

THE UNREST IN OUR COUNTRY: A PERSONAL APPEAL FOR CALM AND RESPECT FOR LAW AND ORDER



Bagaetsho,

It is with a heavy heart and out of deep concern that I am writing to you about the grave security situation in parts of our country currently. For days now we have witnessed violence, destruction of property, looting and most tragically, needless loss of life, particularly in KwaZulu Natal and Gauteng.

Whilst we sympathize with so many in our nation who are struggling, we cannot condone the looting and destruction of property, for it will only land the entire country in more economic hardship. I trust that all members of our community join me in condemning, in the strongest possible terms, this lawlessness, whatever its cause.

As I write, I am encouraged that there are no reports of such indefensible behaviour in our community and ask for your support in ensuring that this remains the case.

The Reaction Force of the Royal Bafokeng Nation (RBN) is on full alert and in close contact with the South African Police Service, the security departments of surrounding mining and other companies, as well as private security companies active in our region.

We have been informed that both the Rustenburg Mall and the Boitekong Mall have been closed as a safety precaution. The local taxi association, we understand, has lent its support to national and regional calls for law and order to prevail.

Please stay close to home if you can, keep calm and be vigilant, but resist taking matters into your own hands.

Should you witness any sort of unrest in our community, please report this as soon as possible, in confidence, to our Reaction Force or the SAPS, any time of the day or night.

The phone numbers you should keep to hand at all times are:

RBN Reaction Force: (014) 566 1301/2

South African Police Service: (014) 566 1700

EMRS & Fire: (014) 566 1331

It is tragic that, at a time when our country is already fighting the daily threat of COVID-19, there is now this new threat. Indeed, this new threat, if not removed immediately, will seriously endanger our ability to fight COVID-19.

Our economy, already struggling before the pandemic and more so since, could be plunged into even greater distress. What we are seeing is damage to businesses and to vital infrastructure, running into billions of Rands, much of it irreparable.

The jobs of tens of thousands of people and the livelihoods of many, many more are at risk because of this new threat. The prospects of economic growth, job creation and poverty alleviation will wane very quickly the longer this situation continues.

My thoughts and prayers are with you all. Please keep yourselves safe, support each other.

Kgosi Leruo Tshekedi Molotlegi

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