## COMMEMORATION THE BATTLE OF ISANDLWANA



**ISIFUNDAZWE SAKWAZULU-NATALI** 



The Government and people of the Republic of South Africa are honoured to host His Excellency President Yoweri Kaguta Museveni and his distinguished delegation in our country, for a State Visit

This a special visit because relations between the Republic of Uganda and the Republic of South Africa date back many decades. These were deepened by the solidarity received by the people of South Africa from Uganda during the struggle against apartheid, under the leadership of President Museveni.

Last year, I had the honour of visiting Uganda at his Excellency's invitation, and we still have fond memories of the warm reception and the hospitality we received. We held crucial talks aimed at taking further our relations at a political, economic and social level. The potential for taking these relations further remains very strong, at all levels.

A special highlight of our visit was a visit to Kawaweta where the ruling party, the African National Congress had camps, to commission the Oliver Tambo School of Leadership. On the school premises lie the graves of uMkhonto Wesizwe soldiers, making the school and the Kawaweta area a permanent reminder of how the wonderful people of Uganda stood with us during a difficult period in the history of our country.

The ANC camp in Kawaweta was started as a result of Resolution 435 of the United Nations which paved the way for the independence of Namibia. This resolution required that uMkhonto weSizwe vacate camps in Angola, and consequently Uganda, under President Museveni, was more than willing to accept the cadres of the ANC.

Message from
His Excellency
President Jacob Zuma
on the occasion of the visit to
the site of the Battle of Isandlwana
by His Excellency
President Yoweri Kaguta Museveni
during his State Visit to the
Republic of South Africa

A total of 152 cadres were then transferred to Kawaweta in 1989. During the period 1989-1994 the population of Kawaweta was to increase to over 2 000. This made the School at Kawaweta a camp with the highest concentration of personnel of all MK camps.

President Museveni took a great risk in providing shelter and camps to ANC freedom fighters because he believed in freedom and justice, and believed that every corner of Africa should be free from oppression. We also had a special working relationship with President Museveni during the Burundi peace talks, as he chaired the Great Lakes Regional Initiative on Burundi. We valued his support during that important period which led to the attainment of peace in that country.

Given our historical ties, we felt that a freedom fighter such as President Museveni cannot leave our country without visiting an important site of the triumph of the African people against colonial aggression - the site of the Battle of Isandlwana. The visit to Isandlwana encourages us to work harder together to ensure that Africa, now a critical economic growth centre in the world, is able to show that it can rise and score major victories despite the legacy of colonialism, apartheid and all forms of oppression and underdevelopment. The story of Isandlwana demonstrates that anything is possible when we set our sights to it.

We look forward to even deeper and more meaningful relations between our two countries and peoples. This visit will contribute to ensuring that these relations that were forged in the trenches of struggle now translate into strong socio-economic ties that benefit the people of Uganda and South Africa.

I join His Majesty King Goodwill Zwelithini kaBhekuzulu and the Honourable Premier of KwaZulu-Natal, Dr Zweli Mkhize, in extending a warm and hearty welcome to KwaZulu-Natal, to President Museveni and his delegation!

HIS EXCELLENCY JACOB G ZUMA
PRESIDENT: REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA





We are grateful to the President of the Republic of South Africa, His Excellency Mr J.G. Zuma, for arranging the official visit of His Excellency President Yoweri Kaguta Museveni of the Republic of Uganda to South Africa and to KwaZulu-Natal in particular.

Equally, we thank His Majesty, Isilo SamaBandla, for allowing us to host this important event in the history of this province. Our King is not only a direct heir and descendant of all the Zulu kings but is also the symbol of peace and unity of our people. His Majesty has been champion for peace, development, the fight against poverty, the promotion of good human values and self-reliance.

We pause here to welcome His Excellency President Museveni who represents the strongest bond between the people of South Africa and Uganda. It should be remembered that our liberation struggle was endorsed with great vigour by the people of Uganda, and they should always be credited for mobilizing support against the apartheid regime.

