

Inheemse Spoor

Celebrating Khoi-Khoi Indigenous Knowledge

Uitgawe 11

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VERSKUILDE AGENDAS BY KHOISAN BERAAD

ZENZILE KHOISAN

Minagtend. On-reëlmatig. Onderduims. Verskuilde agenda. Ongegronde, aaklige aantuigings.

Dit is slegs 'n paar van die woorde wat afgevaardigdes gebruik het om die Khoi-San beraad te beskryf.

Dié beraad, wat bekend was as die Inklusiewe Konvensie met Khoi-San gemeenskappe, veral die vyf hoof groepe naamlik die Griekwa, Nama, San, Koranna en Kaapse Khoi, is deur die Departement van Samewerkende Regering en Tradisionele Sake (CoGTA) by die Birchwood-sentrum in Boksburg byeengeroep.

Talle van die afgevaardigdes was egter skepties en het gemeen dat daar 'n verskuilde agenda was en soos talle ander byeenkomste die afgelope 30 jaar, het hulle besef dat dit maar net weer 'n "praterij" was.

Hul was van mening dat hierdie beraad hoofsaaklike-byeengeroep is om van die Nasionale Khoi-San Raad (NKSR) ontslae te raak.

Miinister Velenkosini Hlabisa het hierdie vrese probeer besweer deur in sy openingstoespraak te beklemtoon dat die beraad nie 'n platform is vir die ontbinding van enige organisasie nie.

ALL-INCLUSIVE NATIONAL CONVENTION FOR KHOI-SAN LEADERS



"Daar sal geen verkiesings oor die volgende drie dae plaasvind nie," het die minister benadruk.

Hy het diegene gewaarsku wat verdeelheid wil saai onder die fondasie nasie, en gesê "so lank as wat julle verdeel is en nie verenig nie, sal julle stemme nie gehoor word nie".

Die ander redes vir die beraad, volgens die minister, is "om die integrasie van Khoi-San leiers en gemeenskappe in bestaande forums van demokrasie te fasiliteer om betekenisvol deel te neem en Khoi-San kwessies aan te spreek".

"Ons wil ook 'n padkaart opstel om die proses na die statutêre erkenning van die

Khoi-San gemeenskappe te lei," het die Hlabisa uitgestip.

Dit was gou duidelik dat die byeenkoms se eintlike agenda was om van die Nasionale Khoi-San Raad (NKSR) ontslae te raak, want aan die einde van die driedaagse beraad is 'n sogenaamde "Super-struktuur" wel op die been gebring. Dit ten spyte daarvan dat die meerderheid van die Khoi-San groepe daarteen gestem het – dus: 'n totale minagting van demokratiese prosesse.

Die NKSR het die afgelope 24 jaar intensief gewerk vir die grondwetlike erkenning van Khoi-San gemeenskappe in Suid-Afrika, met min of geen hulpbronne van die

regering van die dag, en waar hul pleidooie op dooie ore geval het.

Die NKSR het die beraad ingelig dat hulle vir meer as 30 jaar geen hulpbronne van die regering ontvang het nie, en dat daar beslis nie enige salarisse betaal is soos wat talle groepe oor die jare beweer het nie.

Die regering het 'n ietswat siniese manier om die Khoi-San byeen te roep, hoop te gee, en dan gebeur niks – tot die volgende "byeenkoms".

Net soos die geval by Goudini in 2012; die geval by Kimberley 1 en Kimberley 2 in 2013 en 2014; en die geval by Arniston in 2015.

Ten spyte daarvan dat die

beraad nie 'n "verkiesings-konferensie was nie", het die Minister gevra dat die afgevaardigdes moet stem vir die ontbinding of versterking van die NKSR, en of daar 'n "super-struktuur" op die been gebring moet word.

Drie van die vyf groepe se afgevaardigdes (Nama, Griekwa en Kaapse Khoi) het teen die voorstel gestem dat die NKSR ontbind moet word, en het ook die voorstel van die vestiging van 'n "super-struktuur" verwerp. Hulle het wel gestem die die NKSR met bykomende lede uitgebrei moet word.

In die geval van die San was daar twee terugvoerings-verslae – een wat die NKSR ondersteun het en een wat die voorstel van 'n super-struktuur ondersteun het.

