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Department:
Defence
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA



THE 2013 KWA-ZULU NATAL MILITARY TATTOO

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The 2013 Kwa-Zulu Natal Military Tattoo was held at the Natal Mounted Rifles in Durban from 18 to 21 September 2013. Various bands from throughout the country as well as units from the Durban area participated in this spectacular event.

Wednesday, 18 September, saw the first night of four scheduled exciting shows. The show got swiftly under way after the arrival of the Guest of Honour for the night, Vice Admiral J. Mudimu, Chief SA Navy. The Massed Pipes and Drums from the SA Irish Regiment, 1 Medical Battalion Group, SA Military Health Services, and numerous KZN Reserve Regiments were the first to thrill the audience when they performed many popular old favourite pipes and drums tunes.

During the evening, the audience were entertained with enactments of the role of the SANDF stemming from African co-operation and the South African Constitution. The scope of duty spanned from conventional warfare to assisting a stranded community with 19 Field Engineers Squadron building a bridge and Durban Regiment capturing rhino poachers. Durban Regiment also displayed typical occurrences during Border control and the seizing of contraband along with sniffer dogs from 508 Squadron and trained troops transported by Mamba troop vehicles.

Military Tattoos always have a wide spectrum of skilled military band displays and music material. On this occasion the South African Military Health Service band was under the baton of Lieutenant Colonel Gerald Seekola with its Latin touch and drum display. The SA Army Band Polokwane played Michael Jackson's 'Thriller' and Miriam Makeba's 'phata phata.' The SA Army

Band Kwa-Zulu Natal brought a jazz aspect to the show that had the audience clapping and swinging. The SA Army Band Kroonstad entertained with their amusing enactments to the music of a James Bond theme, The Beatles and Stevie Wonder.

Two spectacular performances that stood out with their unique public and military appeal were the Naval Station Durban Precision Drill Squad and the Durban Girls High School Drum Majorettes. The Naval drill squad executed perfect parade drills and movements with R5 assault rifles to the timing of simple drum beats. The audience cheered the drummies with their colourful flag displays, and spectacular mace and rifle tossing.

'Mahatma Madiba - Ode to Peace' was an ensemble piece composed by Mrs Nadine Naidoo, conducted by Lieutenant Colonel Gerald Seekola, and performed by Ms Ashleigh Joseph. It imparts the ideas of harmony and non-violence between people and countries and is reinforced by famous words and quotes from peace icons Mahatma Ghandi, Nelson Mandela and Martin Luther King (Jnr).

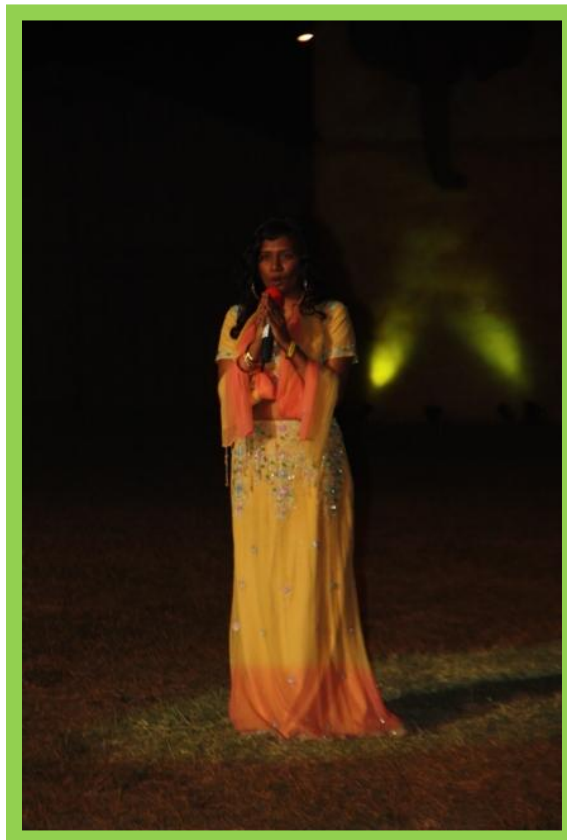
The finale saw all the bands and military units involved take to the field in a display of colour, pomp and music. The spotlight dimmed to the Lone Piper, followed by a colourful fireworks display, marked the end of another successful Kwa-Zulu Natal Military Tattoo.



Chief SA Navy, Vice Admiral Mudimu, replying to the general salute for the show to commence



African Co-operation dance during the 2013 KZN Military Tattoo



Ms Ashleigh Joseph performing Ms Nadine Naidoo's song during the 2013 KZN Military Tattoo



Durban Girls High School Drummies in action



South African Military Health Service Band playing in harmony during the 2013 KZN Military Tattoo



SA Army Band Limpopo playing during the 2013 KZN Military Tattoo



Naval Station Durban Precision Drill Squad performing during the 2013 KZN Military Tattoo



SA Army Band Kroonstad playing during the 2013 KZN Military Tattoo



Crowd control re-enactment during the 2013 KZN Military Tattoo



The finale with the massed bands in action led by Lieutenant Colonel Gerald Seekola