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## ARTICLE TO BE PUBLISHED

**To** : Media  
**From** : Maluti-A-Phofung Local Municipality  
**Date** : 05 August 2017

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### THE BASOTHO CELEBRATED THEIR NEW YEAR CEREMONY IN MAKHOLOKOENG VILLAGE

On 05<sup>th</sup> August 2017 The Free State House of Traditional Leaders, Free State Department of Sports, Arts, Culture and Recreation's Head of the Department (HOD) Mr Stanley Ramathe Malope, Basotho Cultural Village in joint venture with Maluti-A-Phofung Local Municipality (MAP) Acting Executive Mayor who is also the Member of Mayoral Committee(MMC) responsible for HIV/AIDS and People living with Disabilities Mofumahadi Cllr Thato Mopeli in corporation with Thabo Mofutsanyana Arts Centre (TMAC) celebrated this year's Basotho New Year Calendar at Makgolokoeng Royal House of His Majesty Paulus Moloi situated in Tshiame. The fundamental aim was to reinforce and embrace the patriotism of the diverse cultures within the Basotho clans that has played a significant role in history of shaping the roots of today's generation.

With this year's theme being declared the year of O.R Tambo, the main purpose for this year annual Basotho New Year was to create the enabling environment for social cohesion and nation-building by establishing structures of cultural society to improve levels of governance.

During her welcome address MMC Cllr Thato Mopel stated that following a successful Traditional Leaders Summit "boemong ba rona rele masepala ke thabo e kgolo hore ebe rona rele Basotho re keteka selemo sa rona kwano moreneng le baahi rentse re kgaba leka botjhaba le meetlo ya rona.

HOD Mr Malope reiterated that "sepheho saho ketekela selemo sena sa Basotho ke hotla kgutlisa mekgwa le ditlwaelo tsa Basotho le ho thusa batjha le baahi kadi ditlwaelo tsa moloko o fetileng wa Basotho. Having conveyed the MEC Mathabo Leeto's message in her absentia, Malope assured that the Department will continue

to implement the inclusive programmes such as this one as it will enhance and retain Free State talent and capacity within Arts, Culture and Recreation, as well as ensuring development pathways towards healthy living lifestyles and



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excellence; promoting intra and interparticipation and cooperation within all spheres of government to promote sport, arts, culture and recreation within the Free State Province. King Paulos Moloi accompanied by Morena Thokoana Mopeli of Bakoena clan, thanked the Free State government for supporting the events of such nature and also encouraged unity regardless of the diverse cultures or heritage. “Hafela rele setjhaba se bolokang leho hlompha botjhaba ba rona ditjhaba tse ding ditla kgona hore hlompha, re ipiletsa haholo ho Marena a rona hore hake re lekeng hore batjha banke karolo ho meketjhana ya mofuta ona hobane ka moso ke bona ba tlong ho tsamaisa lefatshe lena mme ebang ra sa baruti batla qetella ba etsa meetlo ya batho ba bang nnete setjhaba se hlokang tsebo sea timela”, he exclaimed.

Morapeli Tlhong a traditional healer who performed the private ceremony of burning of incense expressed “bana ba rona base ba lahlehetswe ke thuto ya Sesotho hobane haholo se re shebile monate wa pina fela ho sena thuto mme re hloka hore lebona banke karolo; re lokela ho etsa bonnete ba hore re bapatsa mokete ona haholo ho feta selemong sena”.

**By: Masilo Malakwane**