Hoewel die Koranas ten gunste van 'n superstruktuur was, was daar ook 'n groep wat daarteen gekant was.

Ten spyte daarvan dat die meerderheid hul keuse tydens die wegbreeksessies duidelik gemaak het, het minister Hlabisa, nietemin voortgegaan met die aankondiging dat daar wel 'n super-struktuur gestig sal word, "omdat daar nie eenstemmigheid was nie".

Vervolg op bl. 2

Confusion and spreading of false narratives

A dialogue with leaders of Khoi and San structures convened by Minister Velenkosini Hlabisa of CoGTA at the Birchwood Centre between 14 and 16 February intensely assessed the current situation of Khoi and San peoples in South Africa.

Since the conclusion of the All-Inclusive Convention with Khoi-San Communities much confusion has emerged over what was actually resolved at the conference. Many ask if the conference has disbanded the National Khoi and San Council (NKSC) and whether this structure, which has over decades led

the resurgence campaign of SA's foundational peoples has been replaced by a new structure – the so-called National Khoi-San Interim Forum.

The actual record of the event reveals a completely different narrative, notably that, from Minister Hlabisa's own directive, this was not an elective conference and it was not convened to disband or dissolve any structure.

Hlabisa's proposition to create the super-structure actually only received the support of less than 40% of the delegates who participated in the commissions that reported to the plenary. It was rejected by

the Nama, Griqua and Cape Khoi with the San divided and the Korana commission recording support for the proposition, while another group rejected it.

The proposition put forward by Minister Hlabisa, overriding the overwhelming voice of delegates, is that the Interim forum was established, creating confusion from which a poisonous false narrative has been constructed.

In truth, the NKSC was not disbanded and the Nama, Griqua, Cape Khoi and NKC have not provided the 20 delegates for the proposed 35 member structure, which effectively stops it from launching.

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Verskuilde agenda en verspreiding van vals nuus



“Daar moet nou net oor ’n naam besluit word,” het Min. Hlabisa voortgegaan, asof daar niks fout is nie.

Die beraad het voortgegaan om die demokratiese proses te verontagsaam en daar is op ’n naam van die superstruktuur besluit, naamlik die Nasionale Khoi-San Interim Forum, wat saam met die NKSR sou bestaan.

Van die afgevaardigdes wou weet wat geword het van die beginsel van ’n meerderheidstem? Ander het ook beswaar gemaak oor die teenwoordigheid van twee politieke partye – die Patriotic Alliance (PA) en die Mkhonto we Sizwe Party (MK) – en wou weet wie het besluit hulle in die beraad se prosesse kon inmeng.

Dit is natuurlik die grondwetlike reg van enige burger van die land om

aan politieke partye te behoort, maar talle afgevaardigdes meen dat daar politieke inmenging is in die interne kulturele sake van die Khoi en San.

In ’n Ope Brief aan Minister Hlabisa op 16 Februarie, het die NKSR sy ontevredenheid en beswaar teen die proses tydens die beraad geopper.

“Ten spyte van die feit dat drie van die vyf hoofgroepe die uitbreiding van die NKSR met bykomende lede aanbeveel het, sien ons die vestiging van ’n nuwe struktuur, wat kommerwek oor politieke inmenging, veral van politieke partye soos MK en PA, wat die Korana-groep verteenwoordig,” skryf die sekretaris van die NKSR, Frans Kraalshoek, in die ope brief.

Die NKSR-sekretaris het ook verwys na die feit dat die regering nie die aanbevelings van die Suid-Afrikaanse Menseregte Kommissie oorweeg of ingestel het nie.

“U is daarvan bewus dat een van die belangrikste aanbevelings was om dadelik stappe te neem in die rigting van die statutêre erkenning van die NKSR.

Hierdie boodskap is tydens die beraad van 14–16 Februarie 2025 aan alle afgevaardigdes, departemente en leierskap herhaal, insluitend u self en die adjunkministers.

“Die stigting van die Nasionale Khoi-San Interim forum, wat blykbaar die Menseregtekommissie se aanbevelings opsy skuif, dreig om die Khoi-San gemeenskappe verder te verdeel.

