



Member of the Executive Council for
Cooperative Governance, Traditional
Affairs and Human Settlements
FREE STATE PROVINCE

**MESSAGE OF SUPPORT BY THE MEC FOR
COOPERATIVE GOVERNANCE, TRADITIONAL
AFFAIRS AND HUMAN SETTLEMENTS AT THE
OCCASION OF THE MOKETE WA MOKOPU WA
MAKHOLOKOE**

PRESENTED BY MEC MOSEBENZI ZWANE

DATE: 27 MARCH 2010

VENUE: KHOLOKOE

TIME: 10H00

Morena Paulosi Moloi, Morena wa Makholokoe
Morena Mathealira Mopeli, the Chairperson of the Free State
House of Traditional Leaders
The Honourable Morena e Moholo ntate LC Mota
Morena e Moholo wa Bakwena, Morena Thokoana Mopeli
The Honourable Khoši-Kholo Sekhukhune from Limpopo
The distinguished Traditional Leaders present here
Honourable Members of the Executive Council in the Province
The Honourable Executive Mayor of Thabo Mofutsanyana, Me
Mathokoana Mopeli
The Honourable Executive Mayor of Maluti-a-Phofung, Dr BE
Mzangwa
Our Leaders and Members of the Free State Legislature
Representatives from Sector Departments in the Province
Representatives from Chapter 9 Institutions viz. the South African
Local Government Association in the Free State (SALGAFS), SA
Heritage Resource Agency, the Local Government SETA, the Pan
South African Language Board and the Moral Regeneration
Movement
Esteemed Guests,
Ladies and Gentlemen.

Dumelang Makholokoe, lona batho ba ho hlaba kgoho ka lemao
Ba e ise moreneng, ba re Morena bona re hlabile

Batho ba ho tshela Tubatse le Tubatsana
Ke maana phuthi, phuthi e tsoha ka meso e antshe!

Bahlomphehi, ha ke lebohe monyetla ona o ke o fuweng ho bua le setjhaba sa Makholokoe tsatsing lena le bohlokwa haholo. Ke tla qala ka ho hlalosa hore re itlamme re le lefapha hore selemong sena re tla eketsa tshehetso ya rona ho marena mmoho le merabe e fapaaneng ya bona ho ntshetsapele merero ya bona ya setso le ho ntlafatsa maphelo a baahi ba mahaeng.

Ha re ne re teka puo rona ya ditekanyetso tsa selemo se thwasang sa ditjhelete, re ile ra bolela hore:

“Re tlameha maoto le matsoho ho ipabola le ho bapatsa setso le bonono bo re nang le bona ntle le tshabo ya letho. Re lebeletse marena le dingaka tsa rona tsa setso ho nka karolo ya bohlokwa ho sireletseng botjhaba le ho kgothaletsa batjha ho boulella setso. Sena re tshwanela ho se fihlella ka ho sebedisana mmoho le bohle ba amehang mererong ya setso le botjhaba.

Tjhelete e kana ka R9.5 million e beheletswe ka thoko ho matlafatsa tshehetso ya rona ho marena, hore re tle re eketse seabo sa bona mananeng a mmuso a amang setjhaba sa mahaeng.

Re utlwile sello sa marena mabapi le ditlhoko tseo ba llang ka tsona, mme re tla etsa bonnete ba hore re ba ema nokeng ho matlafatsa tshebetso ya bona. Re se re kene letsholong la mamela-o-arabe bakeng sa morabe wa Bataung le morabe wa MaKhoisan, ho ba thusa ho fihlella ditabatabelo tsa bona tsa ho ananelwa ke mmuso.”

Ka puo ena, re se re hlakisa hore ditabatabelo tsa merabe e kang ena, di hodimo mananeng a mmuso e le ho hlokomela hore batho ba mahaeng le bona, ba fumana seo democracy e re tshepisiseng sona e leng bophelo bo botle.

