



LIMPOPO

PROVINCIAL GOVERNMENT
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

TRIBUTE BY PREMIER DR PHOPHI RAMATHUBA AT THE MEMORIAL SERVICE OF HOSI PHYLIA TINYIKO LWANDLAMUNI N'WAMITWA II AT ENTSINDZA-FOFOZA HOUSE, N'WAMITWA VILLAGE, MOPANI DISTRICT

20 February 2026

Programme Director,

The Valoyi Royal Council,

Speaker of the Limpopo Provincial Legislature, Dr Makoma Makhurupetje,

Deputy Speaker of the Limpopo Legislature Speaker, Ms Tebogo

Mamorobela,

Members of the Executive Council,

Executive Mayors and Mayors,

Traditional Leaders,

Faith-Based Organisation Leaders,

Business Community

Members of the community,

Fellow Mourners,

Avuxeni, Ndi Matsheloni, Thobela, Silotshile, Good Morning, Goeie More!

Today, a deep silence hangs over the hills and valleys of the Valoyi. A mighty tree has fallen and as the elders say, when a big tree falls, the sound is felt afar. Its roots once held the soil together; its branches offered shade and shelter; its presence commanded reverence.

The loss that has befallen the Valoyi Royal Family of N'wamitwa is not theirs alone, it is a loss that echoes across Limpopo and throughout South Africa. Today, we gather here with heavy hearts to honour a giant of our time, Hosi Phylia Tinyiko Lwandlamuni N'Wamitwa II.

On behalf of the Limpopo Provincial Government, we extend our deepest condolences to the Valoyi Royal Family, the traditional leadership fraternity and the entire community of N'wamitwa. We stand with you in grief, but also in gratitude for a life so rich in courage, service and purpose.

We are profoundly grateful that the President of the Republic of South Africa, His Excellency President Cyril Matamela Ramaphosa, has granted our mother, Hosi N'Wamitwa II, a Provincial Official Funeral Category Two. This honour is a fitting recognition of her distinguished contribution to our country. It affirms that her work was not confined to her royal house or her village; it was national in character and historic in impact. It reflects her unwavering commitment to working for the people of this country and advancing the ideals of justice, equality and dignity.

Programme Director, Hosi N'Wamitwa II was a trailblazer in every sense of the word. She was the first female traditional leader of the Vatsonga people and the first woman in South Africa's history to be appointed as Hosi. In

claiming her rightful place as heir to the Valoyi royal throne, she shattered the shackles of patriarchal oppression and broke long-standing cultural barriers. She did not seek confrontation; she sought justice. She did not fight to diminish tradition; she fought to affirm that tradition must be rooted in fairness and truth.

Her victory was not hers alone. It opened doors for countless women who had been told that leadership was not their inheritance. Through her resilience and dignity, she declared that culture and equality are not enemies, but partners in building a just society.

Long before many of us occupied positions of leadership, Hosi N'Wamitwa II was already part of shaping the destiny of this nation. One of her outstanding credentials is that she actively participated in the Convention for a Democratic South Africa (CODESA) negotiations in Kempton Park, which ushered in the new democratic dispensation in 1994. She was part of the national dialogue that laid the foundation for the South Africa we know today. At a time of uncertainty and transition, she stood firm for unity, reconciliation and constitutional democracy.

Her service to the nation continued in Parliament, where she served for many years as a Member of Parliament from 1994 to 2009. There, she contributed meaningfully to the shaping of our young democracy. She understood governance. She understood policy. She understood the importance of oversight and accountability. But most importantly, she understood the people.

Programme Director, even while serving at national level, Hosi N'Wamitwa remained deeply connected to the grassroots. She would often call me directly to advise, to correct, and to guide on matters affecting her community. She was very true in her approach. If something was not right, she would say so firmly, respectfully and with clarity. She believed that leadership must be honest and principled. She was not afraid to speak truth to power, because she knew that leadership without integrity is hollow.

Before her parliamentary service, she also served in the education sector as a Circuit Inspector. Education was close to her heart. She believed that knowledge is liberation, and that the empowerment of young people is the strongest foundation of a thriving community. Her impact on learners, educators and families will continue to bear fruit for generations to come.

As a traditional leader, Hosi N'Wamitwa II symbolised unity. She was humble and deeply respectful of decorum. She did not discriminate. She was accommodating and approachable. She carried herself with dignity, yet she was never distant from her people. She loved herself, she loved her culture and she took pride in preserving the customs and languages of her people. She was a passionate advocate for African languages and cultural heritage, reminding us that development must never come at the expense of identity.

Programme Director, Hosi N'Wamitwa was also a fearless advocate for women's rights. She used her voice to speak against gender-based violence and femicide. She knew that true freedom cannot exist while women live in fear. Her own life was a testimony that women belong in every space of

leadership, from the royal house to Parliament, from community forums to national negotiations.

Hosi N'Wamitwa II was deeply concerned about the development of her area. Water challenges and road infrastructure were among her key priorities. There was a time when this entire area experienced severe water shortages. She called us to the Royal House and gave us a detailed briefing about the situation affecting her people.

Together with the Executive Mayor of Mopani District, His Worship Councillor Pule Shayi, we took the technical team to the Nkambako Water Reticulation Plant to establish the source of the problem. After our assessment, we returned to report back to her on the measures that would be implemented to restore water supply to N'wamitwa and surrounding villages. That was the kind of leader she was, hands-on, informed and relentless in seeking solutions.

As the Limpopo Provincial Government, we commit ourselves to continue walking in her footsteps. We will work closely with the Valoyi Royal Family and all relevant stakeholders to honour her life and legacy in a manner befitting her immense contribution to society. We will intensify our efforts to address water challenges, improve road infrastructure and advance development in this area because that is what she would have demanded.

Today, we do not merely mourn; we celebrate. We celebrate a courageous pioneer, a freedom fighter, a servant of the people and a symbol of transformative leadership. Though the mighty tree has fallen, its seeds

remain in the soil. The values she embodied, unity, humility, courage and service, must continue to grow in us.

May her legacy inspire us to lead with integrity.

May her courage embolden women and young girls to claim their rightful spaces.

May her love for her people remind us that leadership is a calling to serve.

Hosi Phylia Tinyiko Lwandlamuni N'Wamitwa II, you have run your race. You have fought a good fight. You have left footprints that time will never erase.

Etlela hi hu rhula, Khalanga, munyayi, murozwi, muthondolovana, ncila a va ololi loko wo olola wu to tshoveka. Lavo khandziya hi nsinya va chika hi rhavi.

Timbulwa ta ku fuma. Va ka xibule, xibula ndlela enhoveni hi ku kasa. Vakandzi va vutsulu a gombeni.

Khalanga!!!! Munyaiii!!!!

I thank you.