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Department of Public Works
Departament van Openbare Werke
Lefapha La Ditiro Tsa Setshaba

OFFICE OF THE MEC

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UNIQUE HERITAGE CELEBRATIONS BY PUBLIC WORKS

It was a day to look, taste and feel unique but proudly South African when employees of the North West Department of Public Works in the Southern Region celebrated cultural heritage and diversity under the theme "Indigenous foods, our knowledge, our heritage" on Friday 23 September 2005 in Potchefstroom.

Cultural diversity was celebrated in style. Colourful traditional attires and indigenous food fair exhibitions of the Batswana, the Afrikaner, the Dutch, the Scottish and the French depicted South Africa's rich traditions and heritage. The Indigenous dishes left many a gourmet asking for more. Afrikaners in typical Voortrekker attire would have made Andries Hendrik Potgieter proud of Public Works employees.

The Regional Manager Ms. Portia Monnapula-Mazabane highlighted the importance of embracing other cultures and managing diversity in the workplace.

Delivering the Keynote speech on behalf of the Head of Department, the Chief Director for Regional Operations, Ms Motlapele Ntshabele said, "Irrespective of our different cultures and languages, we are sons and daughters of the soil who come from the same womb. That womb is South African. Like siblings born of the same mother, we need each other because we have a common destiny".



The celebrations were in line with government's aim to use heritage month as a vehicle for a long-term vision of collecting, preserving, promoting and disseminating our living heritage.

(Photos available to Media on request)

**ISSUED BY THE DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS
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