

NATIONAL INTERFAITH COUNCIL OF SOUTH AFRICA



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COMMEMORATION OF THE LIFE AND TIMES

OF

REV MANGENA MAAKE MOKONE

(1851-1931)

Date: 1-2 December 2016

Venue: Freedom Park

Invitation

The board of Directors of the National Interfaith Council of South Africa (NICSA) has pleasure to invite you to the organizing committee of the life and Times of Rev. Mangena Maake Mokone the founder of the Ethiopian movement.

The Ethiopian movement was underpinned by the philosophy of African Redemption (Psalm 68:31). This philosophy popularly known as “Ethiopianism” catalyzed the birth of Pan Africanism and the African cultural Renaissance. Thus “Ethiopianism” provides the historical and philosophical basis for the moral vision of the founders of our constitutional democracy.

Rev. Mangena Maake Mokone was awarded the national order of the Baobab in platinum for his contribution to the development of African Ethiopian Liberation Theology that underpinned the moral vision the founders of our constitutional democracy.

On the 14 December 1992 president Nelson Mandela said to the Free Ethiopian Church of Southern Africa that:

“The centenary of the Ethiopian Church should have been celebrated throughout the length and the breadth of our country because it touches all the African people irrespective of their denomination or political outlook. The free Ethiopian church of Southern Africa is the only surviving institution that is in the hands of the African people. This is a remarkable feature for which we have to give credit to the leaders of this church throughout the difficult years of final dispossession of our people. Indeed our people were not only dispossessed of their land and cattle but also of their pride, their dignity and their institutions. In celebrating this century you have my brothers and sisters, disproved the lie that African people cannot run their own institutions”.

Rev. Mangena Maake Mokone epitomizes the philosophy of “Ethiopianism” (i.e. African Redemption) which inspired the moral vision of our constitutional democracy.

South Africa is culturally, religiously, and linguistically diverse society. The commemoration of the life and times Rev Mangena Maake Mokone will afford South Africans an ample opportunity to promote interfaith and intercultural dialogue necessary for the creation of a socially cohesive and prosperous society.

OBJECTIVES

The deepening moral degeneration (or decay) and related social ills are an indictment on faith-based organisations to engage in self-introspection and self-correction rather than apportion the blame to government for crime and corruption and social ills. Today, society is plagued by racism, xenophobia, religious, and political intolerance, the triple-challenge of poverty, unemployment, and inequalities. And yet, faith-based individuals have not come up with for instance, a programme to combat racism, xenophobia, religious intolerance, and community based development.

The main objective of the conference is to develop an inter-faith programme of action and inter-faith community, private, and public partnerships for social and economic development.

COMMEMORATION

OF THE LIFE AND TIMES

OF

REV, MANGENA MAAKE MOKONE

PROVISIONAL PROGRAMME

DAY 1: 1 DECEMBER 2016

TIME	TOPIC	SPEAKER
8H30-0H09	REGISTRATION	
09H00-9H15	OPENING REMARKS	PROF DAVID MOSOMA DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON CRL COMMISSION
9H15-9H30	INTERFAITH PRAYER	BISHOP MOSES MAKHAFOLA
9H30-9H40	NATIONAL ANTHEM	
9H40-10H00	OBJECTIVES OF THE CONFERENCE	PROF CHARLSE NWAILA DIRECTOR-GENERAL, DEPARTMENT OF COOPERATIVE GOVERNANCE AND TRADITIONAL AFFAIRS
10H00-10H15	INTRODUCTION OF KEY NOTE SPEAKER	DESMOND VAN ROOYEN MINISTER OF CO-OPERATIVE GOVERNANCE AND TRADITIONAL AFFAIRS.
10H15-10H45	RECOVERING THE MORAL VISION OF THE FOUNDERS OF OUR CONSTITUTIONAL DEMOCRACY FOR SOCIAL COHESION AND NATION BUILDING	KEYNOTE SPEAKER: HON CYRIL RAMAPHOSA DEPUTY PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF RSA
10H45-11H00	TEA/COFFEE BREAK	
11H00-11H30	THE HISTORY OF THE ETHIOPIAN MOVEMENT AND ITS CONTRIBUTION TO THE BIRTH OF PAN AFRICANISM AND THE AFRICAN CULTURAL RENAISSANCE.	DR. MATHOLE MOTSHEKGA CHAIRPERSON OF NICSA
11H30-12H00	THE EVOLUTION OF THE ECUMENICAL MOVEMENT AND ITS CONTRIBUTION TO SOCIAL COHESION AND NATION BUILDING	BISHOP SIWA PRESIDENT OF THE SOUTH AFRICAN CATHOLIC BISHOPS CONFERENCE.
12H00-12H30	THE DEVELOPMENTAL ROLE OF THE ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH IN SOUTH AFRICA	BISHOP
12H30-13H00	PROPHETIC AFRICAN THEOLOGY FOR	PROPHET RADEBE

BOARD OF DIRECTORS GOGO MBELE, BISHOP MOSES MAKHAFOLA, AVHASEI MULOVEDZI, DR. MATHOLE MOTSHEKGA, PROF DAVID MOSOMA

	SOCIAL COHESION AND NATION BUILDING	
13H00-14H00	LUNCH	
14H00-15H00	CRL REPORT ON THE COMMERCIALIZATION OF RELIGION	ADV. EDDY MAFATSA
15H00-15H15	TEA/COFFEE BREAK	
15H15-16H00	DISCUSSION	