To us, this year's commemoration of the Battle of Isandlwana is about the strengthening of solidarity amongst the people of this Province and the people of Uganda. We also want to acknowledge the contribution of many countries in Africa towards the attainment of freedom in South Africa.

The commitment of African leaders to the total decolonization of Africa was such a deeply held conviction that was demonstrated by the insistence of the leaders of the Organization of African Unity that as long as one country in the continent was not free, Africa could not be said to be totally free.

## Honourable Dr Zweli Mkhize Premier of KwaZulu-Natal

They committed resources to the cause of liberating South Africa and never wavered despite the serious losses they suffered and the sacrifices they were forced to pay to defend many freedom fighters. They never abandoned them.

As we commemorate the triumph of the Zulu warriors over the mighty British army during the Battle of Isandlwana, we are presented with an opportunity to recharge and define our next steps in the fight for the dignity of the African people. It is an opportunity to remind us of the struggle that lies ahead of us and the challenges that we have to overcome before we can attain full liberation.

Despite the political freedom that we have attained, including the right to vote and participate in all institutions of governance in the land, the African people still suffer extreme poverty, die from preventable diseases and have lower life expectancy, irrespective of the wealth in their country.

Because our fate is bound together, we need to look at the strengths that we must utilize to advance ourselves, as well as the weaknesses that we must correct to create a prosperous African continent which belongs to all.

Our relationship with the people of Uganda is deeply entrenched. Therefore, our main task should be to deepen further this relationship through various exchange initiatives but more importantly, through building mutual economic ties that are beneficial to the development of both countries.

The KwaZulu-Natal Provincial Government is encouraging business-to-business partnerships, promotion of investments and person-to-person relationships as a logical representation of this very deep relationship.

We need to unite and work together to end poverty, starvation, illiteracy, disease and all forms of under-development. We need to continue to take our countries on a path of prosperity and nation-building using our natural resources.

In so doing, we will be ensuring peace and stability in Africa



#### PROFILE OF THE HEAD OF THE FOREIGN DELEGATION

Yoweri Kaguta Museveni was born in 1944 in the then sub-county of Ntungamo in the county of Rwampara in western Uganda. His father was Amos Kaguta and his mother was Esteeri Kokundeka. He was named Museveni after the 'Abaseveni', Ugandan servicemen in the 7th Battalion of the king's African Rifle during the Second World War.

He was born in a peasant-pastoral background where most of the children did not go to school because the peasants were nomads. Additionally, the nomads were oppressed by land policies such as the ranching schemes that displaced them from their traditional lands. Such policies were instituted by the British colonists and supported by local collaborator chiefs as well as neo-colonial independence politicians.

During the three years he spent at the University of Dar es Salaam, from 1967 to 1970, his political awareness became more focused and he gained more active politically experience, especially through his close association with Southern African freedom fighters such as Samora Machel, to say nothing of Julius Nyerere who became a close political associate until his death in 2000.

In 1971, after Idi Amin's coup, Museveni was instrumental in the formation of FRONASA (the Front for National Salvation) comprising Ugandan exile groups that, together with the Tanzanian People's Defence Forces, ousted Idi Amin in 1979. Following Amin's ignominious exit, Museveni served as Minister of Defence, Minister of Regional Co-operation and Vice Chairman of the Military Council.

After the rigged elections of December 1980, Museveni went to the bush and, together with 26 other patriots, organized the National Resistance Army (NRA), the armed wing of the National Resistance Movement (NRM), which waged a five-year protracted people's struggle against the Obote regime's tyranny in Uganda.

The Movement based itself on organizational discipline, an anti-sectarian ideology and was massively supported by the peasants. The huge support from the peasants stemmed from the fact that the Movement synthesized their hopes and aspirations and offered a ray of hope out of the agony inflicted on the population for more than a decade. A close alliance between the peasants and elements of the intelligentsia was formed during the years of the struggle and has helped to shape the Movement into an authentic mass movement able to address the problems of the people of Uganda.

