

**ADDRESS BY HIS MAJESTY KING GOODWILL ZWELITHINI KABHEKUZULU
KAMAPHUMZANA KADINIZULU AT THE OFFICIAL OPENING OF THE
KWAZULU-NATAL LEGISLATURE IN PIETERMARITZBURG ON
21 FEBRUARY 2011**

Madam Speaker;

Hon Premier and Members of the Executive Council;

Members of the Royal family present;

Hon Members of the Legislature;

Deputy Speaker;

Hon Members from other spheres of government;

Members of the diplomatic corps;

Religious leaders;

Councillors

Amakhosi and izinduna

Captains of industry;

All protocols observed; and

All those who have attended this ceremony in their great numbers

I greet you all!

These days we are faced with challenges given the fact that there are people in some African countries who are demonstrating their impatience with leaders who are failing to deliver services. We have witnessed countries with phenomenal histories being engulfed by violent protests in order to topple their leaders. There is much to be learned from these experiences. Let us accept that people want to see tangible changes in their lives.

As democratically elected leaders, let us learn that our positions are in no way eternal. Under a democratic dispensation, positions do not belong to individuals; we take turns so that all our contributions will have an impact. Let us learn from these leaders of other countries who met with resistance when they thought they could

occupy positions for decades when they are not traditional leaders whose positions are bestowed upon them by God.

There is a saying that “no one can resist an idea whose time has come”. Political changes that are taking place in North African countries such as Tunisia and Egypt are indicative of the maturity of democracy. It is as if King Abdullah II was prophesying during his address at the World Economic Forum on 26 January 2003, when he said:

The 21st century has opened billions of minds to the possibilities of a better life – freedom, prosperity and hope. And people are demanding leaders who will get them there. In business and in government; in neighbourhoods and nations, in every culture of the world, people want leadership that listens; leadership that serves; leadership that works. In short, people want to know that those they trust with their futures, have their futures at heart.

Was the King prophesying when he made these remarks?

Likewise, when the American President, Barack Obama, addressed people in Cairo, Egypt, during January 2009, the masses showed little enthusiasm for his address. However, their little enthusiasm quickly turned into applause when he said: “You must maintain your power through consent, not coercion.” And he continued: “You must place the interests of your people and the legitimate workings of the political process above your party. Without these ingredients, elections alone do not make true democracy.”

Madam Speaker, the question is: What lessons can South Africa learn from the changes that are taking place in North Africa?

FORTIETH ANNIVERSARY AT THE HELM OF THE THRONE

The year 2011 marks an important historical milestone for the Zulu nation which was founded by King Shaka, as well as in my own life as I celebrate 40 years at the helm of the throne. It will be remembered that I took over the reigns on 2 December 1971.

It is the first time in the history of the Zulu nation that a King has ruled for such a long time. This did not happen through some magic, but through the grace of God. As I celebrate forty years at the helm of the throne, I wish to thank God for embracing me and my family during hard times.

I have gone through difficult challenges, but the Almighty extended his hand of grace and saved me. The passing away of my mother when I was only ten years old is one of the challenges I have had to go through. Mr Premier, I hope your government is going to help me fulfill my dream and desire to find the grave of my mother and accord her the dignity she deserves. This would bless my soul.

The slander leveled against my father, when he was accused of “selling out” the nation, was very painful to me. I will never forget the pain I felt when Queen Mathe, my daughter Sibusile and other members of the Royal Family were attacked. Looking at the severity of their injuries, they could have passed away, but with the grace of God they are still alive.

I thank God for embracing me. I also thank Him for blessing me with queens, princes and princesses who respect me. I thank my queen mothers for raising me well. I specifically want to give thanks for the support I received from my entire nation over the past forty years. Due to time constraints, I cannot mention by name all those who supported me and my family over these years, save to say with due humility, thank you very much. Do the same unto others.

