

Amathole District Municipality Is More Than Ready To Work With Traditional Leaders.

Judy Ngoloyi

BHISHO: Speaking during the 10th anniversary celebrations of the Provincial House of Traditional leaders in Bhisho, Minister of Defence, Mosiuoa Lekota called for the inclusion of traditional leaders in all programmes of local government. He added that the time had come for traditional leaders to take their rightful place in local government.



Responding to the call, the portfolio head for local economic development at Amathole District Municipality (ADM), Councilor Samnkelo Janda, stated that since 2004 the ADM had been working hand in glove with traditional leaders throughout the district. Janda said at that time the provincial department of local government had requested the ADM to facilitate and co- ordinate cooperation between traditional leaders and the local government structures due to unhealthy relations that existed back then.

Janda said the ADM, in collaboration with local municipalities, was on a mission to strengthen the capacity of traditional leaders. “Our role as the district is to make sure that issues of capacity building and development are implemented.

Janda said the celebrations were a true reflection of what had been achieved by traditional leaders since their existence in 1996.” It is good that we sometimes pause to take stock and review the achievements we have made and then map out a new programme of action to deal with new challenges. This is a positive indication that working together and co-operating with one another will enable us to meet the challenges that are facing us as government,” he said.

He emphasized that young people must fully understand the role played by traditional leaders in the new dispensation, even though the challenges might be different from those of the past. “Challenges such as the morals and respect that the Minister [Lekota] touched upon, because you can’t have a nation that lacks respect for authority and people and hope that it will be a strong nation,” said Janda.

The 10th anniversary celebrations of the Eastern Cape House of Traditional Leaders included cultural activities performed by various tribes throughout the province to showcase the province’s heritage. **END**