



9 July 2020

**Attention: All Editors
For Immediate Release**

MESSAGE OF CONDOLENCE ON THE PASSING OF HER MAJESTY QUEEN NOLOYISO SANDILE

The University of Fort Hare is deeply saddened by the untimely passing of Queen Noloyiso Sandile of AmaRharhabe Kingdom who died yesterday afternoon after a short illness.

Her Majesty was the wife of the late AmaRharhabe King and had been reigning since the death of her husband, King Maxhoba Sandile who died on the 11 July 2011.

She was the daughter of the late Zulu monarch, Cyprian Bhekuzulu kaSolomon and was a sister to King Goodwill Zwelithini.

As subjects of the Rharhabe Kingdom, the University of Fort Hare joins the nation in paying tribute to iKumkanikazi for constantly demonstrating care and support for the University's development agenda. Her death comes at a time when the University and the Rharhabe Kingdom were in serious discussions about forging a strategic partnership to address the following broad programmes:

- Improvement of arable land through capacitation of rural people to Improve agro-economy.
- Development and capacity building of SMMES within and around the Rharhabe Kingdom.
- Archiving and preservation of the history and heritage of the Rharhabe Kingdom.
- Development of a programme to educate rural communities about human rights as enshrined in the constitution of the Republic of South Africa

In 2016, during the university's centenary celebrations, the University took a decision to honour the Rharhabe Kingdom and Imingcangathelo - especially Chief Tyali - for their role in ensuring the establishment of our institution and donating the land on which the University of Fort Hare stands. The Queen departs as the University's partnership with the Department of Arts and Culture bears fruit, resulting in the recently approved funding to build a Memorial in honour of Inkosi uTyali.

UFH Vice-Chancellor Professor Sakhela Buhlungu has described Queen Noloyiso as someone "who was committed to serving her people and making use of all available instruments to improve the quality of their lives".

"I recall with great pride how she welcomed us at Mngqesha Great Place on several occasions. The university is grateful to her for always attending our May Graduation Ceremonies – together with a large entourage from the AmaRharhabe Kingdom. She was indeed a treasured stakeholder", said Prof Buhlungu.

The University of Fort Hare community in its entirety extends deepest condolences to Isizwe samaRharhabe. Rest in Peace Kumkanikazi. Aah Noloyiso!

Issued on behalf of University Management
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