

**ADDRESS BY COGHSTA MEC BASIKOPO MAKAMU ON THE
OCCASION OF THE INAUGURATION OF KGOSHI
MATSHENGOANE SHANE SEKORORO -**

DATE: 31 MARCH 2023

SEKORORO ROYAL KRAAL

PROGRAMME DIRECTOR,

THE EXECUTIVE MAYOR OF THE MOPANI DISTRICT MUNICIPALITY, CLLR
PULE SHAI

MAYOR OF MARULENG LOCAL MUNICIPALITY, CLLR TSHEKO MUSOLWA

CHAIRPERSON OF THE LIMPOPO HOUSE OF TRADITIONAL LEADERS,
HOSI NGOVE

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HOSI NGOVE

THE SEKORORO ROYAL FAMILY AND ITS TRADITIONAL COUNCIL

SENIOR TRADITIONAL LEADERS PRESENT HERE, WE TREASURE YOUR
SUPPORT

REPRESENTATIVES OF CONTRALESA

MEMBERS LOCAL HOUSES PRESENT HERE

PASTORS REPRESENTING DIFFERENT DENOMINATIONS OF CHURCHES

MEMBERS OF THE MEDIA

ESTEEMED GUESTS

I greet you, Thobela!!

Today is indeed a monumental occasion for the Sekororo Traditional Council and the Traditional Community as a whole. Beyond the borders of the Sekororo community, this celebration of the inauguration of Kgoshi Matshengoane Shane Sekororo is a meaningful event on the calendar of our province.

As such, our beloved Premier, Honourable Chupu Stanley Mathabatha, would have preferred to be here to honour this gathering himself.

However, due to other commitments that were unavoidable, he unfortunately could not do so.

I feel very esteemed to address this celebration on his behalf, and on behalf of the entire Limpopo Provincial Government. I urge you to rest assured Kgoshi, that the Premier has given this event his unreserved support and blessing.

Our ANC-led government is never lost to the importance of our Senior Traditional leaders and the role they play in our communities. Your participation in the social cohesion and economic development of our communities is crucial.

It is for this reason that we are consistent in showing our open commitment to provincial traditional leadership matters by always reserving time to meet with you and your communities, especially in occasions where we celebrate ancient practices such as this.

Programme Director,

There exists an African proverb that says, and I quote, “When the roots are deep, there is no reason to fear the wind.”

Today, we gather here Kgoshi, as government, members of the royal family, traditional leaders of the provincial and local houses, the Sekororo traditional council, members of the villages of this great community and other stakeholders, because the winds of change have arrived for this tribe.

As many of us through life's experiences are well aware, at times, change is and can be very intimidating. It is a step into the unknown, and requires deep courage to welcome with open arms.

Kgoshi,

You and your people today take this step into a future that is unfamiliar.

But beyond change, we acknowledge that you take over this seat of authority from an extraordinary man, and the shoes you're filling are massive.

The late Kgoshi Seshego Sekororo led this community for 38 years, with absolute distinction. He was revered for his love for his people, a champion of development who engaged in important matters with high intellect and compassion.

Despite having had to forsake his pursuit for higher learning at the then University of the North in order to take over his Senior Traditional Leadership responsibility, he displayed little lack in his capacity to lead wisely.

Beyond his community, the late Kgoshi Sekororo actively participated in the nurturing of our young democracy at its dawn.

Throughout his life, Kgoshi led in various structures that advanced the progress of traditional leadership matters.

In 1983, he was the chairperson of the Naphuno Council Authority, which was the regional traditional authority at the time. In the same period, he was a member of the former Lebowa Legislative Assembly, and minister of Water Affairs under the Lebowa Government.

He generously extended his contributions to our country's ANC-Led democratic era, as he was a member of the Limpopo Legislature between 1994 and 1999.

It was during this period that he also served as the Chairperson of the Portfolio Committee on Agriculture, Land Affairs and Environment.

In 2002, the late Kgoshi was elected Chairperson of the Limpopo House of Traditional Leaders, he then chaired Contralesa in 2009 and continued to serve, in one form or another, in these bodies throughout his leadership career.

