

**KEY NOTE ADDRESS BY MEC FOR COGTA,
HON. R.M MTSHWENI DURING THE ANNUAL
COMMEMORATION OF KING NYABELA IN ROSSENEKAL**

DATE: 19 DECEMBER 2014

**PROGRAMME DIRECTOR
HIS MAJESTY, INGWENYAMA MABHOKO III
HIS MAJESTY, KGOSI MAMPURU
CHAIRPERSON OF THE MPUMALANGA HOUSE OF
TRADITIONAL LEADERS, KGOSI MOKOENA
MAKGOSHI FROM BOTH MPUMALANGA AND LIMPOPO
PROVINCES
MEC FOR LOCAL GOVERNMENT AND HOUSING IN LIMPOPO,
HONOURABLE MAKHURUPETJE
THE EXECUTIVE MAYOR OF SEKHUKHUNE DISTRICT,
HONOURABLE COUNCILLOR MAGABE
THE MAYOR OF ELIAS MOTSOLEDI MUNICIPALITY,
HONOUR COUNCILLOR MATHABE
DISTINGUISHED GUESTS
LADIES AND GENTLEMEN**

- 1 *Programme Director, the annual commemoration of King Nyabela always bring memories of the gallant fight waged by King Nyabela in defence of the Ndebele nation. As the descendants of this great warrior, his victorious fight against colonialism and subjugation many decades ago, deserves narration in the history books of people and many generations to come.*
- 2 How King Nyabela, with his wisdom, used the caves to defend his people and his land, while at the same time, using the very same caves to strategise for an onslaught against the enemy, remains a mystery to thee enemy even on this day. It is such kind of an interesting history which must be shared and passed on to the younger generation.
- 3 Programme Director, I am convinced that if King Nyabela was still around, his next battle would be a battle of **a better life for all**. I am convinced that he would do battle against the triple effects of poverty in order to improve the socio-economic conditions for us.

- 4 However, the battle is now in our hands, as his descendants. So today, as we meet again in these caves as proud descendants of UNYABELA, UMABHOKO, USILAMBA, UMAGODONGO – let us commit ourselves to the battle of making a better life for all.
- 5 Nothing short of such a commitment will appease His Majesty, the Late King Nyabela. Nothing short of such a commitment can assure great warriors like King Shaka, King Sekhukhune, King Ngungunyane, King Mzilikazi and King Mswati that their descendants have not just folded their arms.
- 6 Now that the battle against colonialism has been won, we, as their descendants are fighting a battle of a better life for all, now that the fight against apartheid has been won.
- 7 We need to be driven by the same spirit, the same sense of patriotic duty that drove like-minded Kings like Moshoeshe, Hintsa and Makana in order to build a society where none of our people will go to bed hungry.
- 8 Programme Director, let me commend the Premier, Hon. D.D Mabuza and the provincial government for supporting this initiative of constructing this statue in honour of King Nyabela. We also commend Ingwenyama Mabhoko III for fighting for the reconstruction of the statue since it was destroyed by unknown individuals hell-bent on undermining our history.
- 9 Your fight for the reconstruction of the statue, Ngwenyama, was not just about the statue, but more about the preservation of the Ndebele heritage and our history as a nation.
- 10 My worry is that the suspects are rooming free in our streets and who knows, they might come back to repeat the same act.

11 The statue should be a constant reminder for our people for what King Nyabela stood for and his gallant fight against colonialism. It should serve as a symbol of unity for our great nation, only separated by provincial and municipal boundaries, for the purpose of service delivery.

12 Programme Director, today is not a day for long speeches. In conclusion, let me wish Ingwenyama, all our esteemed Makgoshi gathered here and the nation, a Merry Christmas next week on Thursday. I also wish you a fulfilling New Year.

Ngwenyama!