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Heritage Day, 24 September

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In KwaZulu-Natal, 24 September was formerly known as Shaka Day and was celebrated in commemoration of the legendary King Shaka, who played an important role in uniting disparate Zulu clans into a cohesive nation. On this day every year, people gathered at his grave to honour him.

The Public Holiday Bill presented to the Parliament of South Africa after 1994 did not include 24 September as a proposed public holiday. The Inkatha Freedom Party (IFP), a political party with a large Zulu membership, objected to this omission. Subsequently, a compromise was reached between the IFP and Parliament and the day was given its present name, Heritage Day.

Heritage has been defined as “that which we inherited: the sum total of wildlife and scenery, sites of scientific or historical importance, national monuments, historic buildings, works of art, literature, music, oral traditions and museum collections, together with their documentation”.

Heritage Day is not only about celebrating the cultures of different groups, but also about different groups sharing aspects of their cultures. Elements of national unity, nation building, reconciliation and patriotism must be emphasised. The aim is also to encourage young South Africans to protect and honour their shared heritage.

In a speech made on the occasion of the second Heritage Day celebration in 1996, former South African President Nelson Mandela stated:

“When our first democratically elected government decided to make Heritage Day one of our national days, we did so because we knew that our rich and varied cultural heritage has a profound power to help build our new nation.”

Enjoy Heritage Day 2014!

Erfenisdag, 24 September

Deur Steve Mofokeng

In KwaZulu-Natal was 24 September vroeër bekend as Shaka-dag, wat gevier is ter ere van dié legendariese Zulu-koning wat 'n belangrike rol gespeel het in die vereniging van die strydende Zulu-stamme tot 'n samehorige nasie. Op hierdie dag het mense jaarliks by Koning Shaka se graf byeengekom om hulde aan hom te bring.

Die lys voorgestelde openbare vakansiedae wat na 1994 aan die Parlement voorgelê is, het nie hierdie dag ingesluit nie. Die Inkatha Vryheidsparty (IVP), 'n Suid-Afrikaanse politieke party met 'n groot Zulu-lidmaatskap, het beswaar gemaak. Die Parlement en die IVP het tot 'n vergelyk gekom en dié dag, wat voortaan as Erfenisdag bekend sou staan, is tot 'n openbare vakansiedag verklaar.

Erfenis is al omskryf as "dit wat ons geërf het: die somtotaal van die natuurlewe en natuurskoon, plekke van wetenskaplike of geskiedkundige

belang, nasionale monumente, historiese geboue, kunswerke, literatuur, musiek, mondelinge tradisies en museumversamelings met hul meegaande dokumentasie".

Die doel van Erfenisdag is egter nie net om die kulture van afsonderlike groepe te vier nie, maar veral ook om oor die verskillende kultuurgrense heen uit te reik. Elemente van nasionale eenheid, nasiebou, versoening en patriotisme moet dus benadruk word. Die doel is ook om veral die jeug aan te moedig om Suid-Afrikaners se gedeelde erfenis in ere te hou en te bewaar.

Oud-president Nelson Mandela het in sy toespraak op die tweede Erfenisdag in 1996 die volgende verduideliking gegee:

"Toe ons eerste demokraties-verkose regering besluit het om Erfenisdag een van ons nasionale dae te maak, het ons dit gedoen omdat ons geweet het dat ons ryk en uiteenlopende kulturele erfenis 'n diepgaande krag het wat kan meehelp om 'n nuwe nasie te bou."

Geniet Erfenisdag 2014!

Letšatši la Bohwa, 24 Lewedi

Ka Steve Mofokeng

Kua KwaZulu-Natal, 24 Lewedi le be le tsebega ka Letšatši la Shaka gomme le be le ketekwa go gopola Kgoši ya go tuma Shaka, yo a ralokilego karolo ye bohlokwa ya go kopanya meloko yeo e fapanego ya Mazulu bjalo ka setšhaba seo se kopanego.

Ka letšatši le ngwaga wo mongwe le wo mongwe batho ba kgobokana lebitleng la gagwe go mo hlompha. Molaokakanywa wa boikhutšogohle woo o abilwego Palamenteng ya Afrika Borwa ka morago ga 1994 ga se wa akaretša 24 Lewedi bjalo ka boikhutšogohle bjoo bo akantšwego. Inkatha Freedom Party (IFP), mokgatlo wa dipolotiki woo o nago le maloko a mantši a Mazulu, ba ganana le tlogelo ye. Go ile gwa fihlelelwa tirišano gare ga IFP le Palamente gomme letšatši la fiwa leina la bjale, Letšatši la Bohwa.

Bohwa bo hlalošitšwe bjalo ka 'seo re se amogetšego: palo ya palomoka ya bophelo bja lešoka le bobogego,

mafelo a bohlokwa a saense le a histori, digopotšo tša setšhaba, meago ya histori, mešomo ya bokgabo, dingwalo, mmimo, ditšotšhaba le dikgobokanyo tša museamo, gammogo le ditokumente tša tšona.'

Letšatši la Bohwa ga se fela ka go keteka ditšo tša dihlopha tšeo di fapanego, eupša gape ka dihlopha tšeo di fapanego tšeo di abelanago mahlakore a ditšo tša wona. Dikokwane tša kopano ya setšhaba, poelano le boineelo di swanetše go gatelelwa. Maikemišetšo ke go hlohleletša gape MaArika Borwa a manyane go šireletša le go hlompha bohwa bja bona bja go abelwana.

Mo polelong yeo e dirilwego ka tiragalong ya bobedi ya moketekong wa Letšatši la Bohwa ka 1996, Presidente ya maloba ya Afrika Borwa Nelson Mandela o rile:

'Ge mmušo woo o kgethilwego ka mokgwa wa temokrasi o tšea sephetho sa go dira Letšatši la Bohwa bjalo ka le lengwe la matšatši a setšhaba, re dirile seo ka gore re tseba gore bohwa bja ditšo tša rena tšeo di humilego gape di fapanego bo na le maatla ao a tseneletšego go thuša go aga setšhaba sa rena se sefsa.'

Ipshine ka Letšatši la Bohwa 2014!