

Royal Thai Armed Forces Chief receives a warm African welcome

By Kgabo Mashamaite
Photo: Sgt Elias Mahuma

During the Royal Thai Armed Forces (RTAF) welcoming parade held on 03 August 2009 at Defence Headquarters the Chief of the Royal Armed Forces, General Song kitti Jaggabatara, assured the Chief of the South African National Defence Force, General Godfrey Ngwenya, that his contingent received a pleasant


and warm African reception after they landed at the O.R. Tambo International Airport.

The main aim of the visit of the Royal Thai Armed Forces and entourage was to learn about the SANDF's role and functions in conflict resolution, particularly in Africa.

During the courtesy meeting at the C SANDF's lounge for formal introductions, Gen Godfrey Ngwenya said that the two countries had friendly relations dating back to the 90's and it was important for them

to engage meaningfully.

Gen Jaggabatara said that it was his first official visit and that he was humbled by South Africa's warm welcome. The Chief of the Royal Armed Forces said that he chose the SANDF because of its peacekeeping capabilities and hoped to learn some of its skills in that connection.

Gen Jaggabatara and his entourage were expected to visit places such as the Army College, Air Force Base Swartkop and the Naval Base Simon's Town. 



The Chief of the Royal Thai Armed Forces, Gen Song kitti Jaggabatara, (centre) inspects the parade during the Royal Thai Armed Forces visit at the Defence Headquarters on 03 August 2009.