

COGHSTA MEC BASIKOPO MAKAMU KEYNOTE ADDRESS ON THE
OCCASION OF THE INAUGURATION OF KGOSHI SELOANE
MAKGOPE MOFENYI OF THE LEPELLE-NKUMPI LOCAL
MUNICIPALITY

DATE: 29 SEPTEMBER 2023 – GA-SELOANE VILLAGE

PROGRAMME DIRECTORS: MOLEJANE SELOANE LE TSEKE NKADIMENG

THE EXECUTIVE MAYOR OF THE CAPRICORN DISTRICT MUNICIPALITY: CLLR
MMAMEDUPI TEFFO

MAYOR OF LEPELLE NKUMPI LOCAL MUNICIPALITY: CLLR MERIAM MOLALA

CHAIRPERSON OF THE LIMPOPO HOUSE OF TRADITIONAL LEADERS: HOSI NGOVE

THE CRL COMMISSION REPRESENTED BY COMMISSIONER MOSOMA

SENIOR TRADITIONAL LEADERS PRESENT HERE

KGOSHI SELOANE MAKGOPE MOFENYI, WHO IS THE REASON WE HAVE GATHERED
HERE TODAY, WE GRATEFUL TO YOU FOR HAVING US

THE SELOANE ROYAL FAMILY AND ROYAL COUNCIL

MEMBERS OF THE LOCAL HOUSES

PASTORS REPRESENTING DENOMINATIONS OF CHURCHES

ESTEEMED GUESTS

LADIES AND GENTLEMEN

I greet you,

Thobela,

We are gathered here, as government, traditional authorities, royal families, members of the private sector and community members from surrounding villages alike;

We gather on this special day to offer jubilation and to honour this official **inauguration of Kgoshi Seloane Makgope Mofenyi, the son of the late Kgoshi Seloane Sepeke the third.**

It is indeed **an honour to lead this wonderful ceremony on behalf of our honourable Premier**, Chupu Stanley Mathabatha, and our entire Limpopo provincial government.

The Premier would have desired to be physically present with us to oversee your inauguration, however, due to other pressing government commitments, he has asked me to be here in his place.

But rest assured Kgoshi, the Premier has given this event his full support and blessings.

Ladies and gentlemen,

This beautiful event takes place on a special month for our country, **it takes place on a month where we come together to honour and appreciate the rich and diverse cultural heritage** that defines our beloved nation, South Africa.

Heritage Month serves as a reminder of the precious contributions that our cultural heritage makes to our social, economic, particularly for our rural, township.

This year, the theme for Heritage Month is "Celebrating our cultural diversity in a democratic South Africa." It is a call to recognise and appreciate the beauty of our differences, to celebrate the unique customs, languages, and beliefs that shape our identities.

Your inauguration, Kgoshi, takes place on the last days of this beautiful month. The stars have aligned for you, and perhaps it is the wishes of our ancestors, that we honour your accension by saving the best for last in this month.

We are reminded during this month Kgoshi, that if we were still living under the Apartheid rule, this event would not be possible.

The Apartheid government did not make space for the observation and celebration of the cultures of our people. **It made policies that robbed our people of the pride we have in our identity.**

However, **this ANC-led government has made it clear that it will be true to the wishes of the many people who gathered in Kliptown** to develop the Freedom Charter in June 1955.

Among many declarations that they made for our people, they said, and I quote “All people shall have equal right to use their own languages, and to develop their own folk culture and customs”.

It pleases us as a government to see your traditional royal authority being reaffirmed and strengthened in the fashion that it is on this special occasion.

The sacrifices of Freedom Fighters, alive and fallen, are suitably honoured.

This government has put resources in place for our African customs and traditions to be protected and promoted.

The recognition and celebration of our Senior Traditional Leaders remains a very important part of the work we do. **Our Traditional Leaders play a very important role in the development of our rural communities.**

As government, we are confident that Kgoshi Seloane will follow in the footsteps of those who have gone before him, to work with us in advancing the hopes and dreams of his people.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Our province has seen a rise in the inauguration of Senior Traditional Leaders that are younger than the usual age that we see. **Today, we are delighted to inaugurate Kgoshi Seloane, who may be young in the number of his years, but very matured in the extent of his wisdom.**

It is evident that this Royal Family has invested much in the life of Kgoshi Seloane, giving him the necessary nurturing and education, preparing him for the responsibility that is officially confirmed on his shoulders today.

As a Senior Traditional Leader, you have a responsibility to work closely with your local municipality, to identify strategic land for development, supported by municipal planning policies such as the Spatial Development Framework.

We have already witnessed Kgoshi, your commitment to the development of this community through your concentration on road, bridge, and water and sanitation infrastructure. This is the type of traditional leadership we desire to see and work with.

In the same breath, **we encourage developers and municipalities to ensure that they include Traditional Leaders in the work of developing the land. There is much potential in advancing gains in agriculture, real estate, and retail.**

The inclusion of the community through their Senior Traditional Leaders will unlock much potential.

As government, we pledge our support to working with you Kgoshi, to ensure that yours and our vision for the development of this community is a reality.

Kgoshi,

As the MEC for COGHSTA, I have witnessed in many occasions instances where **recognitions and inaugurations of Senior Traditional Leaders are delayed because of conflicts in royal families.**

Accompanied with the delay to inaugurate, is the derailment of the promotion of social cohesion and economic development in the community.

The Seloane Royal family has set an outstanding example for how the transfer of the role of Khosi is meant to be handled by royal houses.

I have also seen at times instances where community members who are not part of the Royal Family attempt to force their opinions on the choosing of an heir in the royal family.

In the same spirit, **allow me to honour the contribution of the mother of Kgoshi, Mme Dina Ngwanamohube Seloane, for filling the leadership gap as Acting Senior Traditional Leader for almost 40 years. It is not a small task, and we honour her selfless work.**

We are confident that her experience will prove vital towards the success of Kgoshi Seloane.

Programme Director,

In closing,

Allow me to remind you that next year our country will hold its seventh general elections since the dawn of democracy. Over 30 years ago most of the people in our country were not allowed to vote.

Many of them were arrested and jailed for demanding this most basic human right. Others were tortured and killed.

Because of their sacrifice, today you can vote simply by presenting ourselves at a voting station with your ID during a registration event, event better, technology now allows us to register virtually at home.

The IEC will soon announce a date for registration. **I encourage everyone here to take responsibility of using your influence to urge your direct families, communities and colleagues to register to vote.**

We can only better our country by actively taking part in its democratic processes.

Kgoshi Mofenyi Seloane, here are your people. Lead them with the wisdom and energy we already see in you, walk with them in your mercy and serve them with your humility.

I thank you.

Thobela