

Traditional leaders must stop fighting

Deputy minister speaks out against divisions at Mpondo cultural festival

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Small business development deputy minister Zoleka Capa has called on traditional leaders to unite and not to let infighting bring the institution into disrepute.

Capa, a traditionalist and proud AmaMpondo princess, said infighting among traditional leaders was weakening the institution.

She was speaking at a commemoration service for the late ANC MPL and senior traditional AmaMpondo leader Ntsikayezwe Twentyman Sigcau, who died in car accident in 1996.

The commemoration, where a 2m-tall government-sponsored monument was unveiled by public works MEC Babalo Madikizela and Capa, was the highlight of the colourful three-



ROYAL AWARD: Descendants of Tiyo Soga accept the posthumous King Sigcau Bravery Award on behalf of their great great grandfather. Looking on, far left, is festival chair Nzululwazi Jongilanga Sigcau. Second and third left are Siphwiwo Soga and Pezi Soga. Handing over the award is Alfred Nzo speaker Simthembile Kulu, with Phiwokuhle Soga and Zikhona Soga on the second right and far right. Picture: LULAMILE FENI

day Mpondo Culture and Heritage Festival held at Lwandlulubomvu Great Place at Matshona village near Ntabankulu over the weekend.

Capa said disputes over traditional leadership positions had created animosity among royals.

“All the bleeding is because we have moved our goalposts.

“All royal houses must go back to the basics and be united as African people.

“The time you spend pulling each other apart is destroying our nation,” Capa said.

The Faku-ruling royal clan of

AmaMpondo is badly divided, with the Sigcau family fighting over the sovereignty of AmaMpondo.

The families of the deposed Eastern Mpondoland King Mpondombini Sigcau and of his nephew, King Zanozuko Sigcau, are not on speaking terms.

The festival, launched in 2006, is aimed at promoting unity among AmaMpondo, showcasing their heritage and contributing to development.

Neither Zanozuko’s nor Mpondombini Sigcau’s family members attended the event.

AmaMpondo aseNyandeni King Ndamase Ndlovuyezwe Ndamase’s wife, Queen MaDosiini Ndamase, led a large delegation from her kingdom to the event.

King Ndamase’s brother, Mlimandlala Ndamase, received the Nkosi Ntsikayezwe Sigcau Award conferred posthumously on his father, Phondolwendlovu Zanembeko Ndamase.

Others honoured were:

- Reverend Tiyo Soga (King Sigcau Bravery Award);
- Dr Yondela Ndema (Queen MaMjoli Award);
- National House of Traditional Leaders deputy chair, Nkosi-kazi Nomandla Nosandi Mhlauli (Queen MaSarhili Award);
- South African poet Jessica Mbangeni (Queen Majali Award); and
- Princess Celenhle Dlamini of

Ubuntu Institute received the Princess Stella Sigcau II Award

Ndema said: “It’s deeply humbling and I feel honoured.

“The award makes me feel like I’ve done something right in my life and all the hard work was not in vain.”

She is the executive for group ethics and compliance on behalf of Barloworld.

Siphwiwo Soga said: “We are privileged, pleased, honoured and humbled to receive this special award on behalf of our great great grandfather, Tiyo Zisani Soga – an intellectual, translator, writer, journalist, human rights activist, composer of hymns, ordained priest [and] one of the forefathers of Black Consciousness.”

Soga was born at Mgwali in Stutterheim in 1829 but moved to Thuturha, near Centane where he died in 1871.

Ntabankulu mayor Tsilen Sobuthongo said the government would build a multipurpose centre at Matshona village to commemorate Sigcau and promote AmaMpondo culture as well as tourism.