



SEKHUKHUNE
District Municipality

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Office of
The Executive Mayor

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Date : 21st September 2017

To : Journalists / Producers / Presenters

RE : SEKHUKHUNE COMMEMORATES THE 1958 SEBATAKGOMO UPRISING

The 23rd September 2017 has been set aside by the Sekhukhune District Municipality to celebration Heritage Day. It is against this background that Manganeng village in Makhuduthamaga Local Municipality has been chooses as a perfect host for this year's activities.

This is because, besides the rich political history of Sekhukhune, Manganeng village has been instrumental in the emancipation of our country. One such history is the **1958 Sebatakomo Uprising**. Sebatakomo saw the proposed reforms of the system of black rule and restructuring of the settlements and the agricultural improvements as attack and undermining of Traditional Leadership, causing mass poverty, stock culling and unnecessary over-control of the traditionally settled communities' livelihood.

That spark came on 16 May 1958. King Morwa-motshe Sekhukhune and his wife Queen Mankopodi Thulare were deported and banished to Cala in the Transkei. There was a huge meeting outside the Bantu Commissioner's offices at Schoonoord where the Bapedi nation demanded the return of their King. Kgoshi Johannes Phaswane Nkadimeng of the Batau ba Manganeng, Moopong, was very vocal in that meeting.

After the meeting a police van was sent to arrest him. Villagers who couldn't allow the police van to leave with their chief were shot. People were injured and killed in that scuffle. In Manganeng homes and businesses of collaborators were burnt and some were killed. In Mhlaletse an attempt was made on the life of acting-King Kgobalale Sekhukhune. In Madibong Kgoshi Kgolane was killed as a key Ierenjara in the area by revolters, key amongst whom was the tribal-wife Mmadinoge Kgoloko. The uprising reached Mphanama, Makgane and other villages. This caused the general mass uprising.

“It is in this context, that government having pronounced that this is the year of Oliver Reginal Tambo, that this heritage month, Sekhukhune District Municipality honours and pays tribute to those gallant heroes and herions of not only Sekhukhuneland, but the whole country as a whole. Sekhukhune District celebrates the unity, diversity and cohesion amongst all its people” says Executive Mayor Cllr Keamotseng Stanley Ramaila.

As Sekhukhune honours the Year of Oliver Reginal Tambo, in celebrating of cultural heritage, Swazi, IsiNdebele and Sepedi culture and language will dominate the festivities through food, song, dance, attire and language.

And a critical part of the activities of the day will include Indigenous Language Promotion which will involve more that 200 learners from across the district municipality schools, who will collapse in debate, poetry, reading and drama, using Sepedi, IsiSwati and IsiNdebele.

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Issued by: Sekhukhune District Municipality

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