I thank the Premier, Dr Mkhize, for the support given to me during trying times. Even amid some precarious circumstances, you never stopped visiting me and attending our ceremonies. You know both my pain and my joy. I also thank the democratic government who, amid turbulences which were threatening my Kingship, established measures, albeit unnecessary, to investigate all kingships that exist in South Africa. It is history that, as we had known all along, the Nhlapo Commission (which was investigating kingships) had concluded that there is only one King of the Zulu nation – the one who is addressing you right now. The findings of the Nhlapo Commission came as no surprise, since everyone knows that there is only one King of the Zulu nation.

In celebrating these years at the helm of the throne, I wish to urge you to forgive those who have hurt you and made your lives difficult. May the Lord provide you with the spirit of peace. Likewise, if there is anyone I have wronged and hurt, today I respectfully ask for forgiveness. Forgiveness heals. A person should not harbor hatred inside because you end up getting sick. Let us not only forgive one another, but let us also love one another. The famous writer, Reinhold Niebur, is correct when he says:

Nothing that is worth doing can be achieved in our lifetime; therefore we must be saved by hope ... Nothing we do, however virtuous, can be accomplished alone; therefore, we are saved by love. No virtuous act is quite as virtuous from the standpoint of our friend or foe as it is from our standpoint. There, we must be saved by the final form of love, which is forgiveness.

There is a lot that we wanted to achieve in our lives, but we could not. Let us not lose hope. Let us continue working together to build the nation. We will not succeed unless we work together in rebuilding our nation. Those who are wise say: "Life begins at forty". Does this mean that my Kingship will grow more now than ever before? I have no idea. Only time will tell.

DR NELSON ROLIHLAHLA MANDELA

This year we celebrate 21 years of the release of President Mandela from prison. We thank him for the sacrifice he made so that our country could be counted among those that are free. However, his recent brief admission to hospital gave us a fright. We wish him a speedy recovery and good health. We say this, knowing full well that he is old. His recovery can never be the same as that of someone who is younger. We thank God for blessing us with a hero and leader like Madiba. I believe that Nic Dawes, the Editor of *Mail & Guardian*, spoke on behalf of all of us when he said the following about Madiba:

What South Africans feel for Madiba is not simply affection or respect. Even love may not be a strong enough word. His presence is part of our national being. We worry that we may not be quite ourselves without him.

Personally, there is a lot that Madiba has done for me. He provided vehicles for me at a time when I had no transport and had become a subject of ridicule to others. I shall not forget the support I received from Madiba following the incident that took place at Nyokeni Royal Palace on 17 September 1994. Seeing the emotional stress that I suffered following that incident, Madiba took me to his doctors for observation. I shall not forget the support I received from Madiba following the heinous attack on my children. Did you know that Madiba was my father's lawyer?

PRESIDENT ZUMA'S STATE OF THE NATION ADDRESS

If something is good, it is good. I commend the President for a speech that brings hope, especially to the unemployed. We hope that the private sector will contribute in helping the President change the lives of the people. It is as though Joel Baker, who is a scholar in leadership, is echoing the President's speech when he says about leadership: "Leadership is taking people to where they would not ordinarily go themselves". People expect President Zuma to help them live a better life. In other words, we expect leadership with integrity and excellence from President Zuma. It is as though Lao Tzu is directing his remarks at President Zuma and leaders in general when he says:

As for the best leaders, the people do not notice their existence. The people honour and praise the next best. The next leader the people fear; and when the best leader's work is done, the people say, 'We did it ourselves.

The last part of this quote contains what one wants to see from President Zuma – an exceptional leader.

My wish is that President Zuma achieves all his dreams for the country so that one day the people will say, "During Zuma's presidency, we found jobs, supported our children and sent them to school". I wish to extend my deepest sympathy to

government, and pass my condolences to the families of all those who passed on due to the recent floods. I also wish to pass my condolences to the families of all those who were killed by lightning. We wish a speedy recovery to those who were injured.