DAY 2: 02 DECEMBER 2016

TIME	TOPIC	SPEAKER
09H00-11H00	PARTNERSHIPS BETWEEN GOVERNMENT AND FAITH-BASED ORGANIZATIONS INPUTS BY DEPARTMENTS	MR DAVID VAN ROOYEN. MINISTER: CO-OPERATIVE GOVERNANCE AND TRADITIONAL AFFAIRS
		MR SENZENI ZOKWANA MINISTER: AGRICULTURE, FORESTRY
		MR NATHI MTHETHWA MINISTER: ARTS AND CULTURE
		MS BATHABILE DLAMINI MINISTER: SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT
		MS BOMO EDNA MOLEWA MINISTER: ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS
11H00-13H00	<p>COMMISSION</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. THE INTERFAITH ALTERNATIVE FOR SOCIAL COHESION AND NATION BUILDING 2. THE ROLE OF FAITH-BASED ORGANIZATIONS IN A DEVELOPMENTAL STATE 3. RELIGIOUS INTOLERANCE PEACE AND DEVELOPMENT 4. PARTNERSHIPS BETWEEN GOVERNMENT AND FAITH-BASED ORGANIZATIONS 5. STATE OR SELF-REGULATION OF FAITH-BASED ORGANIZATIONS 6. SELF-FUNDING OR COMMERCIALIZATION OF 	

	CHURCHES	
13H00-14H00	LUNCH	
14H00-16H00	REPORT	
16H00-17H00	CONFERENCE DECLARATION	
17H00	CLOSURE	

DAY 3: 03 DECEMBER 2016

TIME	ACTIVITY	WHERE
TO BE FINALIZED	NATIONAL INTERFAITH PRAYER FOR RECONCILIATION AND HEALING	AT FNB ARENA

PROFILE OF REV MANGENA MAAKE MOKONE

BOARD OF DIRECTORS GOGO MBELE, BISHOP MOSES MAKHAFOLA, AVHASEI MULOVHEDZI, DR. MATHOLE MOTSHEKGA, PROF DAVID MOSOMA

(1851-1931)



Rev Mangena Maake Mokone was awarded the national order of the Baobab in gold for his exceptional contribution and pioneering spirit in the formation of the African Ethiopian Movement, and as a champion of African and liberation theology.

Rev. Mangena Maake Mokone was born in 1851 at Bokgaga village, Tzaneen in Limpopo province. His life is synonymous with the fight against racism within the church as well as his passion for education. Mokone studied theology at the Endendale Seminary in Pietermaritzburg. After completing his theological studies Mokone was appointed to a preaching circuit of the Methodist church in Natal.

In 1882, the church posted him to Pretoria as a probationary minister. Here Mokone played a key role in the founding of the Kilnerton Training institution, which was a secondary and post-secondary training institution for African youth. Among his protégés at Kilnerton were Dr. Nthato Motlana, Joe Nhlahla and the revered Sefako Mapogo Makgatho who was elected the second president of the African National Congress (the ANC) in 1917. At the Kilnerton Training institution, Mokone played an instrumental role in the struggle against racism when he challenged and objected to the racist practices of the church.

Up until 1886, the white and African Ministers in the Methodist church had held joint meetings. This non-racial culture came to an end when the Methodist superiors decided to segregate the meetings along racial lines. African ministers were also required to have a white chairman and secretary present at their meetings. Mokone objected to this practice which he felt undermined the dignity of Africans, and which ultimately led to his decision to leave the Methodist church,

he presented to them a Declaration of Independence with points of principle against the church.

Rev. Mokone not only broke away from the Methodist church but also founded the Ethiopian church of South Africa in November 1892. The church derived its name from psalm 68:31 which says: princesses shall come out of Egypt and Ethiopia will again stretch her hands to god.

Together with 50 members Rev. Mokone conducted his first worship service of the Ethiopian church of South Africa in Marabastad. Mokone believed that Africans also deserved direct access and communication with god and that they did not need to reference themselves to Europe to be Christians. Mokone started this church as an all-inclusive and non-ethnic church. His stance opened the way for the formation of many non-ethnic social and religious organizations under the Africanist spirit of the Ethiopian Movement. This allowed Africans in South Africa to organize themselves outside the exclusive ethnic groups. In 1895, after learning that the African Methodist Episcopal church (AME) in the United States of America (USA) had black leadership, Mokone and other Ethiopian Christianity resolved to affiliate with this church.

In their 1896 conference in Pretoria, Mokone and Rec. James Dwane and Xaba were elected to travel to the USA in their consummate the affiliation with the AME. Unfortunately Mokone could not raise enough capital to travel the USA and Dwane travelled alone to conclude the agreements with the AME church.

The strength of Mokone's character was evident when he accepted the pre-eminent position assumed by Dwane who was made the general super ident of the AME in South Africa. This is despite the fact that Mokone himself was the founder of the Ethiopian church and had initiated the move to join the AME church. This portrayed him as a selfless leader who did not put personal ambition ahead of his principles.

Mokone is known for making a practical and significant contribution to the African church history in South Africa. Mokone received the National order of the Baobab in gold in recognition of his pioneering spirit in the formation of the African Ethiopian Movement, and as a champion and leader who laid the solid foundations of what would later germinate into African and liberation theology.