Soos uitgedruk tydens die onlangse beraad, was daar ’n duidelike verbintenis dat die NKSR onaange- raak sal bly, en dit is noodsaaklik dat konkrete verwysingsraamwerke daargestel word vir albei liggame wat vorentoe beweeg,” het die NKR leierskap in die Ope Brief geskryf.

Smear campaign continues

NKSC

NATIONAL KHOI SAN COUNCIL

OPEN LETTER TO THE MINISTER OF CoGTA, VELENKOSINI HLABISA

Date: 21 February 2025

Dear Minister Velenkosini Hlabisa

I hope this message finds you well. I am writing to address the persistent misinformation circulating on social media regarding the status of the National Khoi San Council (NKSC) following the convention held from 14 to 16 February 2025.

During your opening and closing remarks, it was made clear that the conference aimed to facilitate the full participation of Khoi San communities, with crucial rules established to avoid elections and the disbandment of existing organisations.

Your assertion that the NKSC would remain intact, while allowing for the establishment of an additional structure – the National Khoi San Interim Forum– has not been effectively communicated to all stakeholders.

Despite these clarifications, a smear campaign

continues on various social media platforms, propagating unfounded accusations that mischaracterize the NKSC’s status. This misinformation causes confusion among the Khoi San communities, particularly those who could not attend the convention, and undermines the trust and unity we strive to maintain.

Given the gravity of the situation, we urgently call upon you to officially rectify the misinformation that is circulating. Reinforcing your previous statements will greatly assist in alleviating the confusion and reaffirming the NKSC’s role and existence.

We sincerely hope you will take a strong stance in defending your earlier remarks and ensure that accurate information reaches all Khoi San communities and the public.

Sincerely,
F. Kraalshoek
Secretary, National Khoi San Council

Minister reminded of HRC’s recommendations

In another Open Letter from the National Khoi and San Council, authored 18 February 2025, Minister Velenkosini Hlabisa of CoGTA was reminded of the recommendations by the South African Human Rights Commission in its detailed report investigating the conditions of Khoi and San peoples in SA. That report, the open letter stated, clearly recommended statutory recognition of the National Khoi and San Council as the primary instrument to interface with government.

This is specifically on the process by which Khoi and San communities and leadership would be legally rec-

ognised through the Traditional and Khoi-San Leadership Act.

The open letter also expresses concern about how the National Khoi-San Interim Forum, the new structure proposed by Minister Hlabisa during the All-inclusive Convention with Khoi-San Communities, could, in effect, create confusion and serve as an instrument that would divide Khoi and San communities.

(See excerpt from a newspaper report on page 3 and the complete letter from the NKSC on page 13)

Wolver confusion creates chaos

ZENZILE KHOISAN

There can be no clearer example of how the door to chaos can result from confusion than the recently concluded All Inclusive Convention of KhoiSan Communities. It convened by the Department of Cooperative Governance and Traditional Affairs (CoGTA) between 14 and 16 February at Birchwood centre in Boksburg, Gauteng.

As a delegate to this convention, I had an uneasy feeling of déjà vu, an unsettling feeling that we have been here before and that, on numerous occasions before, we had experienced the euphoria, only to be reminded of how terribly we can be left twisting in the breeze, with no tangible results to show to our people.

The first thing that should clearly be noted, right at the outset, is that the “Birchwood Summit” as it has been dubbed by some of the delegates who participated, is not something which is either new or unusual. There have been numerous events of this nature that have been convened over decades by different departments and associated structures of the South African government, including its national, provincial and municipal tiers.

Also included in the list of institutions that have convened dialogues and consultations are the Pan South African Language Board (PANSALB), the Commission for Cultural, Religious and Linguistic Communities (CRL) and the South African Human Rights Commission (SAHRC).

There have also been specific consultations with Khoi and San leaders and communities which sought to canvass their views on matters ranging from legislation on traditional courts to indigenous knowledge and the recognition of Khoi and San traditional and indigenous medicine knowledge and practitioners.

It is therefore a complete falsehood that government does not understand Khoi and San peoples or possess a vast arsenal of knowledge or institutional memory of who South Africa’s first peoples descendants are.