As an active member of the community, Kgoshi participated in matters of the Mopani District Municipality council in an ex-officio role.

But perhaps it was his role in the long list of developments that took place in this community that set him apart as a leader.

Under him, this community saw the establishment of 25 Primary Schools, 17 High Schools, 6 Clinics, 50 Pre-Schools and Creches, he worked together with this government to ensure that all villages are electrified, and for most streets to be paved and tarred.

Kgoshi,

This day is set aside to celebrate your rise to this seat of authority in your community and province.

But it would have been amiss of me not to take the opportunity to honour your father and the work that he has done for our province and country today.

My heart continues to break because I was not able to come and join you in paying your last respects to him following his unfortunate passing as it happened during the months that COVID-19 and the subsequent lockdown prevented us from mass gatherings.

Programme Director,

A legacy such as the one of Kgoshi Seshego Sekororo is enough to intimidate anyone taking over from such a leader.

However, we are confident in the choice that the royal family has made, and we believe that Kgoshi Shane Sekororo has the capacity to continue in the big footprints left by his father.

In fact, he has already started proving his love and compassion for his people as seen in his participation in the Anti-Bullying, Gender Based Violence and Femicide initiative as led by Deputy Minister of Police, honourable Cassell Mathale.

We continue to see signs of a visionary leader who is able to collaborate with stakeholders in sourcing resources to address development in his community. This is evident in his intervention, together with the Motsepe Foundation, in drilling a borehole for the community members of Shikoane Village.

But at the helm of your advantages Kgoshi, is that you have been brought up by an astute leader, and therefore, your roots run deep.

Your dynamic leadership approach will be important in the improvement of areas of concern in your community. But your age should also not be ignored nor despised.

It is a rare advantage for our province to have a Senior Traditional Leader who possesses both youth and wisdom. As a provincial government, we treasure you and the work you promise to accomplish for our people.

There are many challenges our country and people are facing as a result of COVID-19 and weak global economic outlooks. We encourage that you work with us as government to change the fortunes of our people.

Programme Director,

The Department of Cooperative Governance, Human Settlements and Traditional Affairs (COGHSTA) has embarked on a massive programme to reconstitute and establish Traditional Councils in accordance to the Traditional and Khoisan Leadership Act.

The exercise will put the legality of our Traditional Councils beyond doubt, and fortify them against all forms of challenge.

The Act brings an immense transformation to the institute of traditional leaders, as it instructs that our traditional councils reform to constitute components of people that are both elected by the traditional leader, and a second component that will be elected by the community.

This second group will be made up of different members of the community inclusive of women, young people, and other otherwise marginalized groups.

So far, as part of the progress, workshops have been conducted on Traditional Affairs staff, The Limpopo House of Traditional Leaders and Local Houses.

Workshops for Royal Houses, Traditional Councils and Traditional Communities will be conducted soon.

So far, 96% of the definition and mapping out of areas of jurisdiction of Traditional Councils has been completed, only the newly established Traditional Councils remain.

I want to encourage you, members of the community, to participate when the time comes for the democratic election of the second component for Traditional Councils arrives.

I implore you to elect people who will work hard to put the best interests of the community's development first.

Thereby ensuring that Traditional Councils can be further strengthened to be centers of community development.

Programme Director,

Allow me to recognize and honour the wonderful efforts of this royal family and its members in being able to manage the succession process peacefully. The members of this royal family have displayed unity, maturity and consideration for the people they lead.

We do not take for granted how in some instances, royal families become divided because of disagreements during succession discussions.

It is said that when two elephants fight, it is the grass that suffers. The same can be said of members of the royal families. The results of fights in royal families impact communities negatively, and delay potential community development.

Equally, I want to take this time to recognize the community of Sekororo for respecting the work of the royal family by not interfering.

Ladies and gentlemen, in conclusion,

Let me wish Kgoshi Shane Sekororo success in his reign. We wish to see your growth surpass that of your father, and may the roots that he has left for you grow deeper and richer.

Kgoshi, here are your people, lead them with kindness and mercy.

May you long reign.

I thank you.