

DEFENCE RESERVES PROVINCIAL OFFICE LIMPOPO HARD AT WORK IN SUPPORT OF LIMPOPO PROVINCIAL GOVERNMENT INITIATIVES AND PROGRAMMES

Article and Photographs by: Lt Col Z. Nombida, SO1 Reserve Force PO Limpopo

The Defence Reserves Provincial Office Limpopo has over the past months been hard at work in support of Limpopo Provincial Government initiatives and programmes throughout the province. The office participated in various activities such as the Makhado Show, Mokopane National Science Week, Tzaneen Show, Premier's Imbizo, Thulamela Show in Thohoyandou and Heritage Day in Seshego. During these provincial government activities, the Reserve Force Provincial Office Limpopo interacted with provincial government stakeholders, traditional leaders, municipality mayors and managers, university students and the public in general just to name but a few.

The first worth mentioning initiative was the Annual Makhado Show which was held from 27 to 29 July 2017 and organised and coordinated by Makhado Municipality.

Apart from meaningful interactions with university students, educators and learners at the Makhado Show, the office utilised the excellent and golden opportunity it had to market and promote itself in the province. It was able to do so because the show attracted huge crowds, especially on the official opening day and the last day where Air Force base Makhado embraced the occasion with fighter jet (Gripen) fly past.

While the general public was much more interested in the roles and functions of the Reserve Forces, university students and high school learners were very interested in career opportunities in the Reserves.

It was then communicated to them that Defence Reserve's mandate is to market and promote the Reserve Force by creating career awareness opportunities, as well as its roles and functions and giving information on recruitment processes and procedures. They were also made aware that the Reserve Force does not conduct recruitment and referred them to the exhibition stall of Chief Directorate Human Resource Acquisition which is mandated to do recruitment and oversee its processes and procedures in the South African National Defence Force (SANDF).

The second initiative to which the Provincial Office Limpopo rendered its full support, was during the National Science week in Mokopane which was held from 07 to 11 August 2017. The Office mainly interacted with high school learners and educators. Among the schools present, there were learners that were eager to join the Defence Force after completing their studies. After each presentation, learners were also referred to the Directorate Human Resource Acquisition exhibition stall where they were given more information on recruitment and procedures on how to join the Military Skills Development System.

Similarly, the Tzaneen Show was held from 09 to 12 August 2017 and received equivalent support to that rendered during the Makhado Show. The only dissimilarity was that during Tzaneen show, schools only came in the afternoons and more interaction was with the public and provincial government stakeholders. Nevertheless, the objective of promoting and marketing the Defence Reserves in the province in accordance with its mandate was achieved.

On the other hand, the attendance at the Premier's Imbizo in Dlanganani (Khani) village in Giyani on 18 August 2017 in support of Provincial Government programmes was fruitful. At this event, Provincial Office was among other provincial government departments not only representing the Reserve Force but the entire department of Defence.

The office's interaction was more with the public, especially the youth. There were also nearby schools that were invited. While the public was more interested in development projects and infrastructure in the Greater Giyani Municipality, the youth were interested in career opportunities and bursaries offered by all provincial government departments, including Department of Defence. Consequently, information on the Military Skills Development System and career awareness on Reserve Force was shared.

The support rendered to Thulamela show in Thohoyandou on 31 August 2017 until 02 September 2017 to the Greater Vhembe Municipality is worth mentioning. For instance, the Provincial Office joined 15 SAI Battalion and Air Force Base Makhado in putting on a splendid exhibition display.

The interaction at the show was similar to the one at the Makhado Show except that during this show there was a SABC 2 drama series; Muvhango actors embracing the event as programme directors with maximum attendance by local traditional leaders and nearby high schools. Defence Reserves Provincial Office Limpopo received a recognition and appreciation letter for the wonderful support rendered during the show.

Lastly the Provincial Office participated in heritage celebrations on 24 September 2017 in Seshego in Polokwane. This was in support of provincial government programmes initiated by the Department of Arts and Culture. The office utilised the opportunity to promote and market the Defence Reserve Force Service System in the province in accordance with its mandate. It was able to do so through the meaningful interaction it had with different cultural groups and provincial stakeholders that came to support the celebrations.

Through active participation in support of provincial government initiatives and programmes as indicated, it is evident that the Defence Reserves Provincial Office Limpopo is hard at work in marketing and promoting the Defence Reserve Force Service System in the Limpopo Province.

The office is determined to continue building on wonderful achievements made by Capt (Navy) J.T. Magonono, the former SO1 Liaison Defence Reserves Provincial Office Limpopo.



Premier's Imbizo at Dlanganani Village in Giyani.



Thulamela show in Thohoyandou.



Interaction with learners during Thulamela show in Thohoyandou.



Provincial Heritage day celebrations in Seshego.



Display during the Provincial Heritage day celebrations in Seshego.



Interaction with school learners during the Makhado show.



Interaction with learners during Mokopane's National Science Week.



Lt Col Nombida, interacting with learners during the Mokopane's National Science Week.



Premier's Imbizo at Dlanganani village; interaction with public.