

Fort iKapa Heritage Day

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On the 22 September, Heritage Day was celebrated by some of the Reserve Force Units in Fort iKapa Military Base. The idea was initiated by Regiment Westelike Provincie (RWP) who invited all the units in the base to be part of the celebrations. Different cultural groups got together and had to cook traditional food, wear traditional clothes and portray the uniqueness of their culture.

Mr Sonwabile, from the Department of Arts and Culture, Castle of Goodhope was invited as a guest. He addressed the crowd and shared inspiring words on how the Department of Defence can cultivate and embrace different cultures found within the department.

Heritage Day is a South African public holiday celebrated on 24 September. On this day, South Africans across the spectrum are encouraged to celebrate their culture and the diversity of their beliefs and traditions, in the wider context of a nation that belongs to its entire people.

Heritage not only refers to our historical inheritance, creative expression and food but also embraces various languages that have become entrenched in our milieu. Language is the key ingredient humans require, building bridges of understanding between cultures and communities. Language is also a key factor in building trust amongst people of South Africa. This helps us as the DOD in understanding our people's cultures.

With a wonderful atmosphere and lots of laughter and curiosity about other cultures, all the different participants learned something from each other. At the end of the day everybody walked away with better understanding of the diverse culture of the people they work with.



RWP officer commanding, Maj N.H. Fikizolo handing out a certificate to Mr Sonwabile, from the Department of Arts and Culture in the Castle of Goodhope in recognition of his participation.



L to R Back: Cpl Snyders, Cpl Esau, L/Cpl Oor, L/Cpl Soloman, RSM Cedras, WO2 Muskett-Yetts, and WO1 Lindoor.
 L to R Front: Cpl Lott in pink apron, Miss Hartnick in white apron and S/Sgt Witbooi in navy blue top.



RSM Cedras, Cpl Lott and Miss Hartnick enjoying coffee made on the fire and dresses in Olden Cape style.



L to R: L/Cpl Sohaba, L/Cpl Mbali and seated is Rfn Mbanga dressed in Xhosa traditional attire.



L to R: Rfn Ntwagae, L/Cpl Sohaba, Rfn Mbanga, L/Cpl Tshakayna and Cpl Ndzena.



Cpl Lott and Miss Hartnick cooking as it was done in the early Cape years.



At the end of the day different ethnic groups got together and shared food and knowledge about each other's cultures.



Cpl Deyszel joined the Xhosa ladies in dancing.