

SPECIAL OFFICIAL FUNERAL SERVICE
FOR HIS MAJESTY KING

Goodwill Lwelithini kaBhekuzulu

Thursday, 18 March 2021



14 July 1948 – 12 March 2021

Tribute to Isilo

Born: 1948

Coronation: 1971

Departure: 2021

USodidase!

INkonyan' encane kaNdaba

Edid' imibala

Umphikeleli wensizwa

Ngob' ephikelel' amadod' akwaZulu

Esephelelwe ngamandla

ISILO

ISILO was both the longest-serving and oldest monarch not only in Zulu history but in South Africa. On 3 December 2021 he would have marked exactly 50 years on the throne. He was a direct descendant of the legendary King Shaka kaSenzangakhona who united Nguni people to become the globally renowned Zulu Nation. ISILO was the son of King Cyprian Bhokuzulu Nyangayezizwe kaSolomon and Queen Thomo Jezangani, the daughter of Thayiza of the renowned Ndwandwe people.

ISILO was not only the Monarch of the Zulu Nation, within and beyond the borders of KwaZulu-Natal but he was also the sole monarch of the province of KwaZulu-Natal. He was affectionately called by his people, young and old, as ISILO samaBandla Onke, Ongangezwe Lakhe or uMnguni Omnyama.

At the time of his untimely departure, he was the longest reigning Zulu Monarch since King Mpande kaSenzangakhona. He was coronated in 1971 at the age of 23, with the royal status under the threat of being diminished by the then apartheid government, which referred to ISILO as a paramount chief – a description unknown to the Zulu Nation and language.

However, just as it happened to the reigning King's great-grandfather, King Dinuzulu kaCetshwayo, he remained ISILO samaBandla Onke to his people to this very day. As the custodian of Zulu traditions and customs, ISILO's service had underlined how tradition

serves as a source of unity in society and as tangible proof of common values which bind communities together in evolving times. He was a steady compass point and had consistently upheld the timeless values upon which KwaZulu-Natal and the country are built: tradition, respect, wisdom and deference.

ISILO succeeded in bringing dignity to the throne and his people. For close to five decades he ensured that the Zulu monarchy was not only an institution for ceremonial occasions but also of value that contributes to the country's public service, social cohesion and economic imperatives.

ONGangezwe Lakhe positioned himself well to respond to pressing issues of the day and championed causes that were not widely recognised or fashionable, but have a lasting social value. In a province and country faced with a myriad of social challenges, ISILO always used his influence as King to personify a moral high ground.

Until the very last days of his reign, he remained a quintessential statesman, culturist, philanthropist, a patriot and an internationalist – a leader of all seasons. ISILO has been credited for not only transcending history by reviving and promoting age-old cultural heritage but also building a traditional governance institution that is compatible with democratic age.

Well-renowned for championing the war against HIV and AIDS, especially among the youth, and also recognising them as the future of the nation, was a strong passion for the reigning King. Many government leaders all over the world have acknowledged his efforts as a King.

The Unifier

In understanding the value of peace and social cohesion in KwaZulu-Natal, and in understanding the dynamics around political parties and the sensitivities of citizens, ISILO launched the KwaZulu-Natal Public Peace Process. This initiative firstly acknowledges that peace is not an event but a process that goes far beyond public relations and sponsored initiatives. It also acknowledges that peace among institutions does not necessarily translate into citizen's peace.

Secondly, the initiative correctly acknowledges that there is always a human dimension to conflict and peacemaking, and that conflict is not just a clash of institutions, thus it is not true that only parties in conflict should find a solution. Lastly and perhaps most pivotal, ISILO's KwaZulu-Natal Public Peace Process acknowledges that conflict does not only affect political parties in conflict, but also damages social cohesion and negatively impacts investments.

Pursuant to his efforts to allay conflict ISILO – in his role as a champion of cultural diversity and harmony – used culture to forge unity among citizens of all races and religions, instilling values back into communities where the poor and socially marginalised are cared for and looked after.

Cultural ceremonies such as UMkhosi WoMhlanga and UMkhosi WoSwela have contributed to the moral well-being of young maidens and boys, which helped to curb the spread of HIV and AIDS. ISILO launched a number of national campaigns, including citizen educational programmes, and also with civil-society organisations, faith-based organisations and government to campaign against the killing and discrimination of *iziNgane zoFuzo* (albinos).

A Conservationist and Philanthropist

An avid conservationist and a caretaker of nature, ISILO was at the forefront of the war against rhino poaching. He argued against confining this fight through the signing of international treaties between states and conservationist group campaigns only. In this regard, ISILO partnered with Ezemvelo KwaZulu-Natal Wildlife in an initiative aimed at educating citizens about the dangers of rhino poaching in the province and the continent.

Through his charitable organisation, the King Zwelithini Foundation, ISILO supported charitable causes and advanced the interests of vulnerable members of society. The foundation mainly supports philanthropic initiatives such as HIV and AIDS, community hospices, cultural heritage and social cohesion, as well as organisations dealing with socially vulnerable groups (the elderly, women, youth and persons with disabilities). The foundation was a vehicle in which ISILO demonstrated his love and care for his people.

Programme

SPECIAL OFFICIAL FUNERAL SERVICE FOR HIS MAJESTY KING GOODWILL ZWELITHINI KABHEKUZULU

Thursday, 18 March 2021

**KwaKhethomthandayo Royal Palace
Nongoma**

Programme directors:

Minister Nkosazana Dlamini Zuma and Prince Qedi Zulu

- 10:00** National Anthem
- 10:05** Opening Prayer: **Chaplain-General Monwabisi Jamangile**
- 10:08** Welcoming Address: **Inkosi Mangosuthu Buthelezi**
- 10:15** Tribute on behalf of Amakhosi: **Inkosi PHD Chiliza**
- 10:20** Musical item
- 10:25** Tribute by a sibling: **Princess Thembi Ndlovu**
- 10:30** Introduction of The President by **Premier Sihle Zikalala**
- 10:35** **Eulogy by His Excellency President of the Republic of South Africa, Mr Cyril Ramaphosa**
- 11:15** Eucharistic Service by **Archbishop Thabo Makgoba**
- 11:55** Vote of thanks: **Prince Mbonisi Zulu**
- 12:00** SANDF Ceremonial Elements: **Chaplain-General Jamangile**
- 12:10** Announcements

National Anthem

Nkosi sikelel' iAfrika
Maluphakanyisw' uphondo lwayo,
Yizwa imithandazo yethu,
Nkosi sikelela, thina lusapho lwayo.

Morena boloka setjhaba sa heso,
O fedise dintwa le matshwenyeho,
O se boloke, O se boloke setjhaba sa heso,
Setjhaba sa South Afrika - South Afrika.

Uit die blou van onse hemel,
Uit die diepte van ons see,
Oor ons ewige gebergtes,
Waar die kranse antwoord gee.

Sounds the call to come together,
And united we shall stand,
Let us live and strive for freedom,
In South Africa our land.



REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