The celebrations of our cultural events this year are particularly important because in so doing, we are joining in the country's celebrations of our great heroes. The President of the country, Ntate Zuma, at the Opening of the National House of Traditional Leaders on 23 February 2010, intimated that this year we are celebrating the lives and roles of two very important traditional and political leaders, and Nobel Laureates in our history; Inkosi Albert Luthuli and President Nelson Mandela.

Ladies and gentlemen, Inkosi Luthuli is celebrated because he contributed to the struggle for freedom and democracy as a traditional leader and a politician. Our former president, ntate Nelson Mandela, is also celebrated for his undying and undefeatable commitment to the liberation of our country. Twenty

years ago, President Nelson Mandela was released from prison, an occasion which heralded our country's freedom and democracy. His unwavering commitment and crystal-clear vision in fighting for what is morally just, are a perfect example of the importance of determination and clarity of purpose in achieving our goals.

Leaning on the character demonstrated by these traditional leaders, we are reminded that our history, our culture, traditions and customs, define who we are and **what we are destined for**. Our children and even some adults that have, through the decades forgotten about the cultures and their traditions, need to be reminded of who they are. They need to take a step back and reflect on our cultures, traditions and customs through celebrations like this one.

It pleases me to see that the traditional leaders and the communities have all come in their traditional regalia that depict their different cultures. It is not just an exhibition of the different cultural attires, but symbols that convey our philosophies and our beliefs about ourselves and who we are, to the outside world.

Marena a rona, our government views this celebration not just as something for eating and rejoicing, but as a thanksgiving occasion

to the Creator. John Mbiti once wrote; “Food and drink have mystical links between man and man, and between man and the spiritual realities. They not only provide nourishment to man, but they also sustain relationships between people and the **spiritual realm.**” Today we are here to experience this connection. For as we gather here, we are not alone, but we are here with our ancestors, badimo ba rona, bao e leng bona bathehi ba Mokete ona. We are here to connect with these spirits, to acknowledge their contribution and continuous presence in our lives. As we do so, we connect with our inner selves and thus gain sustenance to tackle the current challenges that we are faced with. This we will do with renewed strength, determination, and certainty.

Kgoši Sekhukhuni, in his narration of the history of Makhlokoe, alluded to this celebration as the commemoration of the victory of the valiant Makhlokoe ancestors over their enemies. It is upon the spirit of these courageous fore bearers that I hinge my message to this gathering: **The need for this vigilance towards the wars we face today.**

Today we are confronted **e wars of would like to view the celebration as a reminder for traditional communities to wage a fight against** with poverty, the reality of the scourge of HIV and AIDS, unemployment, undesirable moral standing, abuse against

women and children, human trafficking and all other social injustices.

These enemies have reduced our society, our communities to mere shadows of who they are. These vile enemies have created orphans of children who would otherwise have parents. The very same abominable social ills have turned our streets into no go grounds as our very own children turn against us. We have forgotten how to be the humane African that our ancestors were. For this reason, we have become practitioners of the saying: Every man for himself and thus replicate the impact of these social ills. Ha re tshwaraneng ka matsoho re shebe dira tsena ka mahlong, re ntano di hlola le ho boloka setjhaba sa rona, jwaloka bahale ba rona ba Makhokoloe hwaane.

Events such as these give prominence to our commitment to the importance of our traditions and cultures. As with the Barolong-boo-Seleka's Moroka day and such similar commemorations, the objective of this annual festivity is aimed at recognizing and upholding the cultural practices of these communities, and passing on the wisdom of old to the younger generations.

In upholding the culture of Makhokoloe, this event gives this community a standing identity that will continue living into posterity,

shaping its people into whole individuals and wholesome community.

Re re ho baetapele baMakholokoe; pele ya pele. The Free State Government further pledges its unwavering support and congratulates Morena Paulos Mloi and Makholokoe ka kakaretso for coordinating this august occasion.

Khotso Pula Nala !!!!!