HIV/AIDS AND INFECTIOUS DISEASES

It is important to educate people on the various ways in which HIV is contracted. Indeed, it is true that the quickest way in which to contract this virus is through unsafe sex. This virus can be contracted during car accidents where both those infected and those who are not infected get injured and there is an exchange of blood. How? When a taxi or a bus overturns, some people are cut by shards of glass from windows and these cause bleeding. There is a great chance of HIV infection in such instances. That is the reason why overloading can have so many adverse effects. It is important to explain these things because some people find themselves HIV positive without knowing how they contracted the virus. This leads to family rifts and divorces, as couples blame their status on their partners' infidelities. When they get to the bottom of the matter, they realise that some poor soul contracted the virus following a car accident in which they were involved. They were cut by shards of glass from a window which had cut someone who was HIV positive.

I also wish to warn that many other sexually transmitted infections are as a result of our own negligence. These diseases end up affecting people's intimate lives when there is no trust between married couples. Sometimes men contract these infections from public toilets when their private parts touch infected areas on the toilet seat. Women can also contract STDs from unhygienic public toilets.

My warning is that people should always wipe the seat with toilet paper and flush the toilet before using it. It is important to flush the toilet before using it because, even if you find it flushed, diseases are always there. Another important measure is to ensure that bath tubs are squeaky clean before using them, as it may happen that the person who used it before you has an STD.

CIRCUMCISION RITUAL

On 5 December 2009, during *Umkhosi Woselwa* (the First Fruits Ceremony) at Nyokeni Royal Palace, I announced the revival of the male circumcision ritual, which was going to follow modern medical practice. I made this announcement after noticing the burden carried by my people, especially the youth. This burden is in the form of the HIV/Aids epidemic and other sexually transmitted diseases. The biggest challenge is to maintain hygiene so that we reduce the rapid spread of diseases such as HIV/Aids. It is for this reason that I saw it fit to revive this ritual.

I wish to reiterate that at no point have I suggested that circumcision is a cure for HIV/Aids; nor have I suggested that once a man is circumcised he cannot contract HIV. We are fighting this battle in order to minimise the chances of spreading this epidemic. I have heard that there are some men among those who have been circumcised who have been misleading people by instilling vicious myths that they would like to find out what it is like to have unprotected sex once they are circumcised. I wish to state that if they do that, they will definitely contract this virus. Therefore, I warn against misleading myths. HIV/Aids is real and it kills.

I am delighted to have received positive reports regarding this circumcision campaign. I was particularly pleased by the report that I received from Premier Dr Mkhize, Dr Dhlomo and Dr Tshabalala (Co-ordinator of Male Medical Circumcision) in which they told me that to date approximately 18 000 young men have come forward, wishing to be circumcised. Out of the 18 000, 17 790 have already been circumcised. Of the circumcised young men, about 99,5% were found to be HIV negative. The remaining 0.5% were not circumcised for various reasons, including the following: Some had not obtained consent from their parents, others were found to have had some form of abnormality in their private parts, while others were already infected by the HI virus. Those who were found to be HIV positive were given extensive psychological counseling.

One impressive report that I received is the one about camps where these young men are taught about living a hygienic lifestyle; the upbringing of a man; their

conduct, as well as what is expected from a man. I am elated to note that this campaign is overseen by *amakhosi* and other experts in our traditions.

Once these young men are part of the camps, there are plans for *amakhosi* to visit their (the young men's) communities with a view to engage and share ideas with parents on how this moral regeneration programme in the camps can be strengthened. Following discussions among all relevant stakeholders of this campaign, it is proposed that the minimum age of those who are eligible to get circumcised be reduced from 15 years old to 12 years old. I have also heard that St Mary's Hospital, in conjunction with Discovery Health and Operation Abraham's Collaborative Sponsorship, heeded my call when they opened a new clinic called *Asiphile* whose main aim is to encourage men of all ages to come forward and get circumcised. I was also pleased to learn that our provincial Department of Health has set itself a target of approximately 2,5 million circumcised men by January 2014.

