



co-operative governance
& traditional affairs

MPUMALANGA PROVINCE
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

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MPUMALANGA HTL CAUTIONS AGAINST ILLEGAL INGOMA PRACTICES

Chairperson of the Mpumalanga Provincial House of Traditional Leaders (MPHTL), Kgoshi Mathupha Mokoena cautions communities to exercise safety measures during the ingoma (initiation) practice. He says this rite of passage by young initiates to adulthood is a significant cultural practice that needs to be accorded respect and dignity, and therefore safety measures should be considered to prevent unintended consequences.

Mokoena says the MPHTL is working jointly with sector departments in pursuit of an incident-free ingoma season. "We are working with law enforcement agencies and health practitioners to save lives. Community awareness programmes will be implemented to mobilize them against illegal activities of the ingoma practice. We are leaving no stone unturned in minimising fatalities that come with unsafe Ingoma practices. We will embark on vigorous community awareness programmes regarding unlawful initiation schools, kidnapping and ill treatment of initiates, in an attempt to stop inhumane acts," he cautioned.

Mokoena advised all initiation schools owners to comply with the Ingoma Act of 2011. The Act regulates amongst others, the following:

- Permission to attend
- Duration of the Ingoma
- Prohibition of force attendance
- Fees
- Inspection at the Ingoma

Mokoena encourages parents to ensure that strict health precautions are adhered to before sending their boys to Ingoma.

Issued by the Department of Co-operative Governance and Traditional Affairs

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