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## DIRECTORATE: CORPORATE COMMUNICATION & IT

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### MEDIA STATEMENT

**01 October 2015**

### **Tourism employees celebrate Heritage and Cultural diversity**

**Montshioa** - Employees of the Department of Tourism in the North West joined the country in celebrating the Tourism and Heritage month when they recently gathered at the Montshioa Cultural Village to share and display their rich heritage across diverse cultures of South Africa.

Speaking during this colorful event, the acting head of the Department, Charles Ndabeni called on employees to embrace and respect their culture and heritage. Ndabeni said that by exchanging good practices with other cultures, employees will broaden the scope and knowledge about other foreign cultures.

“Being knowledgeable about who you are and about other cultures, will assist in carrying the legacy of building lasting memories, you will become a knowledge ambassador, who will advocate for the rich culture and heritage we have in the province,” said Ndabeni.

Sharing rich knowledge about the history and culture of Batswana, one of the co-founders of the Montshiwa Cultural village Cyril Makgwa, said that they had to establish a cultural village to preserve the rich culture of the Batswana, more especially that of the Barolong Boo Rratshidi tribe in Mafikeng.

“We could not allow our children not to learn about their history and our practices. We straggled but because of our persistence we managed. Today we have one



tourist attractions which has more information about the Barolong and other Batswana history,” said Makgwa.

Ms Mavis Nels, a departmental employee, who was wearing her traditional garments (Letoitse), said that despite the turnaround in technology and the new social developments, Culture remains key and must be adhered to. “Celebrating diversity as South Africans is very pivotal especially if it includes various cultures. It does not mean when one is wearing the Zulu garments, that automatically would suggest that the person is confused. We must explore and practice other cultures,” said the elated Nels.

Employees were treated to their festivities with traditional dancers, food and sharing ideas with their counterparts from Botswana.

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**Issued by : North West Department of Tourism**

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