

Address by the Premier of Limpopo Dr Phophi Ramathuba at the Limpopo Heritage Day Celebrations, Bapedi Royal Kingdom Tšate III, Mohlaletse, Sekhukhune

Programme Director, MEC Jerry Maseko

Queen Hlapogadi a' Phaahle – Queen Leganabatho II Manyaku Thulare of the The Bapedi Royal Kingship

The Speaker of the Limpopo Legislature, Ms Makoma Makhurupetje

Fellow Members of the Limpopo Executive Council

The Deputy Speaker of the Limpopo Legislature, Ms Tebogo Mamorobela

Her Worship the Executive Mayor of Sekhukhune District Municipality, Cllr Minah Bahula

His Worship the Executive Mayor of Fetakgomo-Tubatse Municipality, Cllr Eddie Maila

Revered Traditional Leaders

Leaders of faith-based institutions

Ladies and gentlemen, esteemed guests and communities of Limpopo, good morning.

Today, as we gather in Mohlaletsi, in the heart of Sekhukhune, we commemorate Heritage Day, a time when we reflect on our rich culture and traditions.

This year, we celebrate under the theme “Reimagine Our Heritage Institutions for a New Era.” This theme emphasises the crucial role of heritage institutions such as museums and cultural centres in shaping our identity and embracing the innovations of our time.

Ge re hlompha borakgolokhukhu ba rena le bohwa bja rena lehono, go bohlokwa gore re tsenelele histori ya Tšate, lefelo la bohlokwa la bohwa mo Sekhukhune leo le swantšhetšago dintwa le diphenyo tša setšhaba sa rena. Tšate e tswalanywa le Kgoši Sekhukhune, kgoši ya mohlalani ye e hlompšhago ya setšhaba sa Bapedi, yo a tumilego ka boetapele bja gagwe nakong ya dintwa kgahlanong le mašole a bokoloniale ngwagakgolong wa bo-19. Lefelo le le šoma bjalo ka kgopotšo ya dintwa le go kgotlelela ga batho ba Bapedi. Go tloga moyeng wo o sa kgaotšego wa Kgoši Sekhukhune go fihla go kgotlelelo ya rena ya mehleng yeno, Tšate e akaretša bohwa bja borakgolokhukhu ba rena le motheo wo re emego go wona lehono.

Tšate is a symbol of Bapedi identity and heritage, encompassing the traditions, languages and cultural practices of the community. It acts as a focal point for the preservation and promotion of Bapedi culture.

Lefelo le ke bohlatse bja kganetšo ya Bapedi kgahlanong le bagateledi. E gopola sebete le boikgafo bja bao ba lwelago naga le ditokelo tša bona, ba šoma bjalo ka mothopo wa tlhohleletšo go meloko ya ka moso.

Heritage is not static; it is alive and evolving with each generation, reflecting our stories, values, and aspirations. This is why we must transform our museums and heritage sites into vibrant, inclusive spaces that engage our young people and inspire them through a multi-faceted narrative of our cultural heritage.

In Limpopo alone, we are fortunate to have no less than 15 key museums, among them the Bakone Open Air Museum, which showcases our rich history and offers insights into the lives of the Bapedi people. Other notable institutions include the Mopungubwe Museum, Polokwane Art Museum, Muti wa Vatsomga Open Air Museum, Dzata Museum, Masorini Village museum, and the Thohoyandou Arts and Culture Centre amongst other. Each of these institutions plays a vital role in laboring to preserve our stories, but they must also evolve to meet the demands of our rapidly changing society.

As we reflect on our museums as custodians of memory and knowledge, we recognise the growing imperative to reimagine these spaces as platforms for creativity and cultural dialogue. This requires us to ensure that our heritage institutions are responsive to the needs of our communities and equipped to utilize digital innovations that resonate with younger generations.

Indeed, we must view our heritage as a powerful tool for nation-building and economic empowerment. The stories passed down through generations - our folklore, traditions and artistic expressions - hold cultural wealth that can unite and inspire us. They connect us to our roots and ground us in the present, while propelling us toward a future where our heritage institutions stand as beacons of innovation and inclusivity.

As we commemorate this significant day, let us recommit ourselves to preserving what is sacred about our heritage and to making our museums and cultural centres dynamic spaces that tell the multifaceted stories of our people. Let us ensure that they serve as engines of innovation and community engagement, fostering a spirit of collaboration that spans generations. Let us see more young people on TikTok or YouTube narrating stories of these museums, challenging colonial myths as they pass down oral history from their parents.

Heritage Month offers us the perfect opportunity to celebrate and reflect on our diverse, rich and vibrant heritage in ways that foster social cohesion. I urge all South Africans to engage in cultural activities, to partner with artists, elders and storytellers, and to co-create exhibitions that capture the essence of local histories, Indigenous Knowledge and current societal issues.

As we host the first G20 Summit in Africa, let us showcase our living traditions and foster global cultural dialogue. This is our moment to demonstrate the resilience of our cultural narratives and the potential of our heritage as a vital resource for the future.

Hi ri swin'we, a hi anakanyisiseni hi vuntshwa eka swivandla swa hina swa ndzhaka. Hi ku tirhisana, vutumbuluxi na ku xixima mindhavuko ya hina yo hambana, hi nga tiyisisa leswaku xitori xa ndzhaka ya hina ya nhlanguano xi ya emahlweni xi humelela, ku hlohlotela tinxaka leti taka.

Musi ri tshi khou pembelela namusi, kha ri dzhie le ntha lupfumo lwa mvelele lune lwa vha nga ngomu ha zwiitori zwashu, zwilidzo zwa mitshini yashu, na vhuṭali ha vhaaluwa vhashu. Kha ri dzhie le ntha vhufa hashu, hu si sa masalela a tshifhinga tsho fhiraho, fhedzi sa mutheo wo khwaṭhaho wa vhumatshelo vhu bvelelaho.

Baie Dankie!