

OFFICIAL OPENING OF THE 2ND ORDINARY SESSION OF THE 5TH HOUSE OF THE FREE STATE HOUSE OF TRADITIONAL LEADERS

The Chairperson of Free State House of Traditional Leaders, Kgosigadi AGG Moroka hosted the 2nd Ordinary Session of the Fifth House of the Free State House of Traditional Leaders. The annual Official Opening of the house was held in Thaba Nchu on the 26th March 2019.

The dignitaries gracing the event were Deputy Chairperson of the National House of Traditional Leaders, Nkosikazi Nosandi Mhlaudi, Morena e Moholo Moremoholo Mopeli, Senior traditional leaders, Headmen, Headwomen and the MEC of Cooperative Governance and Traditional Affairs, Oupa Khoabane.

The Premier of Free State, Hon S.H Ntombela, in terms of section 8 (1) (b) of the National House of Traditional Leaders Act, 2009 (Act 22 of 2009) delivered her annual address to the Free State House of Traditional Leaders. This address marked the opening of the House for the current year. This is the 2nd year of existence of the 5th term of the House, which was inaugurated in August 2017.

The Free State House has been applauded for its gender diversity and how youthful the council is. The Premier believes that this is a positive indication of where development and investments are headed in the future for South Africa, especially for the Free State Province. "I am also proud of the sufficient female representation in the composition of the Free State House of Traditional Leaders, and of the delegation to the National House of Traditional Leaders" said Premier Ntombela.



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The Premier highlighted the importance of the recognition of the institution, state and role of traditional leadership in a democratic society. Traditional leaders are to play a large role within societies as government sees them as leaders of development and progress due to the fact that they are closer to communities.

The Traditional Courts Bill has been passed and adopted by the Portfolio Committee. This Bill shall hold traditional courts to the following responsibilities:

- Healing past wounds of injustice
- Repairing harm as caused by the previous dispensation
- Promote national building
- Promote unity in communities
- Encourage family values

To encourage participation from Traditional Leaders, according to Section 81, Traditional Leaders shall sit on Municipal Councils of Mangaung, Maluti-A-Phofung and Phumelela.

Hon. S.H Ntombela has vowed to undertake the following in the 2019/2020 financial year:

- Facilitate the acquisition of land for the Batlokwa ba Mokgalong in the Phumelela Municipal area
- Build a palace for the Principal Traditional Leader of Bakoena Ba Mopeli and Batlokoa ba Mota through the Department of Public Works
- Establish the Thabo Mofutsanyana Local House of Traditional Leaders in Thabo Mofutsanyana District Municipality and confere powers to Barolong boo Seleka Traditional Council in Mangaung Metropolitan Municipality to perform functions of a local House of Traditional Leaders as envisaged in the Free State Provincial and Local House Act
- Establish two principal Traditional Councils for Bakwena ba Mopeli and Batlokwa ba Mota