What pleases me about the report I received from Dr Dhlomo and his team is that more than 17 000 young men in KwaZulu-Natal had been circumcised without any complications. No one has died. No one has been cut incorrectly. No one has had to go for an operation after a circumcision that was botched.

This report gives me hope that there is still a chance to save my people from perishing because of HIV/Aids. I am pleased to learn that there were people from the Eastern Cape who came on a mission to gain knowledge about how we practise circumcision in this province. I was also pleased with the presence of the national Minister of Health, Dr Aaron Motsoaledi, during the presentation of the report on circumcision. I know that there are critics of the Tara clamp, the device used for circumcision. When I made the announcement about circumcision, I mentioned that this should be practised in a hygienic manner. The Tara clamp helps to promote hygiene during the performance of circumcision. No one should die as a result of the use of the Tara clamp.

When the doctors submitted a report on circumcision, I spoke at length about breast and bladder cancer which affect women. I wish to urge the Department of Health to embark on a campaign that encourages women to test for these diseases as a

preventive measure. I am not a medical doctor, but I believe that Dr Dhlomo will agree with me when I say that one of the ways in which to prevent uterine cancer is for women to go for a pap smear at least once or twice a year. I also commented on prostate cancer which affects men. Recent studies show that this type of cancer usually affects men after the age of 37. In the olden days, it used to affect men who were 60 years and older. This has since changed. I urge the Department of Health to embark on a campaign to warn men against prostate cancer.

I thank the Department of Health for the manner in which they manage the circumcision campaign. I expect that the number of men who are circumcised will continue to grow. I also wish to commend the role played by hospitals and clinics in this campaign.

Let me state that I was encouraged when the former presidents of various countries visited me. Among these former presidents, I can mention former Mozambican President Joaquim Chissano and former Botswana President Festus Mogae. They came to congratulate and encourage me on reviving the circumcision ritual. They said that circumcision would make great strides in minimising sexually transmitted diseases.

I thank the Premier, Dr Mkhize, for his role in this campaign. And how can I forget Dr Dhlomo for his commendable commitment? I wish to thank Dr Tshabalala for his role as well. I also wish to thank doctors and nurses in various healthcare facilities for the sterling job they are doing of protecting my father's people. I also want to thank our champion of this campaign, *Ukhozi FM* DJ, Ngizwe Mchunu. Macingwane (Ngizwe's clan name), your contribution has not gone unnoticed.

THE ROLE OF GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENTS

I commend the co-operation between the Departments of Health and Arts and Culture during the *Umkhosi Woselwa* (First Fruits Ceremony). Your co-operation is an indication that you do heed Premier Mkhize's call for co-operation among various departments. You avoid working in silos.

I wish to thank the young men who have gone through circumcision and who have managed to attend the First Fruits Ceremony last year. I saw them when they came to fulfill their manhood as I named them after King Shaka's *izichwe* regiment, who accompanied him with a song when he left the Dingiswayo clan to take over the reigns of Kingship.

I wish to thank the support I received from *amakhosi* with regard to the circumcision campaign. Regarding the issue that pertains to *amakhosi*, I am sure that *amakhosi* are unhappy to find themselves having been stripped of their powers. I am not saying that we need to amend legislation, but let us not be denied that which we used to do successfully in the past.

I wish to thank the provincial Department of Education for the improved matric results. I thank the teachers and learners for their hard work which caused the increase in the pass rate. I know I will sound like a broken record, but let me stress the importance of vocational training. Not all matriculants who passed will get an opportunity to go to institutions of higher learning. I therefore wish to urge the department to put more effort on career guidance. Our children should be assisted in choosing relevant subjects and careers. We need skills. When I talk about skills, I am reminded of an old man who, upon being told that a certain child was educated and had obtained a doctorate, congratulated the child, but then added: "If you are really educated, tell me, can you make candles?" There was no response. Our scholars and children do not have skills in plumbing, carpentry and electricity – we end up relying on foreign nationals to fix our water pipes.

