

**BESTOWING HONOUR ON ROYALTY: A CASE STUDY OF
THE MPHAPHULI DYNASTY**

By

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(i)

DECLARATION

I declare that the study **BESTOWING HONOUR ON ROYALTY: A CASE STUDY OF THE MPHAPHULI DYNASTY** (mini-dissertation) hereby submitted to the University of Limpopo, for the degree of Master's in African Languages has not previously been submitted by me for a degree at this or any other university; that it is my work in design and execution, and that all material contained herein has been duly acknowledged.

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V.S. MMBARA

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DATE

(ii)

DEDICATION

I would like to dedicate this work to:

- My husband, Thoga Nthihi Musanda Vho-Mmbara.
- My mother: Khadzi Khulu ya Ene Makwarela Vemba la nwenda,
- Madala Mphaphuli Maraganedzha (late).
- My children:

Lucky;

Ntavhanyeni;

Takalani; and

Aluwani.

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ABSTRACT

The purpose of this study is to investigate the issue of bestowing honour to royalty in the Mphaphuli dynasty.

The investigation focuses on the origin of the Mphaphuli dynasty. The Chieftainship has been traced right from the beginning when they arrived in South Africa until the current era. According to sources that have been consulted, the chief's subjects used to respect him/her. Instructions given by the chief used to be carried out in a more positive way than it is in the present era.

The socio-economic activities are also covered in the study. It has been shown that chiefs in the Mphaphuli dynasty are no longer getting what they are entitled to. Many subjects no longer find it necessary to participate in traditional activities such as *Tshikona* and *Domba*. The money that is supposed to be given to the chief no longer goes to him as it used to be due to modern social and political factors.

The study also focuses on the impact of politicians on the status of the Mphaphuli dynasty. The democratic era has brought many changes when it comes to the aspect of the chief's authority. The functions of the chief are not clearly defined in the Constitution. By the look of things, some of the chief's functions have been stripped off. For instance, the Thulamela Municipality has the right to give people residential sites. The chief is not consulted when this is being done. Money collected from buyers of sites goes to the Municipality. Civic associations on the other hand are always at loggerheads with chiefs. The chief's subjects are sometimes encouraged to defy his commands.

The study highlights critical challenges chiefs in the Mphaphuli dynasty are facing. It reveals the fact that subjects are confused as to who has the final authority, the chief or the municipality? Things will run smoothly in the dynasty when the chief's roles are well spelt out in the Constitution.