



CELEBRATION: WoF firefighters are acknowledged at a special church service for their dedication and putting their lives at risk to aid residents.

Free State firefighters are honoured for Cape Town work

BECKER SEMELA

AFTER battling raging fires throughout the past three months in the Western Cape, Free State's Working on Fire (WoF) team were honoured at a church service at Heilbron this week.

WoF manager Azola Bangani said the Heilbron team were invited to attend an honorary church service on Sunday after bravely risking their lives for more than three months in Cape Town fighting fires that destroyed many hectares of land.

"The team marched through the streets of Heilbron singing songs and dancing accompanied by SAPS vehicles and the traffic depart-

ment that ushered them to Bethel Reformed Church in Phiritona township," he said.

He said upon arrival at the church a guard of honour was made by the church elders and the WoF management team.

"I would like to thank the Department of Environmental Affairs for the Working on Fire programme and how this programme is uniting the community of Heilbron by providing unemployed young men and women with the opportunity to serve as veld and forest firefighters.

"The church service was refreshing and another reminder that the hard work that the firefighters do is not in vain," Bangani said.

Firefighter Tshokolo Moroeng said the church service really was an encouragement and motivation for them to work even harder.

"We can see how much our community appreciates us and are thankful that we all came home safely," he said. Most of those who attended said they were emotional because of the appreciation that was shown by the church and the community at large for the many sacrifices they had to make during the time they spent in the Western Cape.

beckers@thenewage.co.za