Since assuming the presidency in January 1986, Yoweri Museveni has provided one of the most clear-headed leaderships in Africa and has been hailed as one of the few beacons of hope for Africa.



His Excellency Yoweri Kaguta Museveni
PRESIDENT OF UGANDA

He rejects this characterization and insists that the lack of focused and clear-headed leadership in Africa has been a result, not of any inherent African trait, but of foreign meddling and ideological disorientation superimposed on an underdeveloped society.

He sees leadership as an endless sacrifice, not a privilege as is often thought; and says that "managing an underdeveloped country like Uganda imposes onerous burdens on those whose lot it is to provide honest leadership - they must work with inexperienced staff whose values, based on a primitive economic base and an omnipresent peasant culture, are not noted for their loftiness, they must work with inadequate funds and equipment, there is the everpresent danger of external interference and manipulation, and there are the unprincipled divisions caused by an incomplete process of social metamorphosis."

He expresses strong optimism that a new order is emerging in Africa comprising African patriots who are assuming leadership and who are working for African interests, not other people's interests. These new forces, he is convinced, will steadily move Africa towards political and economic integration and eventual social transformation.

Under Yoweri Museveni's leadership, Uganda has carried out bold economic and political reforms that have launched the country on an irreversible path of modernization. His early and courageous stand on AIDS has won him international recognition as the leading crusader against the scourge and galvanized the anti-AIDS campaign in Uganda resulting in a dramatic fall in the rate of HIV infection in the country.







# THE BRITISH INVASION OF THE ZULU KINGDOM 22 JANUARY 1879 THE BACKGROUND



Mbonambi Regiment

Professor Jabulani Maphalala gives a perspective on the famous Battle of Isandlwana between the Zulus and the British. About 1400 of the British force of 1800 led by General Lord Chelmsford were killed.

The Zulu losses were such that King Cetshwayo was led to exclaim:

"A spear has been thrust into the belly of the nation", when informed of them.

The natural boundaries of the Zulu kingdom during the reigns of Kings Shaka and Dingane were the Mzimvubu river in the south, kwaMabhudu in the north, the Indian ocean in the east and in the west the Khahlamba mountains.

From there the boundary runs through the present town of Standerton to parts of the present Mpumalanga province. The boundary of the Kingdom of KwaZulu under King Cetshwayo kaMpande stretched north of the Mzinyathi and Thukela rivers following the Zulu Civil War at Maqongqo on 30 January 1840 in which the Boers supported Prince Mpande against King Dingane and later usurping the southern part of the Kingdom of KwaZulu renaming it Republic of Natalia in 1841. In May 1842 the British troops defeated the Boer forces at the battle of Khangela and renamed the southern Zulu kingdom the British Natal Colony (1843-1910).

The Kingdom of KwaZulu under King Cetshwayo, north of the Thukela and Mzinyathi rivers, was an independent sovereign state when it was invaded by England and some of its overseas colonies on 22 January 1879. The Zulu people who were living in the British Colony of Natal had already, through Lt Governor Martin West's Boundary Commission of 1846, been driven out of fertile land and settled in the Native Reserves which were mimosaridden, stony, over-crowded and barren territories.

From these native reserves they served as labour reservoirs for white settlers. Thus, in the British colony of Natal, Zulu people remained as semi slaves who were compelled to do compulsory labour known as *isibhalo*, laying railway lines, erecting roads and cutting down forests for no wages.

## THE BRITISH GOVERNMENT DEMONIZATION OF KING CETSHWAYO TO FIND CASUS BELLI, THE PRETEXTS FOR THE INVASION OF THE ZULU KINGDOM

Although most of the fertile arable land was in the hands of white colonists in Natal, the British colonists were greedy for more land in the Zulu kingdom. The first territory they wanted was the fertile sugarcane land between the Thukela and Mhlathuze rivers.





