

GOVERNMENT NOTICES • GOEWERMENTSKENNISGEWINGS

DEPARTMENT OF ARTS AND CULTURE

NO. 414

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SOUTH AFRICAN HERITAGE RESOURCES AGENCY

DECLARATION OF THE GRAVES OF MR JOHN "BEAVER" MARKS AND MR MOSES KOTANE 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 burial site of Mr John "Beaver" Marks, located on a Portion of the Farm Doornpan 193 Portion 3 IP Toevlug, Ventersdorp, North West Province

And

The burial site of Mr Moses Kotane, located at the home of Mr Molefe, on Portion of the Farm Sandfontein 112, Pella Tampostad, North West Province.

Statement of Significance

The graves where the remains of these iconic leaders were repatriated from Russia are a tangible representation of the intangible heritage aspects of organised resistance and defiance campaigns, against successive racially repressive regimes. The sites commemorate the achievements and contributions they made to the freedom of South Africa and their associations to pivotal points in our history such as the 1946 Mineworkers Strike, the Defiance Campaign, the Treason Trial, Umkhonto we Sizwe, Bandung Asian – African Conference, as well as their work in the External Mission abroad. The South African Government through partnership with its Russian counterpart, repatriated the remains of JB Marks and Moses Kotane back to South Africa and their birth places in the North West Province.

MR JB MARKS was a political activist and trade unionist, Chairperson of the South African Communist Party (1962 – 1972) and Member of the National Executive Committee of the ANC.

A founding member of the South African Congress of Trade Union, JB Marks was instrumental in the organization of African mineworkers and the formation of the African Mineworkers Union (AMWU). In 1946 under his leadership AMWU organized what was to be the largest mineworkers strike at the time in South Africa. The strike highlighted the poor working conditions and means by which the cheap African Mine labour system was maintained, increased labour consciousness and shifts in political thinking. As the Chairperson of the SACP and member of the ANC National Executive Council, his courageous leadership saw him guide the liberation movement through some of its most difficult times. In 1962 he was sent to Tanzania to join Moses Kotane at the External Mission Headquarters, where he continued at the heart of the struggle. In 1969 he chaired the Morogoro Conference in Tanzania which took the critical decision to open the ANC membership to all races and established the Revolutionary Council which was to guide the armed struggle.

MOSES KOTANE Moses Kotane was Secretary General of the South African Communist Party (1939 – 1978) and Treasurer General of the ANC (1968 – 1978) played a significant role in the liberation struggle and history of South Africa. The declaration of Kotane's grave commemorated the achievements and contributions he made to freedom in South Africa.

Moses Kotane was a highly influential leader within the ANC and the South African Communist Party and has been considered a "Giant of the Struggle". Through his position as the chairman of the South African Federation of Non-European Trade Unions he was able to assist in laying the foundation for unity between the working class and national movements. He was involved in almost every major activity of the liberation movement, showing his dedication and loyalty to the cause. He was sent to Bandung for the Asian-African Conference in 1955 which resulted in the eventual formation Non-Alignment Movement. His involvement in the conference integrated the ANC into the international anti-imperialist movement. He served on the Atlantic Charter Committee which drafted the African Claims, was part of the All African Convention Conference, drafting of the ANC Constitution, Defiance Campaign, and the External Mission in close collaboration with OR Tambo where he assisted with support both financially and materially for all members in exile as well as necessary training and other logistical support for Cadres of Umkhonto we Sizwe.

Schedule

Site name	Erf No/ Farm	Province	Town	Municipalities	
				District Municipality	Local Municipality
JB Marks Burial Site	Portion of the Farm Doornpan 193 Portion 3 IP	North West	Ventersdorp	Dr Kenneth Kaunda District Municipality	Ventersdorp Local Municipality
Moses Kotane Burial Site	Portion of the Farm Sandfontein 112	North West	Pella	Bojanala District Municipality	Moses Kotane Local Municipality

The demarcations of the Grave Sites are as follows:

Site Name	Latitude	Longitude
JB Marks Burial Site	26°19'25.52"S	26°48'34.26"E
	26°19'26.75"S	26°48'34.36"E
	26°19'25.74"S	26°48'31.68"E
	26°19'27.12"S	26°48'31.83"E
Moses Kotane Burial Site	25°27'44.00"S	26°29'18.00"E

The Moses Kotane Burial Site is located at the homestead of Mr Molefe, Pella, located at approximately 25°27'44.00"S; 26°29'18.00"E with a radius of 5m bound by the stonewall is declared.