

ADDRESS BY THE PREMIER OF LIMPOPO, AMBASSADOR CHUPU
MATHABATHA ON THE OCCASION OF THE INAUGURATION OF HOSI
MAHUMANI, GREATER GIYANI LOCAL MUNICIPALITY, MOPANI DISTRICT.

04 October 2019

Programme Directors;
Our generous host, our leader, Hosi Mahumani;
His Grace, the Right Reverend, Dr. BE Lekganyane;
Members of the Mahumani family;
The Mahumani Traditional Council;
Representatives of the National House of Traditional Leaders;
Chairperson of the Limpopo House of Traditional Leaders;
Representatives from CONTRALESA;
Traditional leaders from various communities in the Province and beyond;
Our religious leaders;
Representatives from the legal fraternity;
All our entertainment groups;
Esteemed ladies and gentleman;
Va-aka-tiko:

Avuxeni!

We are happy to be here celebrating this special day with you today –hi tsake ngopfu ku tlangela siku leri na n’wina namunthla.

We want to thank Hosi Mahumani, the Royal Family and the Mahumani Traditional Council for your thoughtful and generous invitation.

On behalf of the government and the people of Limpopo, I want to start by congratulating the Traditional Council for organising such a spectacular and befitting ceremony for the inauguration of our Chief.

This is indeed a colourful beautiful occasion which is consistent with the proud culture and traditions of Vatsonga.

We are proud to see you embracing your culture in this fashion.

We are also happy as government to see such an overwhelming support to our traditional leadership.

We wish this could be replicated throughout the Province because this is how as Africans we do things.

As the head of our government, I am here to not only celebrate but to also wish Hosi Mahumani fruitful and productive years on the throne.

I must add that it is very inspiring to see a traditional leader installed in such a dignified fashion.

This is how we do things in Africa, this is how we do things in Limpopo and this is how the proud Vatsonga nation conducts its affairs.

Traditional leaders are not installed by Commissions of Enquiries or through

court orders. The people install their own leaders.

As Premier, I am always inundated with calls for me to intervene and make decisions on who is a leader of this or that community.

I never give in to this demand. I always advise that no government or government leader can or must decide on who is the heir to the chieftaincy or kingship.

The moment we allow politicians or the courts of law to make these decisions on our behalf, we will be liquidating our own culture and traditions.

The institution of traditional leadership is as old as human memory itself. This is an institution that has survived all kinds of weathers.

This institution has survived and outlived colonialism and the repressions of apartheid. It survived because its foundations is very strong.

The institution of traditional leadership is rooted amongst the people themselves. It is for this reason that I say that I am very happy to see the community having come out in large numbers to support their Chief.

This institution is part of your rich heritage. Traditional leaders are known as custodians of our traditions and cultures. It is therefore important to support our Chiefs, Kings and Queens so that our rich cultural heritage can be sustained for future generations to inherit. Hosi hi hosi hi vanhu.

We all know that foreign forces tried very hard to destroy traditional African leadership.

We also know that there have been concerted efforts to undermine and diminish the culture of the Vatsonga people.

Those efforts could not succeed because we have vigilant and courageous leaders who will never allow their traditions to be undermined or diminished.

Supporting our traditional leaders is to support what we are as Africans.

We should never allow anyone to make us believe in his superiority or make us believe that we are somehow inferior.

As the people of this community you are very lucky to have someone as educated as Hosi Mahumani as your leader.

I regard him as a thought leader who has the ability to take this nation forward.

The modern challenges that affect our communities require that our leaders should be equal to the task.

Part of being equal to the task is that our leaders must be sufficiently educated so that they can be able to navigate the challenges I am talking about.

These days' traditional leaders sit in municipal councils and they form part of big decision making forums.

It is therefore important that those who aspire to lead must be educated so that they are not left out of the modern world.

When we speak of education, we do not speak about the type of education that will take a leader away from his people.

Part of being a leader is that you must always be part of the people. You cannot lead people if you are not part of them.

We want leaders to be educated so that they can be the drivers of transformation in their communities.

As government, we cannot over emphasise the role of traditional leaders in our democratic setup.

Traditional Leaders continue to be critical role players in the reconstruction and development of our country.

It is in this context that we continue to work with the traditional leadership, through the Limpopo House of Traditional Leaders and other forums to propel the development of our Province.

As a Province, we are currently providing support to a total of 2111 headmen/women, 185 traditional councils, 02 Kingships and 01 Queenship.

In the next Financial Year, we have set aside an amount of R70 million to build additional seven offices for traditional councils.

Working together with the National Government, we are engaging traditional leadership to resolve issues relating to outstanding tools of trade.

We are once more thankful to the Kgatla Commission which was appointed in 2012 to deal with issues relating to disputes and claims of traditional leadership. The Commission has completed its work and we are implementing the recommendations.

The outstanding issues from the Commission will be addressed by the Office of the Premier, working together with the leadership of this House.

The other issue which has caused unease amongst many of you has been the issue of SPLUMA legislation. I know that this matter is very close to Hosi Mahumani's heart.

In this regard I am able to say that we have received submissions from traditional leaders and such submissions have been encapsulated into the latest draft of the Bill.

The bill is currently undergoing legislature process. I am confident that the final version of the Bill will reflect the views and submissions from traditional leaders in our Province.

Programme Director;

I would not have done justice if I did not speak out about the violence that is taking place in our society and in our communities.

Perhaps, I should first commend the people of Limpopo for not participating in the barbaric attacks against people from other countries.

If you know yourself and you are proud of whom you are, you will never see any African as a foreigner anywhere in Africa.

Africans, from Cape to Musina, from Madagascar to Morocco, we are one people.

We must also take a firm stand against those who abuse, rape and kill women and children.

The time for these barbaric tendencies to end is now. As communities we must work with the police and other structures to identify and isolate these criminals.

Women and children must never fear to walk our streets because of the behaviour of the few amongst us.

We have called on the police to act swiftly in dealing with incidences of domestic abuse or gender based violence. We have also called on the courts to hand down harsher sentences in order to send a clear message to these abusers.

Programme Director;

This day is about Hosi Mahumani and the people of this community.

I want to once again on behalf of government congratulate Hosi Mahumani on his inauguration.

We know that you are a man of wisdom and sharp intellect. Your people are lucky to have you as a leader.

We wish you a successful reign on the throne.

Inkomu!