

House of Traditional Leaders celebrates its 10th Anniversary

The House of Traditional Leaders celebrated 10 years of co-existence between the traditional leadership institutions and government structures. This celebration was held to expose the people of the Eastern Cape to custodians of their indigenous heritage and create a healthy dialogue towards a comprehensive understanding of the role of traditional leadership in a developmental state. The role of traditional leaders was stewly recognized by previous governments. The democratic government however, through its policies and legislations facilitated uniformity in the establishment of the House of Traditional Leaders to restore the dignity and integrity of the traditional institutions. The celebrations therefore marked the historical evolution of the traditional leadership institutions from the periphery to playing a meaningful role in governance.

This event held at the Bhisho Stadium, was graced by the presence of a number of dignitaries such as the current Minister and Deputy Minister of Defence in South Africa, the Honourable Premier of the Province, MEC's, Hon Members of the Portfolio Committee on Local Government and Traditional Affairs (including the Chairperson), Leadership of Contralesa, the National and Provincial Houses of Traditional Leaders, the private and business sector. The House of Traditional Leaders has in its young life recorded a number of significant milestones. These include but are not limited to: The building of Multi-Purpose Centres, Building of five traditional council offices, Construction of the House scheduled for completion during the 2008/09 financial year, Facilitation of the supply of tractors to the Kings and four regions, Establishment of the Development Trust to serve as the development arm of the House with specific focus on poverty alleviation and HIV/AIDS programmes and the acceleration of the establishment of the Queen's Forum (Imbumba Yamakhosikazi Akomkhulu).