



water & sanitation

Department:
Water and Sanitation
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

INTERNET ARTICLE

DWS's Heritage Day celebrated to break down walls of suspicion amongst people

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The celebration of Heritage Day was a galaxy of colours as employees of the Department of Water and Sanitation donned their traditional wear, shattering the fallacy that they are not proud of their common heritage bestowed on them by previous generations.

"We should not be overwhelmed by what is taking place around us so much so that we even forget who we are in the process," said Lucky Manqele,. Manqele said the wearing of one's traditional clothes is an opportunity to remind oneself of one's culture and history.

"The clothes that we wear on Heritage Day remind us of who we are as a people. It also helps us to know where we are going and is an embodiment of everything that represents our humaneness. Amongst the nations of the world, we should be able to stand out as a people," said Manqele.

Asked about the importance of Heritage Day, employees collectively agreed that the day paved a way for them to be proud of their history and to recognise that they could contribute to the building of the South African society.

Katlego Mogotsi said the ultimate aim of the day should be to collapse the walls that exist between different groups, adding that people should not see themselves in terms of us and them.

"We are one people but have different languages and ways of doing things. However, there are so many things that are common to us, that those that make us different have little significance such that they do not even warrant mentioning."

She said her life experience teaches her that emphasising differences between people only serves to heighten suspicion and conflicts, saying that each person should take the time to understand others because by so doing they also amass knowledge about themselves.



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Stressing the message which should be carried by the celebration of the day, Mr Sydney Nevhorwa said Heritage Day presents an opportunity to look deep within ourselves and ask ourselves tough questions about who we are. He said in this age of socio-economic advancements we have lost the essence of uBuntu, a quality that is at the core of what defines us.

“Every epoch in our history represents something and in this period that is the task that we should pursue in reclaiming our being. The general trend you see currently is that our lives have been overtaken by other things which do not have relevance or resonance with our norms and values,” said Nevhorwa.

Hosia Sithole