

**Notes for HR Cluster HERITAGE DAY CELEBRATION**  
**15 September 2017**  
**Southern Sun – Elangeni Hotel, Durban**

Thank you Programme Director

Units Head, Deputy Head, Snr Managers, Project Executives, Managers, Supervisors, team members from different units. It gives me a great pleasure to welcome all of you to our 4<sup>th</sup> Heritage day celebration. To those who recently joined our C&HR Cluster, you are most welcome and hope your stay with us will make a difference to our customers whom we refer as business partners.

Today's celebration would include a number of topics regarding diversity and inclusiveness.

I would like to take this opportunity to express my sincere thanks to the organizers and in particular our honourable guest speakers.

Why do we celebrate heritage day?

There is quote from of our great Leader Nelson Mandela in marking Heritage day in 1996, he 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.*

*"We did so knowing that the struggles against the injustice and inequities of the past are part of our national identity; they are part of our culture. We knew that, if indeed our nation has to rise like the proverbial phoenix from the ashes of division and conflict, we had to acknowledge those whose selfless efforts and talents were dedicated to this goal of non-racial democracy."*

Heritage day is where we as South Africans get together and we celebrate our beautiful culture, the food that we eat, as well the languages that we speak.

We are remembering of our practises and traditions that were passed on from parents to children and this is a day we were get a chance to freely express and to show off our different cultures which makes up one rainbow nation.

The issues of diversity, equity and inclusion will always have a passion in our daily activities. Now if you look back Last year when we celebrated this day by showing the diversity of South African people by encouraging their cultures, their beliefs and traditions and taking pride in your family tradition, culture, beliefs and embracing the free nation that we live in. Today is one of the reasons why we are given this day. And yes, that means it's not just another day off from work it's a day to celebrate and unite our diversity.

I must say this, the progress that we have made to achieve the targets of Employment Equity is remarkable. Though we have achieved much in terms of recruiting females and people with disability, there is a great deal more that we need to do. We as the community of C&HR Cluster should take this opportunity to understand each other and learn about each other's cultural heritage in doing so it will help us as employees in delivering the best performance for our respective units.

Let us all live a heritage for the future generation that will all be proud of our actions, today are going to be used to judged us in the future.

I warmly welcome you to this joyous and lively cultural heritage day.