The government certainly cannot claim ignorance of what underwrites the Khoi-San’s passionate campaign for recognition, restoration and restitution. The record of our encounters reflects the passionate outcries of Khoi and San descendants whose ancestors were the first freedom fighters, the first to be dispossessed and the first to be subjected to the most vicious forms of colonial and racist dehumanisation and suppression.

Regarding the All-Inclusive Convention with Khoi-San Communities at the Birchwood Centre, the dialogue was called to hear from those whose voices have been suppressed. It was to address their

indigenous languages, as did the constitution, should be given priority to what we have seen is that the inclusion of sign language has been our recommendation for the rest of the constitution. In this respect we are certainly not alone. The Pan South African Language Board has not done enough to promote and have the sign language of the Khoi-San officially recognised,” Ntsheni said.

The HRC chair revealed that he also extremely concerned that the Commission on Khoi-San Matters, which has been established in terms of the Traditional and Khoi-San Language Act to process, investigate and make recommendations on restoration for Khoi and San leadership communities had not vigorously engaged with the HRC about the report and, if needs be, they to engage government with recommendations on possible amendments to the legislation to ensure engagement with the report. Ntsheni said numerous examples have been cited where government departments, that have been tasked with the implementation of the SAHRC’s recommendations, have not taken any steps at the moment to investigate over whether the findings and recommendations of the HRC’s findings, and if needs be, we should have to take it all the way to the constitutional court to confirm that findings indeed are binding.

In the case of the Khoi and San, the SAHRC issued a report with recommendations under the sonship of Dr Barney Ryan but that report was entirely

issues which had been constantly moved by the whims of politicians to the back burner of urgent national matters. However, since the convention, a false tide of optimism has heralded the event as a critical breakthrough.

It was at this Convention that the South African government, led by Minister Velenkosini Hlabisa of CoGTA brought together, what on face value, was a widely representative group of Khoi and San leaders from around the country. It was reportedly to discuss frustrations with the slow pace of recognition for Khoi and San leaders and communities and the possibility of creating a “widely representative superstructure” to serve as an interface between government and Khoi and San.

On the surface, this initiative could be easily seen as a progressive initiative, reflecting a serious at-



ZENZILE KHOISAN

tempt by government to be proactive and responsive to a groundswell of grievances from the Khoi and San leaders and their communities.

However, it now appears this this initiative could undermine the leaders within our communities who have, over a very long period of almost 30 years, carried our cause.

These leaders, and those in the National Khoi-San Council, who have driven the recognition process. They have challenged government for not responding to the marginalisation of First Nation descendants and being tone deaf to the demands that it scrap the derogatory classification of Khoi and San peoples as coloureds, are now being pushed aside.

Reflecting on the intense interactions and, sometimes, very charged atmosphere at the convention, there is now growing concern that there was another agenda at play.

Several delegates are now seriously questioning whether the convention was actually a “Trojan Horse” allegedly convened to streamline communications between the Khoi and San and government and speed the recognition process, but actually meant to serve another objective.

An excerpt from Eerste Nasie Nuus newspaper, where commissioner Chris Nissen of the Human Rights Commission, admitted that the government has no will to implement the recommendations the Commission made regarding the Khoi and San.



A Khoi-San delegation attending the Kimberley 2 conference more than 10 years ago. The writer says nothing significant has come out of these conferences and there is still no change in the lives of SA’s first nations people.



IN RETROSPECT: Representatives of different KhoiSan groups gathered at the offices of the Human Rights Commission in Cape Town in February 2003 where the HRC revealed the report and recommendations about KhoiSan human rights abuses. RIGHT: André Gasm and Chris Nissen with the report in 2003.

PICS: ZENZILE KHOISAN

No political will to implement HRC KhoiSan recommendation

ZENZILE KHOISAN

The newly appointed chairperson of the South African Human Rights Commission (SAHRC) has expressed “grave concerns and disappointment” that the findings and recommendations of the Chapter 9 institution on Khoi and San descendants have not yet been implemented by the South African government.

The commission’s chair stated that he was aware of and recognised “the anger and frustration of the people on the ground” who had participated in public hearings and committed with the SAHRC’s extensive investigation into the human rights status of Khoi and San descendants in South Africa more than six years ago.