**INdluyengwe Regiment** 



From Isandlwana Battlefield Museum

They tried to achieve their goal through precipitating a civil war between Princes Mbuyazwe and Cetshwayo on 2 December 1856. John Dunn and white troops, through the advice of Captain Walmsely, the Border Agent at the Thukela boundary, fully supported Mbuyazwe but they were heavily defeated by Cetshwayo's uSuthu forces. This was the first setback for the British desire for the Zulu land in the Zulu Kingdom.

In 1879 the British were fully prepared for the invasion of the Zulu Kingdom which they regarded as an indigestible stone in the envisaged Carnarvon's Federation Scheme of white territories. The British government therefore demonized King Cetshwayo to find a *casus belli* for the invasion of his Zulu kingdom.

Firstly, they complained about the old custom of *ukujutshwa kwezintombi* which was announced after *uMkhosi woSelo* where male and female regiments were authorised by the King to marry. Through infiltration, some of the women were influenced to rebel against *ukujutshwa*. Some of them were killed for defying the King's order.

The British argued that they were supposed to maintain order in the Zulu kingdom to prevent King Cetshwayo from spilling the blood of innocent people. They were fully supported by the missionaries who argued that King Cetshwayo had evil influence on the Zulu people and was a stumbling block on the conversion of Zulu people to Christianity. This was no surprise as the missionaries always served as the vanguard of British imperialism.

Secondly, the British supported the claim of the Boers who were arguing that the Zulu territory west of the Ncome and Mzinyathi rivers was theirs, claiming that it had been a gift from King Mpande. This was baseless, since land according to Zulu law was indivisible. Nevertheless, the British supported the claim of the Boers, saying King Cetshwayo was causing racial tension.

Thirdly, Sihayo's wives committed adultery. Sihayo was one of King Cetshwayo *izikhulu* (senior leaders) living in Nquthu. His wives ran away and crossed the Thukela River, but some of Sihayo's sons found and killed them. The British demanded that Sihayo's sons be handed over to them because the wives were killed on British territory. Since there was no extradition treaty, King Cetshwayo refused to accede to the British request.

Fourthly, the British authorities handed an ultimatum to King Cetshwayo's delegation led by Mnyamana Buthelezi, King Cetshwayo's prime minister. The Ultimatum Tree under the Thukela bridge, became memorable because the British demanded that the Zulu forces be demobilized within 30 days. This was impossible to do because almost every year during *uMkhosi woSelo* new Zulu regiments were conscripted. In short, every male was a member of a regiment. Demobilization of the regiments in the European sense of the word was unknown.

#### THE PLAN OF BRITISH INVASION OF THE ZULU KINGDOM

The British military plan of invading the Zulu kingdom was mainly divided into three main sections: there was a contingent which was to move along the coastal area from Durban proceeding to oNdini, the capital of the Zulu kingdom. The second section was to proceed through Sandlwana on its way to the Zulu capital, while the third one was to approach the capital from Khambula and Hlobane.





The Zulu army formed itself into the traditional "chest and horns" formation as it advanced on the British camp. This memorial at Isandlwana symbolises that military strategy devised by the founder of the Zulu nation, King Shaka.

The British troops were over-confident of their success because they were armed with the most modern weapons of those days. Thus, when the Boers of Paul Kruger gave advice that the British were to build a laager similar to what the Boers did at Ncome on 16 December 1838, the British laughed at them, recalling that the Boers had used Martini Henrys at Ncome. Some of the guns used by the British troops were the rapid firing needle guns.

Also, the British military authorities had another trump card. They had ordered most of Zulu *izizwe* (tribes) in the British Colony of Natal to arm against their King and their Zulu compatriots.

