Joyous outpouring for Boks

■ BY SHIRLEY WOODGATE and PRISCILLA SINGH

Hundreds of thousands of rugby fans packed Johannesburg streets yesterday, bringing the city to a four-hour standstill as they cheered the Springbok rugby team on a 10km victory parade. Shouts of "Viva Bokke" and

Shouts of "Viva Bokke" and "Long live the Boks" filled the streets as workers converged upon the open-top bus decked

in green and gold.

Fans risked life and limb as they crammed every balcony and ledge along the route; they perched on top of refuse bins; clung to traffic and lamp posts; climbed on car roofs and bus shelters; hung from trees; packed scaffolding; and perched on the hoist of an electricity truck to chant "Bokke, Bokke".

A cacophony of sounds echoed through the streets, African drums blending with Leon Schuster's rugby pop.

A security guard at The Star, Leon Herbst, got more than he bargained for when he picked up a R100 note autographed by Pienaar who tossed it into the crowd: "I'll never spend this note. This one's for framing," he said.

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Despite council appeals for no ticker tape because of the problems posed for municipal cleaners, the first sprinkling came in De Korte Street, Braamfontein — handfuls and bagfuls of shredded computer paper that set the tone for the rest of the parade.

A crowd of more than 5 000 awaited the Springboks at the Metropolitan Centre where it was time for speeches. Gauteng Premier Tokyo Sexwale said they were not only world champions but champions of nation building.

Springbok manager Morné du Plessis said the team had made a difference to the way people felt about each other. His message to the country was: "Please continue to feel differently about each other. Don't let it stop here."

Bok captain Pienaar said: "The support has been tremendous and the way the Rugby World Cup has brought the people of South Africa together is truly reflective of the spirit of our nation."