



*Ready to Assist: Limpopo Department of Health MEC, Dr Phophi Ramathuba was the guest of honour at the initiation schools workshop*



*At the Forefront: Chairperson of the Limpopo House of Traditional Leaders, Hosi Pheni Ngove addressing guests.*



*Custodians of Culture and Customs: Deputy Chairperson of the Limpopo House of Traditional Leaders, Kgoshi Rammupudu during the initiation workshop.*

## COGHSTA HOPEFUL FOR A SUCCESSFUL INITIATION SCHOOL SEASON

Having approved a total of 587 initiation schools across all districts, the Limpopo Department of Cooperative Governance, Human Settlements and Traditional Affairs (CoGHSTA) together with its stakeholders held a workshop to assess their readiness for the 2023 Initiation Schools' Season at Protea Ranch hotel on 7 June 2023 in Polokwane.

The workshop had stakeholders namely, the Limpopo Department of Health, National Prosecuting Authority (NPA) and South African Police Service (SAPS) outlining precautionary measures to Traditional Leaders, Traditional Surgeons, and Headmen when carrying out

their respective duties this season running from 16 June 2023 to 15 July 2023.

The keynote address was given by the Limpopo Department of Health MEC, Dr Phophi Ramathuba standing in for MEC of CoGHSTA, Mr Basikopo Makamu who expressed that her Department is readily available to deploy qualified medical doctors to assist inexperienced traditional surgeons in circumcising initiates to avoid amputations.

The Limpopo House of Traditional Leaders Chairperson, Hosi Pheni Ngove highlighted that Limpopo Province remains the best when coming to the practice and culture of initiation.

He pleaded with principals of approved schools to ensure that parents/guardians of initiates sign consent forms prior to initiates being enrolled.

He further urged permit holders to be vigilant of vigilantes who want to tarnish this good practice by permitting intoxicating substances (alcohol and drugs) into the schools as this may be in negligence and result in mortalities.

Hosi Ngove reported that 57 initiation schools were not approved to operate, and these schools will be monitored closely by the SAPS not operate illegally.