We thank the role played by the Department of Social Development in looking after the orphans and the poor. I know I become unpopular when I criticise the handing out of food parcels. Food parcels are good and well, but people should be taught independence through farming so that they can grow food. Government should provide farming equipment and seeds. Such measures would result in people being less dependent on the government and they would learn to provide for themselves. In commenting on poverty, someone once said: "My dream is not to die in poverty, but to have poverty die within me". This can only be achieved once people receive support to do something that will help them become independent.

THE NGUNI CATTLE PROJECT

I wish that the Nguni cattle project, which I initiated, could be revived. I do not wish to get embroiled in the politics that ensued as a result of this project, but as a natural farmer, I was saddened when this project was discontinued. I would therefore like to call for its revival.

INTEGRITY OF PUBLIC SERVANTS

I want to request public servants to be committed to their jobs and to perform them in a respectful manner. They must stop asking for bribes. In short, I urge public servants to execute their duties with integrity. I like the scholar called Lazarus who says: "Integrity is doing the right thing even when no-one is looking". I have no doubt that the Director-General, Mr NVE Ngidi, will welcome such integrity among public servants. I was pleased to learn that the Director-General always stresses the importance of integrity among public servants. I agreed with him when I heard him say that he prefers it when we talk about integrity management instead of fraud management. Fraud and corruption do not need management, but need to be confronted head-on.

I do wish to comment on the issue of government tenders. My people have complained on several occasions about the fact that only certain people get these tenders. I would like to call on the government to strengthen its supply chain management processes. I think Hugh Masekela, the legendary jazz musician, was referring to these people who are the only ones who get awarded tenders when he composed the song "*Akasatyebanga umtakababa uhluleka nokuhamba*" ("She is so big she can't even walk"). I know that tenders for big projects should be awarded to one big company because of its track record. However, it would be appreciated if that company could then sub-contract to other small companies so that they can also learn how these big companies got to the top.

INTERNATIONAL MOTHER-TONGUE CELEBRATION

This day, 21 February 2011, is an important day worldwide because that is when we celebrate International Mother-Tongue Day. Every year, since the year 2000, South

Africa and the whole world have celebrated this day which was declared by UNESCO in 1999 to be a day when communities should be encouraged to take pride in their mother tongue.

In KwaZulu-Natal, we celebrate this day every year so as to conscientise our communities about the importance of their mother tongue and to encourage people to learn other languages. We appreciate the fact that there is now a Provincial Language Policy aimed at developing the four official languages of KwaZulu-Natal, which are isiZulu, English, isiXhosa and Afrikaans. There are plans in place to assist provincial departments and municipalities to draft their own language policies. I will be pleased to receive a report on the progress that has been made with regard to compliance with the Provincial Language Policy.

I wish to extend my gratitude to all those who heeded my call and respected me when I requested that the nation wear their traditional attire on this day. I thank you for not only heeding my call, but also for speaking your mother tongue with pride. I hope that you will always support me in this call to showcase our languages and cultures.

INGONYAMA TRUST FUND AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT

The Constitution of the Republic of South Africa promotes co-operative governance. As traditional leaders (the entire kingship), we take this as a crucial and encouraging mandate. The Ingonyama Trust is the structure that controls the remaining piece of land under my jurisdiction in my capacity as the head of the Zulu nation. I am sure that the whole nation agrees with me. Likewise, government will agree with me when I say that there shall be no development unless the land is in strong hands. It is also true that since the advent of democracy, government at different levels has enacted various laws that provide for the management and control of land. This alone needs people who will, at all times, read and analyse these laws to ensure that they are enforced. This is one of the challenges facing the Ingonyama Trust Board. I am pleased to note that the Board is playing a major role in ensuring that all the laws of the country are enforced.

