

GOVERNMENT NOTICES • GOEWERMENTSKENNISGEWINGS

DEPARTMENT OF ARTS AND CULTURE

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SOUTH AFRICAN HERITAGE RESOURCES AGENCY

**DECLARATION OF THE GRAVES OF DR JAMES MOROKA AND MR THOMAS
MAPIKELA AS NATIONAL HERITAGE SITES**

By virtue of the powers vested in the South African Heritage Resources Agency, in terms of section 27 (5) of the National Heritage Resources Act (No. 25 of 1999) SAHRA hereby declares the:

The Grave of Dr James Moroka, located in the Thaba Nchu Cemetery 5162 Brant Street

And

The Grave of Mr Thomas Mapikela, located in the Hereo's Acre in Phahameng Cemetery, Bloemfontein

Statement of Significance

The graves of the iconic leaders of the liberation struggle movements are a tangible representation of the intangible heritage aspects of organised resistance and defiance campaigns, against successive racially repressive regimes. They transcend different responses to eighty (80) years of intensification of repressive laws from deputations, passive resistance, defiance campaigns to armed struggle and mass struggles. They represent a conviction to a just political cause and attainment of political freedom leading to denial of personal liberties and an ultimate price of banning orders, house arrest, political assassinations, banishment, exile, political imprisonment and in-detention death.

Dr JAMES SEBE MOROKA – President of the African National Congress (1949-1952) (A medical doctor, Surgeon and politician, who was the president of the ANC between 1949 and 1952)

Dr James Moroka was the great grandson of Chief Moroka 1 of the Barolong Boo Moroka at Thaba Nchu.

He was a medical doctor and politician. In 1942 he became involved in the ANC and with the support of Walter Sisulu, Nelson Mandela and their militant Congress the Youth League. He was became president of the ANC in 1949. During his presidency the ANC became more militant. In April 1952 a mass meeting was held in Red Square, Fordsburg (now called Freedom Square) and in the main centre of the Union, which he addressed.

THOMAS MTOBI MAPIKELA – Founding Father of the African National Congress in 1912 (Political icon, tireless campaigner for African civic representation, craftsman, builder and businessman and symbol of resilience and unity)

In 1909 he was a member of the South African Native Convention deputation to London, England, which tried unsuccessfully to persuade the British parliament to reject the draft constitution. He was elected as a speaker of the South African Native Convention, at the founding Convention in January 1912 a position he held until 1940. He was part of a delegation that went to the Minister of Native Affairs and protested against the impending Native Land Act. He further went to persuade the British King and parliament as apart of a delegation to reconsider the Native Land Act accepted by Parliament in 1913.

Mapikela was one of the organizers of All-African Convention held in 1935, to oppose the second Hertzog Bills and the removal of Africans in the Cape from the Common Voters roll. In 1937 he was elected to serve in the Native Representative Council. Two years before his death in 1943 he was a member of the African Atlantic Charter Committee, which had to study, and discuss problems arising out of the Atlantic Charter in so far as it related to Africa.