



LIMPOPO
PROVINCIAL GOVERNMENT
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

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

MEDIA STATEMENT

To all media houses

30 July 2025

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**MEC MAKAMU CAUTIONS ALL HEADMEN/WOMEN OF AN INDIVIDUAL WHO POSES AS
A TRADITIONAL AFFAIRS CHIEF DIRECTOR AND EXTORTS MONEY FROM THEM**

The MEC for the Department of Cooperative Governance, Human Settlements and Traditional Affairs, Mr Basikopo Makamu cautions the Headmen/Women of a certain Mr Mathebula who parades himself as a Chief Director in the Traditional Affairs Branch. Mathebula proclaims himself as a Chief Director and goes around the Province, especially Vhembe and Mopani Districts asking Headmen/Women to give him money for them to be recognized as Senior Traditional Leaders.

“There is no Senior Traditional Leader that has paid money to any government official to be recognized as such. Procedurally, a Senior Traditional Leader is identified by the Royal Family, who after following all their internal processes, send necessary information to government for a formal process of recognition by the Premier. We as government only recognize what the Royal Family has submitted and nothing else,” said MEC Makamu.

The MEC is worried that this is a recurrence of what happened in 2024. “A similar incident happened at Mopani and Vhembe in 2024 where an individual extorted money from the Headmen/Women. We did not know about this matter until they called to ask if we have any knowledge of such a person. The matter was then referred to law enforcement agencies in Mopani and the individual then stopped with his actions. Even this time around, working with law

enforcement agencies, we will leave no stone unturned to bring this person to book. We are warning the self-proclaimed Chief Director that his days are numbered,” added the MEC.

These acts of criminality cause damage to our people as they forfeit their hard-earned money. MEC Makamu strongly urges any person that could be contacted to pay such monies to refrain from giving unknown people money but contact the Department for enquiries. The offices, addresses and contact details of relevant officials are as follows:

Vhembe: Old Parliament Building, Thohoyandou, Mr Ramoshaba Madiba 0664848489

Mopani: Old Parliament Building, Giyani, Ms Rabothata Mankwana 0664835011

Sekhukhune: Old Parliament Building, Lebowakgomo, Mr Rampjapedi Maurice 0657365971

Capricorn: 12-20 Industrial, Polokwane, Ms Baloyi Lindi 0716054773

Waterberg: 87 Thabo Mbeki Street, Bosveld Building, Mokopane, Ms Kutumela Salphy 0716858422

END

Issued by the Department of Co-operative Governance, Human Settlements and Traditional Affairs

For more information contact: Mr Amos Phago, Spokesperson to the MEC on 072 804 3427 or Ms. Tsakani Baloyi, Director for Communications, Department Co-operative Governance, Human Settlements and Traditional Affairs on 066 486 2571