In the current financial year, the Board has made considerable progress in working with certain municipalities. In Jozini and Mhlabayalingana Municipalities, memoranda of understanding (MOUs) were signed between the two municipalities and local *amakhosi* and the Board of the Ingonyama Trust. These MOUs are meant to prevent conflicts between these governance structures, and clarify the role of each structure. These agreements also develop a framework for solving disputes where they exist. These agreements have resulted in the reconstruction and development of these towns following concurrence of all those involved without any constraints. They have agreed on the first phase of trade in the following three towns: Jozini, KwaNgwanase and Mbazwana. However, there have been glitches caused by insufficient power supply. Planning of areas where rural communities are settled is a huge challenge that needs patience.

Due to the fact that these areas were in a state of neglect and were not regarded as suitable for human habitation, we will be compelled to relocate people in some areas when we do further planning so that municipalities can deliver infrastructure and services. In this regard there will be a need for co-operation between the leadership and the community, especially the affected parties. I am saying this because there are those who are impeding the development of infrastructure, such as water and sewerage pipes, or any other related development initiatives. When they are told about this, they refuse to be moved, saying that they cannot be removed from their areas. They are also the first people to complain vociferously about the government's failure to deliver services. That is why I would like to call for better understanding so that development can take place. Still on the same issue, let me conscientise *amakhosi* that when there is distribution of land, it should be understood that there are laws that need to be complied with. Therefore, working together with the Board of the Ingonyama Trust, municipalities and other leadership structures are more important than ever before.

Last year I appealed for the land that belongs to the Zulu nation to be administered in accordance with the provisions of the law, as well as those that my Board is always emphasising. In other words, those who sell sites that fall under the Ingonyama Trust are in contravention of the law and shall get themselves into trouble. The same applies to those who, without any rights under the law to do so, allocate land that falls

under my jurisdiction. If we can all work together, rural development will soon take another giant leap forward.

THE WAY FORWARD

I wish to encourage all municipalities and *amakhosi* under their jurisdiction to heed this urgent call, and where they need clarity, they can contact the offices of the Board of the Ingonyama Trust. Most importantly, they need to try by all possible means to sign memoranda of understanding with my Board before they use the land under its control for any reason. The same goes for departments and other structures of government.

As I speak, my Board and the private sector are currently busy with a hydropower generation project in uMsinga. UThukela River will supply the water for this multimillion rand project. Apart from job opportunities that will be created when work is underway, many rural communities in the area are going to benefit from electricity.

Apart from negotiations pertaining to development in areas under *amakhosi* in eThekweni, this year my Board, working together with the Mthuli Traditional Authority and eThekweni Municipality, is committed to reviving and reconstructing the Mgababa recreational area. At the moment they are negotiating an agreement to deliver infrastructure. In due course they will invite expressions of interest from those who want to invest in the development of this area. In Nkandla, under the development project which is headed by the Presidency, my Board, the local *ubukhosi* (traditional authority) and the Department of Rural Development are busy with a development framework. In the Newcastle Municipality, my Board and the Department of Human Settlements are preparing for a similar agreement as the one I have outlined above.

Due to the change of name of the government department under whose jurisdiction my Board falls, from being the Department of Land Affairs to being the Department of Rural Development, my Board as the juristic owner of the land, has had to change its policy in order to align itself with the department. As a result, the role that is going to be played by *amakhosi* in developing their areas is going to be stronger than before. In other words, traditional councils are not just going to be told about what is going to

happen in their areas with regard to development, but they are going to lead the way in working together with municipalities. Among all traditional councils in Nongoma, including mine (oSuthu), my Board and the municipality are planning a meeting to chart a framework for the development and reconstruction of Nongoma, which is the capital town of the Royal Household. Due to these challenges, I am compelled to use and encourage my Board to be at the forefront of development. Also, if opportunities present themselves, the Board should attract investors to take part in areas under *amakhosi*.