They armed all the Zulu Christians who were mostly exempted natives with a strong desire to be treated like white colonists. They were completely alienated from their fellow Zulu compatriots. They mobilized almost all the baTlokoa under Kgosi Hlubi who were at that time residing kwaNobamba [renamed Weenen]. Thus, the Zulu forces south of the Thukela, as well as the baSotho of Kgosi Hlubi, outnumbered the British troops by far at Sandlwana but there was no register for them as in the case of British troops. The British troops at Sandlwana wanted an open area which was to enable them to wipe out the Zulu forces as they approached.

#### THE ZULU FORCES MOBILIZE TO DEFEND THEIR KINGDOM

We must first bear in mind that the Zulu forces who defended the Zulu kingdom excluded the Zulu people living with the *izizwe* of Ngwavuma: the Mathenjwa, Mngomezulu, Nyawo and Tembe who did not participate. Also, those who defended the Zulu kingdom were not compelled, but were inspired by the love of their country to face the British invaders armed with spears and shields against the most modern weapons.

The British invaders, as they slowly moved into the Zulu kingdom, were closely monitored by Zulu spies. Meanwhile, King Cetshwayo convened his *isigungu* (council) and took a decision for Zulu people to take up arms against the British invaders. The King's announcement was made through trusted servants under the leadership of Bhejane kaNomageje Khoza, whose descendants are to be found at Nseleni, near Mpangeni. There were general commanders of the Zulu warriors in various districts. In the whole district of eMangweni palace, Somopho kaSikhala Mthembu was the general commander. Under him fell Lokothwayo kaMadlebe Zungu, Ndabayakhe Mjadu, the Cebekhulu, the descendants of Ngomane kaMqomboli and others. Somopho was to make sure people complied with King Cetshwayo's call.



**INdlondlo Regiment** 



There were similar arrangements throughout the Zulu kingdom. Majiya kaShadu Nzuza near Gingindlovu did the same, together with Mavumengwana kaNdlela Ntuli, Mbango kaGawozi, Phalane kaMdinwa Mkhwanazi of kwaDlangezwa, Zimema kaSigodo Mzimela and others. Similar mobilization took place at Nkandla, Nquthu, Mahlabathini, Nongoma, Hlabisa. Somkhele kaMalanda Mkhwanazi and Mbopha kaWolizibi Hlabisa also led the regiments as they proceeded to oNdini.

On arrival at the palace, King Cetshwayo proposed the acquisition of more firearms for the warriors. This was usually done by John Dunn who, despite fighting against King Cetshwayo's uSuthu forces at Ndondakusuka, was not killed, but fully accepted as an ordinary citizen of the Zulu kingdom. He, however, defected to the British troops and started demonizing King Cetshwayo despite being married to many Zulu women. His descendants today live at Mangethe in the Mthunzini district. King Cetshwayo called upon known *izinyanga zempi* (traditional healers) to do ritual preparations, including killing a black bull.

The Zulu warriors moved to eMakhosini in the Babanango valley, the holy site where most of the Zulu kings are buried. Near King Senzangakhona's grave, Mnyamana kaNgqengelele, Mahlathini kaSijaba Nkwanyana, Ntshingwayo kaMahole Khoza, Mbopha kaWolizibi Hlabisa, Hhemulana kaMbhangazeli Sibiya, Mvubu kaNgqengelele, Sekethwayo kaNhlaka Mdlalose, Ntuzwa kaNhlaka Mdlalose, Sishaluza kaMamba Ntshangase and many others recited the Zulu kings' izibongo (praises), telling the Zulu kings who are buried there in accordance with Zulu religion that their country was being invaded and that they were to look after the Zulu army as it engaged the invaders.

The warriors undertook before the King to die in the battlefield than surrender. Sigcwelegcwele kaMhlekehleke Mngadi, *induna* (headman) of iNgobamakhosi regiment, stood up to vow that iNgobamakhosi would be the first to wipe out the enemy. Mkhosana kaMvundlana, induna of uKhandampemvu, also vowed that his regiment would die for the King. Most of the leaders did the same.

