

Briefing Notes for Shembe Cleansing Ceremony – Mpumalanga Township

Guests :

Amakhosi
Unyazilwezulu,
Councillors,
Pastors,
Community leaders,
Political parties,
Media,

Introduction

Mpumalanga Township in Hammersdale was torn by violent political conflict amongst the political players from 1985 onwards. During 1989, about one thousand (1000) houses were destroyed or badly damaged, leaving many dead and hundreds injured and disabled. Many fled the area to find peace somewhere else.

In the midst of such an awful violence, leaders from the warring factions agreed to facilitate peace talks that had been stalled in various occasions in the past. The peace process slowly brought Mpumalanga to life as movement of people became freer.

The civil war endured by community of Mpumalanga from 1985 to about 1991 remains a vivid memory for those who survived the conflict. In an attempt to promote reconciliation and peace in the victim's minds, initiatives such as Mpumalanga Peace and Development Centre and Mpumalanga Heritage Centre have been built. With the emergence of the new democratic dispensation, peace prevails in Mpumalanga.

THE PROPOSAL

In the recent years, Councillors and various other players in the area of Mpumalanga have realized the unending culture of violent scenes in the area. These incidents include:

- High levels of crime.
- Unacceptable levels of anti-social behaviors.
- High levels of social ills
- Deviant behavior amongst youth.
- Domestic violence
- Taxi violence

It is the view of the local leadership that there is still a dark cloud hovering over Mpumalanga. The traumatic and unsettling incidents points at a process that is still to be undertaken to conclude the course of reconciliation. In African tradition, whenever there was an incident that is perceived to have casted a dark cloud over any situation, a process of cleansing has to be undertaken. African are very spiritual and in that case this cleansing is proposed to be led by spiritual leader in collaboration with all faith based affiliations.

The theme for the day and thereafter is MORALITY OVER INHUMANITY (UBUNTU KUBANTU). It will be characterised by prayers, dances and celebrations at the Mpumalanga Stadium. There are six thousand people expected on the day.

EVENT FORMAT

The Cleansing programme will be held at Mpumalanga Stadium and will be led by His Glorious Inkosi Shembe, known as Nyazilwezulu.

At his arrival in Mpumalanga, He will visit Geogedale Sportsfield to conduct the first cleansing ceremony after which He will move to Mpumalanga Stadium.

The prayer led by the church elder will commence at 09h00 and then after formal programmes commences which will be guided by the day's programmes. Various players will participate in one way or another during

this session which will culminate in the stage being handed over to Unyazilwezulu to conduct the ceremony.