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&
TRIBUTE
ROBERT
SOBUKWE

State of the Province Address



The Northern Cape Provincial Administration seeks to rename the Kimberley Hospital Complex to the Robert Mangaliso Sobukwe Hospital. The announcement was made by Premier Sylvia Lucas during the 2018 State of the Province Address at Mittah Seperepere Convention Centre in Kimberley on Wednesday, 28 February 2018. Premier Lucas has hailed Sobukwe for his selfless dedication towards fighting apartheid. She says the history of Robert Mangaliso Sobukwe would never be complete without referring to the city of Kimberley. This year marks the 40th anniversary of the passing of the Pan Africanist leader, Robert Mangaliso Sobukwe.

Premier Lucas says the honour of renaming the Kimberly Hospital Complex is to retain the revolutionary connection Kimberley as a City has with the South African father of Pan Africanism. "As part of the commemoration of the 40th anniversary of his death, the Province paid tribute to this great leader through a wreath laying ceremony at his home and office located in Galeshewe on

Wednesday, 28 February and a memorial lecture that took place at the Sol Plaatje University the same evening." said Premier Lucas.

She says the provincial government will this year be hosting a Social Cohesion Summit in order to achieve a social compact to build on developmental path to achieve Vision 2040. The Provincial Social Cohesion Summit will serve as a consultative platform for all key stakeholders within the Province to collectively deliberate on programmes required for social cohesion. Premier says the summit will revive a Moral Regeneration Crusade and awaken positive values amongst the communities.

She has also continued to point out that sport in its many codes and disciplines has proven to be a strong foundation to social cohesion. She has tasked the Department of Sport, Arts and Culture to grow the Department's footprint in the province to reach more people.

Lucas says the provincial government will equip the front line staff of its administration with sign language. "The Office of the Premier and the Department of Sports, Arts and Culture will be the torch bearers of this noble and societal empowering initiative.

In our attempt to foster a reading nation, we have opened public libraries in Logaganeng and Churchill in the John Taolo Gaetsewe District, Petrusville in the Pixley ka Seme District and Ritchie in the Frances Baard District." said Premier Lucas.

State of the Province Address



Robert Sobukwe's Legacy Honored

By: Boitshepo Thati

The Northern Cape Provincial Administration has committed to honour the legacy of the late founder of Pan Africanist Congress of Azania, Robert Mangaliso Sobukwe. The MEC for Sport, Arts and Culture Ms. Bongwiwe Mbinqo-Gigaba has laid wreaths at Sobukwe's house and at his office both at Galeshewe township on Tuesday, 27 February 2018. The move was part of provincial government's commemoration of Sobukwe's 40th anniversary since his passing at the Kimberley Hospital in 1978. It preceded the Robert Sobukwe Memorial Lecture which was held at Sol Plaatje University that same evening.

MEC Mbinqo-Gigaba was accompanied by Sol Plaaje University's Professor Patrick Fitzgerald together with councillor Mpho Moshweu from the local Sol Plaatje Municipality and other stakeholders. Councillor Moshweu says Sobukwe was a towering giant who has done a lot for South Africans. *"This year marks the 40th anniversary since the passing of a giant and defender of the Human Rights of Africans during the oppressive apartheid regime. The founder of PAC and African Studies lecturer at Wits University. Robert Mangaliso Sobukwe who died on the 27th February 1978 at the Kimberley Hospital, having played an integral part in defending the rights of many South Africans in the city through his legal practice at Galeshewe"*. said Mpho Mosweu.

Robert Sobukwe was banished to Kimberley by the apartheid government in 1969. He was however never deterred from fighting the system as he started a law operation. Councillor Moshweu says the Sol Plaatje Municipality will use Sobukwe's house to strengthen the city's tourism and teach youngsters about this legend. *"It must be joyful moment to the people of So-bantu to see that they are not forgotten, and Sobukwe's house is still being visited."*

Sobukwe's house should be considered as a monument where school children can visit and learn about the late icon, we also urge the family to kindly open doors and allow tour guides to bring tourists to their house."

