

KEYNOTE ADDRESS BY THE MEC OF COGHSTA MR BASIKOPO MAKAMU ON THE OCCASSION OF THE INAUGRATION CEREMONY OF ACTING KGOSHIGADI MALATJI MAPULA ROSSLEY OF BA-MASEKE TRADITIONAL COUNCIL, BA-PHALABORWA, MOPANI DISTRICT

07 September 2019

Programme Director

Acting Kgoshigdi Malatji and Malatji Royal Family

Ba-Maseke Traditional Council

CONTRALESA, Kgoshi L. Phaahla

Limpopo House of Traditional Leaders, Ndhabezitha Hosi N'wamitwa II

Executive Mayor of Mopani District, Cllr. Pule Shai

People of Maseke and Neighbouring Areas

Esteemed Guests

Ladies and Gentlemen

Good Morning

The institution of traditional leadership is a great one. It stood the test of time and all the challenges colonialism and apartheid threw at it.

It was there in the beginning through our Warrior Kings and Queens who stood firmly on the side of the people in the struggle against landlessness and oppression.

Among the founder members of the African National Congress in Mangaung, Bloemfontein, in the Free State were as you've guessed correctly, Traditional Leaders.

Inkosi Albert Luthuli went on to become the President-General of the ANC. The Father of our Freedom and Democracy, Nelson Rolihlahla Mandela equally came from a Royal Family and his grandson who is also a Member of Parliament, Inkosi Zwelivelile "Mandla" Mandela, has assumed the Crown of the Mvezo Traditional Council in the Eastern Cape Province.

I am making these illustrations to show that the democratic government is one with the Institution of Traditional Leadership. Hence our presence here today in the good company of CONTRALESA and the Limpopo House of Traditional Leaders on this important occasion,

the inauguration of Acting Kgoshigadi Malatji Mapula Rossley of Ba-Maseke Traditional Council.

To further cement and consolidate the relationship between the democratic government and the institution of traditional leadership the Constitution of the Republic of South Africa provides for the... **recognition of the institution, status and roles of traditional leadership according to customary law and subject to the Constitution.**

The democratic government therefore remains committed to the institution of traditional leadership.

To this end, numerous pieces of legislation have been passed and various programmes implemented to ensure that traditional leadership makes a contribution to the development of society.

The government in general is also working on a range of issues, which include policies on unity and diversity, initiation, traditional healing, traditional leaders' protocols, family trees, the remuneration and benefits of traditional leaders based on uniform norms and standards.

The Department provides support to a total of 2 111 headmen/women, 185 Traditional Councils, 02 Kingships and 01 Queenship. On the other hand, the Limpopo House of Traditional Leaders' main function is to advice government on issues related to custom and tradition.

Further than this the Department attends to the following functions:

- Initiation School Programme.
- Establishment of Traditional Councils.
- Vehicles for Traditional Leaders.
- Remuneration of Traditional Leaders.
- Building of New Offices
- Refurbishment of Traditional Council Offices.

Your Royal Highness Acting Kgoshigadi Malatji, you wear the crown under the circumstances of have just outlined. As you could have noted, there are challenges and there are prospects facing the country at the moment. You have to take each of these as they come and make the most of them.

As you assume the Crown Acting Kgoshigadi Malatji, the country is in the grips of violence like we have never seen before. Violent scenes play themselves daily in the media.

There is violence against women and children. The women and children are raped and beaten up. This is not the South Africa of our dreams of a liberated and democratic country. Our situation right now is a nightmare that is causing us sleepless nights.

There is violence against our people from other countries in Africa. We have even given a name to the people from elsewhere in Africa who we are attacking and calling foreigners.

We call our hatred and attacks on fellow Africans Xenophobia.

We have an extreme hatred, phobia, to fellow Africans who made it possible for us to be free. We were accommodated, fed, clothed, trained, armed and educated by the same people we are attacking and killing today.

Shame on us.

Africans can't be foreigners in Africa.

Her Royal Highness Acting Kgoshigadi I have painted you a bleak picture of the State of the Nation as it unfolds daily. We can't sanitize our situation if we are going to do something about it.

For us to make a success of the New Dawn of the 6th Administration, we have to cleanse the country of the mud of violence enveloping our country to pave the way to the revival of the economy.

This is where you come in, this where Premier Mathabatha comes in, this is where President Cyril Ramaphosa comes – this is where all leaders across society come in. Leaders must lead.

Just as we defeated the evil of apartheid, we will equally defeat the challenges confronting the country today.

On this note I wish you well in your tenure and call upon the Royal Family, Council and the Maseke Traditional Community to support you fully. You will never walk alone, the Department and the entire 6th Administration are with you.

Pula.

Ke ya Leboga.