

MAYORS (Cllr MVULANE) SPEECH TO THE FREEDOM PARK MPONDO KINGDS COMMEMORATION

30 APRIL 2021

The programme director

Political leadership from various structures

Kings, queens, prince and princess of our country

Mayors and clrs from all municipalities across the country

Freedom Park Management

Nelson Mandela Museum and foundation

Dignitaries from all walks of life

Families of all our heroes and heroines of our struggle

Fallen martyrs

Receive and warm hearted greetings from the Ingquza Hill Community

Let me start by appreciating both the invite and the opportunity to make a presentation in this gathering.

Thanks to Stella Sgcau II, Freedom Park and Nelson Mandela Museum for being part of an initiative to commemorate the Mpondo Kings for their role they played against colonial rule.

Thanks for being considerate of the Ingquza Hill Local Municipality to grace the occasion as it provide us a very good opportune moment to present ourselves.

Mpondoland is one of the Kingdoms under Faku which is today Sgcau clan which has a rich history both politically and economically but that is not explored hence we took this opportunity.

Our condolences to Mr Nxasana who worked very hard to write about the Mpondo liberation route who passed away two weeks ago.

This was an eye opener to most of us as we began to be exposed to the information which was not ever exposed to us or verbally told

Our kings, chiefs, people fought very hard to defend their land from the colonial forces but that history is not written.

Amongst them is Nkosi Ntsikayezwe Sgcau who because of his political ideology was exiled under the banner of the ANC and became the member of legislature of the first democratic government.

The late Nkosazana Stella Sgcau also served the democratic government as the minister of Public works and that meant a lot to us.

The late Minister Scelo Tshiceka hails from the Maramzini area which is a village adjacent to Ingquza Hill site which was a site of Mpondo people point of convergence,

I wish to acknowledge the role played by the Late Govan "Oom Gov" Mbeki who wrote a document on Mpondo revolt

In his paper he exposed the June 6 Ingquza hill massacre which was amongst the first resistance programme led by the African people against colonial rule.

The paper also included the role of Chiefs, reasons for the resistance and consequences thereof.

About 30 people died at the Ingquza Hill and valley as the white minority regime replied with heavy live ammunition and bombs.

200 people were imprisoned and detained in various prisons like Mkambathi, Johannesburg central prison as some were hanged but less is said about those names.

As we speak today some of the victims who are still alive are still not ready to speak about the day as they were psychologically affected.

We have a heritage site where there are graves of those who died and there is also a heritage site but there are serious challenges in terms of provision of human resource and material necessary so as to be running institution.

During the term of Office of Hon Mashatile as minister of arts and culture the liberation route which connects Mbizana and Ingquza Hill was identified as a heritage liberation route.

Ingquza Hill and Holly Cross mission have a significant political history as Holy cross Anglican Mission is the one which housed and schooled the late long serving president of the ANC Tata Oliver Reginald Tambo.

When linking O.R and Ingquza Hill we need not to forget the Holy Cross Mission because of the significance it has.

Nkantolo, Ingquza Hill site were identified as the thee sites to be developed to serve as meseums to provide untold stories and myth against Mpodos'.

We call upon the Freedom Park to assist us as a municipality in persuing the struggle to bring back the bones and remains of all our struggle heroes who perished in African countries and also those whose bones and graves lie somewhere.

I also call for the assistance in perusing the struggle for the full establishment of the site by department of sport arts and culture.

We have a costal belt which is underdeveloped which can be explored for eco-tourism, aqua culture, fishing industry and sporting activities like surfing.

We also boast ourselves of virgin forests, cliffs, falls and valleys which can be used for various activities like film industry development.

As I step down I wish to call upon Freedom Park and Nelson Mandela Museum to consider a memorandum of understanding which will see us working on the above programmes.

We also call to all the developers to come and invest in our area as we have all the necessary resources like land so as to deal with poverty and unemployment in our area.

Lastly I wish to call to the mining sector present here to consider social responsibility as most of our people have been working in the mines and some went home bankrupt and some with incurable diseases.

Thank you