

Pillars of Resilience of Traditional Leadership in Vhembe District of Limpopo Province

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ABSTRACT In this paper, it is reported that traditional leaders in Vhembe District Municipality of South Africa have over the years successfully responded and coped with apartheid and democratic systems. This was observed through a study of 14 villages in nine purposively and proportionally sampled Traditional Leadership Councils. A mixed method exploratory and descriptive study was carried out. Thirteen views on how traditional leadership demonstrated their resilience in combating pressure resulting from changes in government over the years were identified. The most common views were that “the institution is planned by God” and “they are closer to the people than their elected counterparts”. There were no statistically significant differences in perceptions due to age, gender and position of authority ($P > 0.05$). These results revealed that there was considerable understanding of the roles and belief in the importance of traditional leadership in rural community development.