The SAHRC investigation and subsequent report followed a litany of requests to the commission. In various branches of the South African government as well as international bodies such as the United Nations and the African Commission on Human and Peoples Rights, the South African government and its associated agencies and institutions had been asked for human rights violations and the marginalisation of the descendants of South Africa’s First Peoples.

“There are very real concerns that there is no political will to implement the far-reaching findings and recommendations of the South African Human Rights Commission, despite the fact that the report was issued more than six years ago, in which the HRC directed different government departments to act on and implement its recommendations and report on progress of these actions within specific periods, which apparently has occurred,” Ntsheni stated.

indigenous languages, as did the constitution, should be given priority to what we have seen is that the inclusion of sign language has been our recommendation for the rest of the constitution. In this respect we are certainly not alone. The Pan South African Language Board has not done enough to promote and have the sign language of the Khoi-San officially recognised,” Ntsheni said.

The HRC chair revealed that he also extremely concerned that the Commission on Khoi-San Matters, which has been established in terms of the Traditional and Khoi-San Language Act to process, investigate and make recommendations on restoration for Khoi and San leadership communities had not vigorously engaged with the HRC about the report and, if needs be, they to engage government with recommendations on possible amendments to the legislation to ensure engagement with the report. Ntsheni said numerous examples have been cited where government departments, that have been tasked with the implementation of the SAHRC’s recommendations, have not taken any steps at the moment to investigate over whether the findings and recommendations of the HRC’s findings, and if needs be, we should have to take it all the way to the constitutional court to confirm that findings indeed are binding.

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PRESENTING AT PORTOLIO COMMITTEE: NKSC members front from left is Cecil le Fleur (chairman), Frans Kraalshoek, (secr.) and Andrew le Fleur. At the back is Stanley Peterson and Chantal Revell. **RIGHT (front)** Deputy Min. Zolile Burns-Ncamashe, Deputy Minister N.D. Masemole of CoGTA and NKSC member John van Rooyen (back). **PICS: GCIS**

FRANS KRAALSHOEK



GLEN TAAIBOSCH,
PORTFOLIO COMMITTEE

ANDREW LE FLEUR AND
FRANS KRAALSHOEK

MIN. VELEKOSINI THLABISA

STANLEY PETERSON

NKSC has informative meeting with Parliament’s portfolio committee

FRANS KRAALSHOEK, SECRETARY OF THE NKSC

The National Khoi San Council (NKSC) convened an important meeting with members of the Portfolio Committee, initiated by the chairperson of the committee on 23 January 1994.

The session began with a recap of the previous discussions held between the Minister of Cooperative Governance and Traditional Affairs (CoGTA) and the NKSC.

The primary aim was to update the committee on the NKSC’s ongoing efforts and explore potential support avenues.

Key Highlights of the Meeting included an overview of the NKSC work; Legislative Developments, representation and elections; support and funding and the upcoming convention (that took place from 14–16 February in Boksburg).

Overview of the NKSCs Work

The chairperson of the NKSC provided a detailed overview of the council’s history and achievements, emphasising its contributions to the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (UNDRIP) and its collaboration with the Indigenous Peoples of Africa Coordinating Committee (IPACC).

Successful dialogues with the Human Rights

Commission were noted, alongside recommendations from a recent visit by the Special Rapporteur.

Legislative Developments

The establishment of Act 3 of 2019, which provided constitutional acknowledgment of the Khoi San communities, was highlighted.

The impact of language development initiatives on Khoi San communities was discussed, showcasing the positive strides made in preserving their linguistic heritage.

Representation and Elections

- o The NKSC has conducted elections in various years (1999, 2005, 2007, 2009, and 2011) to ensure representation of voices not included in the main groupings: Griqua, Nama, Cape Khoi, San, and Koranna.
- o International engagement with the UN remains a cornerstone of the NKSC’s achievements.

Support and Funding

- o The NKSC requested further assistance from the Portfolio Committee, particularly regarding financial support for travel and accommodation, which is currently provided by the Department.
- o The committee was directed to the appropriate ministry concerning trust issues affecting the NKSC.

