

## **“CULTURE & TRADITION BE PRACTISED 365 DAYS”,MAYOR**

**BAKENBERG:** The 24th September is observed as Heritage Day, a celebration not only of the past, but of the contributions of the South African people in making the country what it is today. It is a day in which all are encouraged to celebrate their cultural traditions in the wider context of the great diversity of cultures, beliefs, and traditions that make up the nation of South Africa.

The Mayor of Mogalakwena Municipality Cllr Andrina Matsemela had on Thursday celebrated the Heritage Day celebrations at Kroomkloof Village in Bakenberg.

In her address Mayor Matsemela said, “I would like to start off by thanking the Bakenberg House of Traditional Leaders for inviting me to be part of this year's heritage month commemoration. You will agree with me that culture is not something we are born with. It is learned from family, school, religious teachings and nowadays through television and other media. Indeed issues of culture and heritage are with us 365 days a year.”

“Issues of heritage and culture are the cornerstone of nation building. A child is born into a cultural setting, with a rich heritage which, through the process of parenting and socialization shapes her/his well-being throughout the stages of life. Our culture instils in us norms and standards of relating towards each other and behaving in society as a whole. It shapes our identities as well,” Matsemela continued.

“Our unique Heritage Month commemoration recognises aspects of our culture which are both tangible and intangible. These include creative expression such as music and performances, our historical inheritance, language, the food we eat as well as the popular memory,” Matsemela said.

“Few heritage sites in our municipality are named after the liberation struggle icons, e.g. here in Mogalakwena we have: Makapans Valley and two more heritage sites which are not yet declared by UNESCO. These sites should teach us of the values that we should embrace as encapsulated in our constitution and our value system as a country,” added Matsemela

Matsemela indicated that, “From the onset the celebrations of heritage day were meant to bring this rainbow nation together. Let us all join in and help preserve and spread awareness of our heritage resources. They are not just symbols of our past, but they are the foundation for our future as well,”

“I will like to encourage all of us to go back to basics and do things the way we know they should be done traditionally and culturally. Our rich heritage and culture should be used as an instrument to uphold high morals and standards in our society,” Matsemela signed off.