



LIMPOPO
PROVINCIAL GOVERNMENT
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

DEPARTMENT OF
**CO-OPERATIVE GOVERNANCE,
HUMAN SETTLEMENTS & TRADITIONAL AFFAIRS**

**MEDIA STATEMENT
TO: ALL MEDIA HOUSES
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

Limpopo Government distances itself from the rumours about the inauguration of a certain Norman Matsila of Ha-Matsila village

The MEC for Cooperative Governance, Human Settlements and Traditional Affairs (CoGHSTA) in Limpopo, Mr. Basikopo Makamu, is shocked by the news of an apparent inauguration of a senior traditional leader in Vhembe, a matter that he as the competent MEC is not aware of. MEC Makamu says government is not aware and distances itself from the rumours that are taking rounds about the apparent inauguration of a certain Norman Matsila of Ha-Matsila village under the jurisdiction of Masia Traditional Council. The widely advertised inauguration through social media is to happen on Saturday 07 December 2024.

“There is a process that should be followed when the inauguration is to take place, and it is only government that recognizes Senior Traditional Leaders as per Section 8 of the Traditional and Khoi-San Act 3 of 2019. In this instance, the Royal Family will identify and agree on the heir to the throne to be appointed as a Senior Traditional Leader. They will then submit the necessary documentation to CoGHSTA, whereafter CoGHSTA officials will consult the royal family on the genealogy and the customary law of succession, including the historical background to finalise the recognition process. The outcome will then be submitted to the Premier, through her Office for consideration, recognition and issuing of signed recognition certificate as per the Section 8(3) of the TKLA”, says MEC Makamu.

The MEC says that any person who purports to be a Senior Traditional Leader when he is not, is in breach of section 7(9) of the TKLA and is liable upon conviction by a court of law, to a fine or imprisonment not exceeding 3 years. A Province such as Northern Cape has had a successful conviction to this effect, which the Province is considering emulating. The MEC further indicates that it has never happened where a member of a Political Party can be able to inaugurate a Senior Traditional Leader.

The MEC further asserts that this does not only bring traditional leadership into disrepute, but it also undermines the legitimacy of the Masia traditional leadership, government and further brings confusion and tensions in our stable community, worse when this is alleged to be perpetrated by a public figure. The Provincial Government calls upon leaders across all political parties and from the public in general to treat matters of Royalty with utmost respect in the Province of Limpopo with its history of traditional leadership.

For more information, kindly contact Molebatsi Masedi, Spokesperson for the MEC on: 066 477 8929, or Tsakani Baloyi, Director Communications on 066 486 2571

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