry themselves. The Vendas highlighted their history and origins and also stressed the importance of initiation schools for the boys.

Known for their undying love for meat, the Xhosa group did not disappoint. They reaffirmed their love for anything meaty. The goat meat however is not part of their staple food as they reserve it mainly for use during rituals.

As normal, while celebrating heritage traditional food and musical performance became the order of the day and the main draw card.

The different groups brought food for tasting, allowing participants to share ingredients used to prepare food in the different cultures.

Praversh Gayparsad who was representing the Indian community tasted "Masonja" *Mopani Worms* for the first time in his life and described the taste as delightful.

"I did not know Masonja taste this good. I have always regarded them as worms, they are really delicious," said the impressed Gayparsad.

**Lucky Makgarengi**