As it had been fully determined that the main British army was based at Sandlwana, it was agreed that the main Zulu army should engage them there. It was also decided that the supreme commander of the Zulu forces must be Ntshingwayo kaMahole Khoza. On departing from oNdini the Zulu army sang war songs with such emotions that even the cowards wished the invaders were being engaged. One was an old King Dingane's war song:

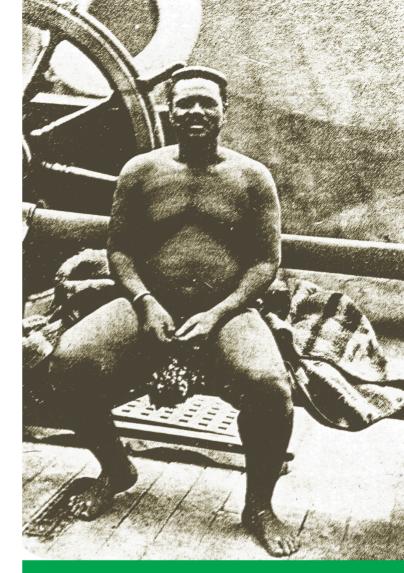
Caller: Woza langa lashona!

Response: Lashona!

Caller: Woza langa lashona!

Response: Liyawushona kuleziya ntaba!

The main Zulu army arrived in the evening of the 21st January at Sandlwana and waited for dawn to attack the enemy. They always attacked at dawn but never at night, in order to avoid accidentally stabbing each other.



King Cetshwayo kaMpande on his way to Cape Town as a state prisoner

The Zulu warriors who fought at Sandlwana were, inter alia, Thulwana whose izinduna were Mnyamana and Qethuka Magwaza; the Ndlondlo; the Dloko whose induna was Shingana kaMpande while Princes Dabulamanzi and Sikhotha were members; the Dududu in which Princes Silwana, Mlondo, Ngasha, and Msuthu were members; the Mbonambi whose main induna was Ntuzwa Mdlalose; another induna was Mankulumana kaSomaphunga Ndwandwe while Princes Ndabuko, Mthonga, Mahhanana, Mgidlana, Magwendu and Mkhungo were also members.

The Nokhenke regiment comprised Princes Sukani and Mgxusheni while Sikhobobo Sibiya, Ndube kaManqondo Magwaza and many others were members. Ingobamakhosi was led by Sigcwelegcwele kaMhlekehleke Mngadi while Khandampemvu was under the leadership of Mkhosana kaMvundlana Biyela and others.

In engaging the enemy, Khandampemvu took the lead. The British first unleashed all *amambuka* (traitors) from the British Colony while the British invaders watched closely, enjoying brandy and other spirits in the tents. The Zulu forces wiped out all *amambuka* and turned their attention to the British invaders in the tents.





#### Graves at Isandlwana Battlefield

Gabanganye and Mbonjana, sons of Phakade Mchunu, who were part of *amambuka*, were killed fighting on the British side. But all other amambuka who were killed were neither mentioned or records of their number killed or wounded kept. This was in contrast to all the British invaders whose register was carefully kept for generations to come.

On turning to the invaders proper, Mkhosana Biyela was shot dead. But strangely enough Qethuka Magwaza, who was supposed to await his turn to engage the enemy with his Thulwana regiment defied everybody and joined Khandampemvu, eager to engage the invaders. Ntshingwayo kaMahole Khoza sang the praises of Kings Shaka and Senzangakhona at Sandlwana.

He held his shield up as he said: 'Nansi intando yakithi,' as shook it. He continued: "you are always asking why this person is loved so much. It is caused by the love-charm of our people. There is no going back home." Hearing those words the Zulu warriors fought like lions.

