

**KEY NOTE ADDRESS BY MEC FOR COGTA, HON. R.M MTSHWENI  
DURING THE ANNUAL FUNCTION OF HHOYI TRADITIONAL  
COUNCIL ON 17 OCTOBER 2015**

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**PROGRAMME DIRECTOR**

**HONOURABLE CHAIRPERSON OF THE HOUSE OF TRADITIONAL  
LEADERS IN MPUMALANGA, KGOSI MOKOENA**

**ESTEEMED MEMBERS OF THE EXECUTIVE OF THE HOUSE**

**HONOURABLE CHAIRPERSON OF THE LOCAL HOUSE IN  
EHLANZENI, INKHOSI KHUMALO**

**ESTEEMED AMAKHOSI/ MAKGOSHI**

**SPECIAL REPRESENTATIVES OF THE KINGDOM OF SWAZILAND**

**THE EXECUTIVE MAYOR OF NKOMAZI LOCAL MUNICIPALITY,  
CLLR T KHOZA**

**DISTINGUISHED GUESTS**

**LADIES AND GENTLEMEN**

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- 1 Programme Director, let me express our appreciation to Inkhosi SG. Ngomane and the Hhoyi Traditional Council for the warm welcome given to us and all guests in attendance. The peace and stability within the Ngomane Royal family is in public display for all of us to see.
  - 2 On behalf of the Premier, Hon. DD Mabuza, who has delegated me to represent him, I wish to congratulate Inkhosi Ngomane, who also serve as the Deputy Chairperson of the Mpumalanga House of Traditional Leaders, for leading this nation with dignity. I am sure that the late Inkhosi Ngomane (Senior) is resting in peace, knowing that his throne is in your capable hands. (*Mshika!!!!*)

- 3 Let me take this opportunity, to congratulate Inkhosi RA Nkosi of Enikwakuyengwa in his appointment as a new member of the Executive of the House. We look forward to work with you as a member of the Executive. We appeal to all members of the house to support you for the realization of the vision of the house and Amakhosi in Mpumalanga.
- 4 Programme Director, over the past three years or so, the traditional practice of ingoma, came under attack. The loss of lives of our young boys, depicted a bad picture about this old age traditional practice of the passage of our young boys into adulthood.
- 5 Many families are heart-broken, as some people, claiming to be experts, conducted this process without knowledge, leading to the death of young boys. As Kgosi Mokoena often say, these self appointed experts, use ingoma as ATMs to cash in money, while families are left in tears.
- 6 This year, Mpumalanga has turned the corner. We are happy to report to the people of Mpumalanga and South Africa that there was no death case in the ingoma schools in Mpumalanga. This milestone achievement is as a result of the role of Amakhosi, under the leadership of Kgosi Mokoena, the Chairperson of the House.
- 7 The Premier, Hon DD Mabuza has noted with appreciation your role in this regard, and has requested me to convey to you a message of appreciation for a job well done. We now know why Kgosi Mokoena and the Executive, established a Task team, led by Inkhosi Mbuyane to monitor all the initiation schools. We now know, why the task team recommended the closure of illegal schools and the arrest of the owners.

- 8 We welcome the conviction of an illegal school owner of Masoyi by the High Court sitting in Mbombela. We are convinced that the 7 life sentences handed down, will serve as a deterrent to people whose desire is to make money by gambling with the lives of our children, pretending to take them through 'ukusoka'.
- 9 We salute you for saving the lives of our young innocent boys. We salute you for restoring and preserving our culture. Indeed, working together, as government and Amakhosi, we can do more to save lives! (**Siyabonga!!!**)
- 10 Programme Director, our commitment to support the institution of traditional leadership, as directed by the Premier, is on track. The ANC-led government remains resolute in its course to restore the dignity of Amakhosi. Our desire is to provide you with the necessary tools of trade to make your job easier, as you work hard to improve the lives of the communities in tribal areas.
- 11 Budget constraints remain a major obstacle. However, with the limited budget at our disposal, we have secured a new fleet of vehicles to make your travelling safe and comfortable. We will inform you accordingly, about an appropriate date for the hand over. We are aware that the current vehicles have reached their travelling life span and as such we must replace them.
- 12 Construction of offices for three Amakhosi, namely: Moreipuso, Malele and Lefifi, is underway. We are racing against time to finalize the three projects as part of our efforts to restore the dignity of this institution.

- 13 Programme Director, the Nkomazi Local Municipality is in dire need of water. The recent heatwave experienced by Mpumalanga, contributes to the high demand for water. The levels of water in the local rivers, especially Inkomazi and Mlumati, are critically low. Dams are running dry. With no rain anticipated soon, the situation is becoming desperate and calls for desperate measures.
- 14 We call on our people to use water sparingly. Those with beautiful gardens and lawns, must refrain from watering them, until the situation improves. We call upon car-wash owners to adhere to the strict water use, so that whatever drop of water we have in the reservoirs, can cater for household use until the rain season.
- 15 Furthermore, we call upon all our communities to fix leaking taps and pipes to prevent wastage. The war on leaks projects we have established in some municipalities, seeks to prevent the loss of water as part of our intervention.
- 16 We are working hard with the Nkomazi Local Municipality, under the leadership of the Executive Mayor, Cllr Khoza, to improve the provision of water not only kaHhoyi, but in the entire Nkomazi region. We are at the final stage of completing the Masibekela Phase 2 water treatment plant. The completion of that project will provide water to the community of KaHhoyi. Any illegal connection must be reported to the nearest police station.

***Ngomane! Mshika!!!***