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**ACTING PREMIER KA MADLOPHA-MTHETHWA PAYS HOMAGE TO AMAZULU FOR
KEEPING RICH HERITAGE LEGACY**

EMACHOBENI, NGWAVUMA

Acting Premier of KwaZulu-Natal, Hon. Thembeni KaMadlopha-Mthethwa, speaking on behalf of the KwaZulu-Natal Government at the annual uMkhosi woMhlanga (Reed Dance), has emphasized the importance of instilling a sense of pride, respect and strong family values among young women. Every September, as South Africa marks Heritage Month, thousands of maidens flock to the King's Royal Palaces at eMachobeni (Ngwavuma) and eMashobeni (Pongola) to participate in uMkhosi woMhlanga where they present their reeds as a symbol of purity and pride.

Delivering her address at Emachobeni Royal Palace in Nongoma, the Acting Premier paid tribute to the Founder of the Zulu Nation, King Shaka kaSenzangakhona, and commended His Majesty King Misuzulu kaZwelithini for continuing the rich legacy left by his forefathers of a strong, culturally rooted Zulu nation.

"uMkhosi woMhlanga remains a cornerstone of our cultural heritage. It teaches our maidens dignity, self-respect and pride, while ensuring the family values that hold our society together. We thank the Founder of the Zulu Nation, King Shaka, and His Majesty King Misuzulu kaZwelithini for preserving and promoting this rich legacy for future generations," said Acting Premier KaMadlopha-Mthethwa.

The Acting Premier also thanked thousands of maidens who participated in this year's ceremony.

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