ENSURING HUMAN RIGHTS IN RURAL AREAS

One of the legacies of apartheid is that rural communities were not given any proof of their rights to the land of their ancestors. This resulted in accusations that communal land rights are not protected. Yet that is not the case; it is just that those who tried to divide the nation wanted to create that impression. Current laws make it compulsory for everyone to have proof of rights to land. This is the same as sending a child to school or buying a cell phone or opening a bank account. As a result of this situation, people find themselves having to pay those who process this proof for them. The solution is the lease system that was proposed by my Board a few years ago, and even those who apply for a mortgage or a business are able to produce these letters to the banks. Even the banks tend to trust these letters.

I therefore urge people to contact my Board so that their rights to land are protected. They should also understand that no-one, except my Board, has the right to charge them money for land. I trust that the measures that my Board has taken are exactly what the Constitution gives us the authority to do.

It will be remembered that in working together with the Board of the Ingonyama Trust, I have developed a plan to assist *amakhosi* with 100 hectares of land for farming. This is in line with the “One Home, One Garden” campaign. I am not sure how far *amakhosi* have gone with this process. I had planned to visit these areas in 2010, but due to other commitments I could not. This year (2011), I will make a plan to visit *amakhosi* to see what they are farming.

LOCAL GOVERNMENT ELECTIONS

We pray for peaceful elections and for everyone to accept the results at the polls according to the way people have voted. I urge all political party leaders to refrain from using language that incite violence among my people. Once the elections are over, I hope that party politicking will not disturb service delivery and development in my communities.

WE COMMEND GENERAL CELE'S CONTRIBUTION

If something is good, it needs to be commended. I do not believe anyone in this House will disagree with me when I say that General Cele is a natural choice for his current position. His work is commendable. He has managed to restore the dignity of the police. He should continue to arrest those who break the law. I urge the nation to work together with General Cele and his team in fighting various forms of crime. I hope he can help to curb the scourge of this drug called *whoonga* which is destroying our youth. It is sad to learn that criminals attack clinics, as well as those who are affected by HIV/Aids and rob them of their ARVs.

NATION'S HERITAGE AND HERITAGE MANAGEMENT

I wish to warn those who kill rhinos and vultures to refrain from doing so. These acts do not only destroy nature, but also degrade our dignity. I hope that creating opportunities and strategies to involve local communities in identifying and managing their heritage, will help to curb some of these problems. I propose that we establish heritage forums in our communities which will assist in identifying and managing our heritage. I wish to commend the good work being done by the Heritage Directorate in the Office of the Premier in conducting research on the origins of clan names and in erecting commemorative stones in areas of great historical and national importance.

ROLE OF RELIGION

I would like to commend the organisers of the *Ayihlome – Churches Against Whoonga*, especially Ms Zanele Mbokazi of Gospel Powerhouse, for the campaign they have started with a team of pastors to fight against the drug called *whoonga*. I heard that pastors from various churches were sharing the stage on Saturday, 19 February 2011 at the International Conference Centre in Durban, as part of the

Ayihlome – Churches Against Whoonga. I thank all the pastors who were part of this event. I also heard that this event will be taken to other provinces. It is roles such as these that churches are expected to play, just as they did during the freedom struggle. A church should play a meaningful role in helping government in instilling acceptable morals among our youth and people in general.

CONCLUSION

A few years ago the former Head of the Department of Royal Household, Dr Vusi Shongwe, when asked about how he wished the affairs of the King and Royal Household to be handled, responded by saying, “I would like to move the affairs of the King and the Royal Family from the periphery of the agenda to the epicentre of the scheme of things”. I wish to thank the government for the strides it has made in ensuring that the King and the Royal Household are bestowed the respect and the dignity that they deserve. The collaboration between the government and myself in fighting poverty and HIV/Aids is an indication that, indeed, the King and the Royal Household are now playing a major role in the governance of the nation. Attendance by *amakhosi* from other African countries in ceremonies that we host as a nation is one of the clear indications that the role played by our Kingship in developing the nation also has an impact in other countries.

I thank you.