Although government is conceding to doing little to preserve Sobukwe's legacy, MEC Mbinqo-Gigaba says consultation process for renaming of the Kimberley Hospital where Sobukwe took his last breath is unfolding. *"We do concede that a lot needs to be done, but Robert Sobukwe they got a trust which is Robert Sobukwe Trust that we are also in negotiation with, of course we will be working with the trust to see how we can assist young people particularly that want to be lawyers in the future."*said MEC Mbinqo-Gigaba.

Stakeholders encouraged the community to become custodians of Sobukwe's legacy. The call is made amidst deteriorating conditions of Robert Sobukwe's office building which sits at historical site of the 1952 Mayibuye uprisings.



Prof Patrick Fitzgerald, MEC B Mbinqo Gigaba & Cllr. Mpho Moshweu

Robert Sobukwe's Memorial Lecture

By: Nelly Pheleu

A political animal, a giant and an intellectual. Those were but a few words in which Professor Reverend Tshepo Lephakga used to describe the renowned struggle icon Robert Mangaliso Sobukwe. Professor Reverend Lephakga was addressing multitudes during the inaugural Robert Sobukwe Memorial Lecture at the Sol Plaatje University on Tuesday, 27 February 2018. The lecture was aimed to commemorating the 40th year anniversary since the death of Sobukwe.

The auditorium was overflowing with intellectuals and community members who were urged to learn more about the stalwart. Professor Lephakga touched on the imprisonment of Sobukwe on Robben Island. He says the system had resorted to keep Sobukwe in a solitary confinement as they feared that he would influence his fellow inmates in a way that could jeopardise the system. *"He was deemed dangerous by the National Party hence Sobukwe was held in solitary confinement, away from other prisoners, being defiant and radical he was banned from having human interactions with other inmates. The apartheid government made his living conditions unbearable in order to break his spirit, but he remained true to his principles."* said Prof Lephakga.

Sobukwe spoke strongly of how black Africans need to liberate themselves from the oppressor. Professor Lephakga says Sobukwe believed in self, suffer and sacrifice principle. His strong convictions and active resistance inspired many other individuals and organizations involved in the anti-apartheid movement. He was released in 1969 under house arrest laws and banished to Kimberley, an area where he could not foster subversive activities. He completed his law degree and established a law firm for the interest of protecting those held unlawfully by the apartheid government.



Professor Reverend Tshepo Lephakga

Fellow counterparts and friends of Sobukwe were in attendance namely Mr Schoolboy " Bra Scholar" Sekgoro and Mrs Kemamang Tshalabala who was the very first employee of Sobukwe's law firm. Mr. Sekgoro was scheduled to say a few words about the stalwart but got very emotional and could not do so. *"I was taken aback by the lecture, I am not the only one who lived with him, there are many others, so I saw it fit to just be a guest".*

During a brief interview with Mr. Sekgoro, he defined Sobukwe as an open and frank individual. *"He would not keep things away from you."* says Sekgoro. His unrelenting belief for the redistribution of land to black Africans was the reason why Sobukwe left the African National Congress to form his own movement the Pan Africanist Congress of Azania. Sekgoro mentioned how he posed questions to Sobukwe,

"How can you be so fearless, moving away from the movement?", Sobukwe answered him by saying *"I serve the people and if it means I have to stand alone I will"*. Sekgoro defined Sobukwe as a selfless human being, powerful and passionate for the growth of his people, *"Many say Mandela died for the land, but Sobukwe was killed for the land."*



Community members

Joke Of The Week

There was a preacher who fell in the ocean and he couldn't swim. When a boat came by, the captain yelled, "Do you need help, sir?" The preacher calmly said "No, God will save me." A little later, another boat came by and a fisherman asked, "Hey, do you need help?" The preacher replied again, "No God will save me." Eventually the preacher drowned & went to heaven. The preacher asked God, "Why didn't you save me?" God replied, "Fool, I sent you two boats!"

Inspirational Quote of the Week

By: Ben Opperman



The most important lesson I've learned over this past year is don't let anybody make you cruel. No matter how badly you want to give them a taste of their own bitter medicine, it is never worth losing yourself.

Have a blessed weekend

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A Child in Sport is a Child out of Court



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