

Mphephu Ramabulana to be coronated as King of VhaVenda Nation

THE King of the VhaVenda, Toni Mphephu Ramabulana will be officially coronated on Friday, 9 September 2016 at Thohoyandou Stadium. This announcement was made during a press conference that was held at the King's Palace at Dzanani, Nzhelele on the 18th of August 2016. Speaking during the media briefing the Deputy Minister for Traditional Affairs, Obed Bapela, said this announcement comes shortly after the official recognition and restoration of the Modjadji Queenship which took place on the 26 July 2016 in Bolobedu. "Since the beginning of democracy, government has had a mandate to restore kingships and Queenships in line with traditions. The coronation of Toni Mphephu Ramabulana will be the second coronation under democracy", said Deputy Minister.

King Toni Mphephu Ramabulana is the son of the late Khosikhulu Patrick Mphephu who passed on in April 1988. The Vhavenda Royal Council identified His Majesty as the successor of his late father. President Jacob Zuma then recognized Toni Mphephu Ramabulana as King of the Vhavenda nation in 2012 in terms of section 29(9) of the Traditional Leadership and Governance Act, 2003 (Act no: 41 of 2003).

The coronation will coincide with the Heritage month. The MEC for CoGHSTA, Makoma Makhurupetje, pointed out that this event will set the tone to us honouring our diverse culture and traditions. She further emphasised that supporting this event is essential and no less than 10000 people are expected at the stadium.

"Let's celebrate Heritage month in style," remarked Makhuruphetje in closing. President Jacob Zuma is also expected to grace the occasion.

* A coronation is a ceremony marking the formal investiture of a monarch and/or their consort with regal power, usually involving the ritual placement of a crown upon his or her head and the presentation of other items of regalia. The ceremony may include the taking of special vows by the monarch, acts of homage by the new ruler's subjects and the performance of other ritual deeds of special significance to the particular nation. The Kings, unlike other levels of Traditional Leaders are recognized by the President meaning that all spheres of Government are expected to give support to the coronation event.

The Vhavenda people

The **Vhavenda** people are mostly located on the North and West of Makhado Municipality in the Limpopo province of South Africa. The region they inhabit borders Zimbabwe and it is where the

Shashe and Vhembe rivers meet. The word Vhavenda and Venda are used interchangeably when referring to the Vhavenda people, however the word Vhavenda better describes the people, whilst Venda refers more to the area.