Despite the heavy firing by the British invaders, the Zulu warriors had quickly learned that the British invaders first said: "AIM, FIRE!" When they shouted 'FIRE' the Zulu warriors laid down and moved quickly forward until they reached the tents where the invaders fought until their ammunition was exhausted. Magudulwana Mthembu of

Khandampemvu was shot on the leg, having stabbed three British troops to death.

It was on stabbing the third one that he was shot while the British soldier fell on him. He was discovered by his relatives after the war. Ndube kaManqondo Magwaza was shot through the arm and the bullet broke two ribs and came through the shoulder blade.

The following Zulu heroes fell at Sandlwana defending the Zulu kingdom: Zikode kaMasiphula Ntshangase, Mkhosana kaMvundlana Biyela, Kamungana Ntombela, Ntando kaNtobolongwana Shezi, Siqasha kaNqoboka Sokhulu, Mathashile kaMasiphula Ntshangase, Vundlisa kaManzini Zungu, and many others.

At Shiyane (Rorke's Drift) the Zulu forces were repulsed by a few British invaders because they attempted to storm the *laager* which was quicky erected with bags.

The invaders hid behind them and easily warded off the Zulu forces.

Thus, Shiyane is very important to the British invaders because most of the British troops who fought there were given Victoria Crosses.



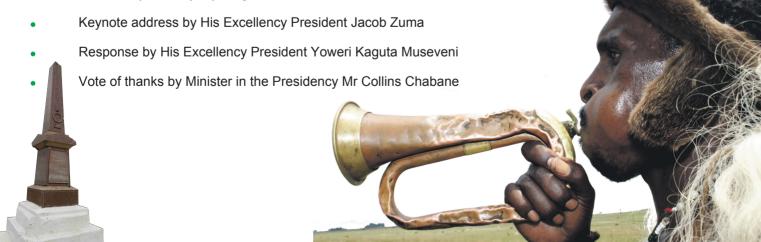


Above and below... the Dundee Die Hards re-enact the Battle of Isandlwana, bringing back memories of the great war

## **Commemoration of the Battle of Isandlwana**

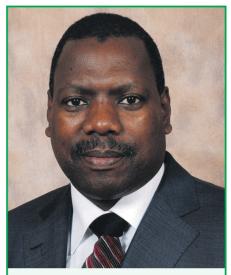
#### 22 January 2011

- Re-enactment of the Battle of Isandlwana
- National Anthems: Republic of Uganda and the Republic of South Africa
- Welcome remarks by KwaZulu-Natal Premier Dr Zweli Mkhize
- Prince Mangosuthu Buthelezi introduces and invites
   His Majesty the King to address the gathering
- Address by His Majesty King Zwelithini kaBhekuzulu





### **Congratulations Bayede!**



PREMIER: KWAZULU-NATAL DR ZWELI MKHIZE





COMMUNITY SAFETY AND LIAISON
MR WILLIES MCHUNU





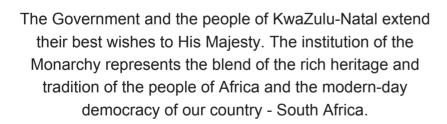
MEC FOR ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND TOURISM MR MIKE MABUYAKHULU







MEC FOR HUMAN SETTLEMENTS AND PUBLIC WORKS MS MAGESVARI GOVENDER



The people of KwaZulu-Natal salute the King of the people on the 40th anniversary of His Majesty's coronation - the longest-serving monarch in the ancestral lineage of the

heroic Zulu kings in our history!

We salute Your Majesty for the support given to all government programmes of service delivery, for being the symbol of unity, peace and reconciliation and father of all who call KwaZulu-Natal their home.



Unwele olude Silo samaBandla



MEC FOR ARTS, CULTURE, SPORTS AND RECREATION MRS WEZIWE THUSI



MEC FOR HEALTH
DR SIBONGISENI DHLOMO







# BAYEDE!

## HLANGA LOMHLABATHI!



1971 - TILL PRESENT

