



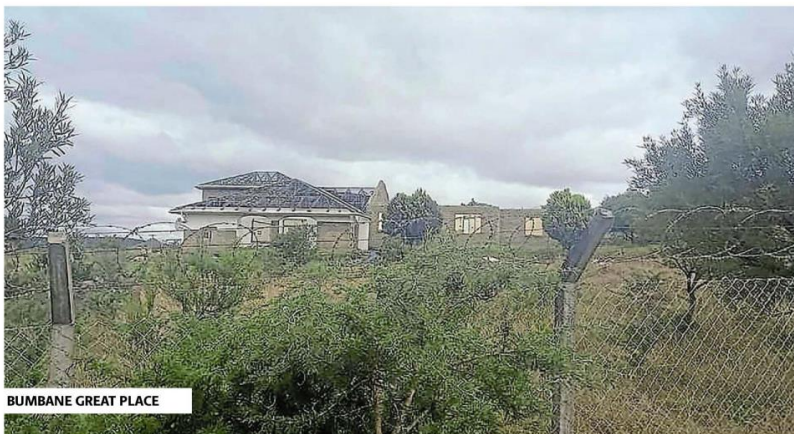
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INTO DISREPAIR



MNGQESHA GREAT PLACE IN QONCE



BUMBANE GREAT PLACE



concerns about the lack of maintenance and a follow-up letter was written to him in June. AmaMpondomise King Luzuko Matiwane said it was almost seven years since the kingship was restored after more than 116 years without recognition.

Matiwane's spokesperson Nkosi Phakamisa Zwelakhe Tyali said the situation of the great place was disheartening.

"The king is using his own salary to build his great place as there is nothing coming from the government.

"There had been a court order forcing the government to build the king offices and a palace and provide staff.

"But none of those are happening.

"We are speaking here of a king, not any kind of traditional leader or a headman," Tyali said.

AbaThembu King Buyelekhaya Dalindyebo's spokesperson, Prince Mthunzi Ngonyama, said: "We are supporting any calls that say there should be renovations in our kingdoms. It is not just the buildings that are a challenge but also the resources.

"Ward councillors have offices and resources, but traditional leaders have to beg government to provide them with resources.

"It is rare to find palaces with photocopying machines," Ngonyama said.

"The only repairs that ever been carried out at Bumbane were minor issues like fixing the ceilings and these were only done when there was a visit by senior government officials.

"It is very embarrassing to host visitors in our palaces, given our state of affairs," he said.

Speaking on behalf of AmaMpondo, Nkosi Ayanda Faku said no major renovations had ever been carried out by government in their place.

"Government says it has no budget," Faku said.

"We have been left to fend for ourselves here in Mpondoland.

"The last time we saw government's involvement was when former minister of public works Stella Sigcau who built us a multi-purpose hall, Faku said.

Sigcau, former prime minister of the then Transkei government and daughter of AmaMpondo king Botha Sigcau, was public works minister from 1999 to 2006.

In Nqadu, Prince Ntsikayezwe Sigcau said they had written to Cogta in the province, numerous times.

"Roofs are leaking, doors are damaged. The palace is in urgent need of major renovations," Sigcau said, adding that the situation

I would like the provincial government to own those properties and ensure that they meet the standards of kingdoms or monarchs like in other parts of the world

was so dire that they were using makeshift bolts to close the doors.

"We sent pictures to a senior Cogta official who never bothered to respond," Sigcau said.

When the Dispatch contacted provincial Cogta spokesperson Mammkeli Ngam, initially referred the paper to the provincial public works and infrastructure department whose spokesperson Siphokazi Ncanywa referred the paper back to Cogta.

Ncanywa said: "We can only undertake the renovations at Cogta's instructions as we are only the implementing agent."

Ngam confirmed they had received requests from the kingdoms about the renovations.

"Cogta budgets for the construction, renovations and maintenance of such buildings.

"However, Cogta is still engaged with the provincial and national departments of public works and infrastructure to verify the ownership of such buildings as per the government asset register," Ngam said.

He said the asset register for the kingdoms was unavailable at the provincial department of public works and infrastructure.

But Ncanywa, on Friday, said the asset register was supposed to be with Cogta, "as they are the custodian of the buildings".