Upcoming Convention

The Minister of CoGTA announced a convention for Khoi San communities scheduled for February 14-16, 2025. This gathering aims to include diverse voices not represented in the NKSC, ensuring a comprehensive dialogue without undermining the council’s authority.

Unity and Collaboration

The NKSC emphasised that it cannot be replaced by government initiatives, asserting its independence as a non-statutory body. The council highlighted the importance of unity among Khoi San communities to effectively engage with the government.

The Minister urged participants to utilise the upcoming convention as a platform for constructive dialogue, stressing the need for a united front to enhance support from the government.

The meeting concluded with a call for all Khoi San communities to attend the upcoming convention with the intent to foster positive change. The Secretary of the National Khoi San Council, F. Kraalshoek, encouraged communities to set aside political divisions and work collectively for their common goals. The NKSC remains committed to advocating for the rights and interests of Khoi-San communities and looks forward to continued collaboration with government entities to achieve these objectives.



AT THE GATES OF PARLIAMENT: Above and right: Members of the NKSC before their meeting with the Parliament’s Cooperative Governance Portfolio committee.



Speakers of 5 Khoi-San groups give their input

Everyone responsible for the struggle of KhoiSan

CECIL LE FLEUR – CHAIRMAN OF THE NKSC

As the NKSC, we don't stand here to defend ourselves or to say that we haven't made mistakes. We are after all, only human.

We are mature enough to admit our mistakes, and this meeting held here is in fact taking place to rectify mistakes.

We hear a lot of accusations, but we try to remain calm, as leaders.

Regarding the issue of the |Xam people, as the NKSC going forward, we will look into it, so that we can get clarity on what exactly is meant by the input given.

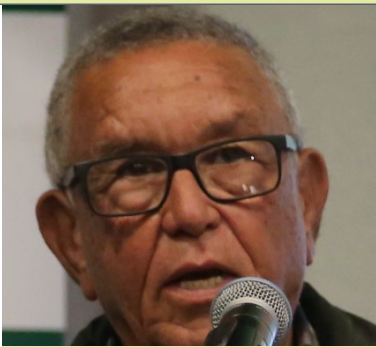
We are all different with different opinions, but the NKSC want to reaffirm that we are here to avail ourselves and to

continue with the work that we have done.

Some people claim that they were paid for the "little" that they did. We never received a cent from government or anyone else. We use our own money.

The (CoGTA) department knows and should come forward, telling the people that they have never given any money to the NKSC. We ask the government to clear up these accusations.

We would like the discussion of a working plan of Action to take the Khoi and San forward. When we leave here, there should be a plan. There are no dividends for dwelling on the past. The future of the Khoi-San lies in the hands of



CECIL LE FLEUR

everyone and not the NKSC.

As the NKSC have done, others should also work for the good of the Khoi-San without the expectation of any compensation.

I gave up my teaching profession for 20 years to commit myself fulltime to the struggle of the KhoiSan people, especially on the international platform.

I am not bringing roses to the government, however, when Minister Velenkosini Hlabisa came into CoGTA, he did what no other minister has done. In less than three months he has done more than any other minister before him has done.

No acknowledgment for work NKSC has done

BAREND VAN WYK – GRIQUA

The Griquas have dealt with the Premier of the Northern Cape regarding the recognition of the Griqua people.

During the National Griqua forum they spoke on issues involving not only the Griqua, but all Khoi and San people, raising the issues that should be addressed in parliament.

The Griquas were part of the establishment of the National Khoi-San Council and that body cannot be abandoned. The Griquas need to support the NKSC.

There are challenges that the Khoi-San face and we are here today, with a platform created by the Minister of CoGTA. We need to listen to what the minister has addressed, and the Khoi

and San people should be clever and listen to the Holy Spirit and give honour to it.

We must not murmur, as that will cause another delay towards our goal.

There are challenges in the NKSC, but a door has been opened via the NKSC. The greatest challenge is that the Khoi-San has not acknowledged the work done by NKC since 1995.

The Khoi and San should do introspection in order to establish what it is that they indeed want.



BAREND VAN WYK

What is status quo of applications

MELVIN ARENDSE – KORANA

Koranas have their squabbles but when it comes to important issues there is unity. During the course of the conversation, clarity must be provided with regard to key issues affecting our people. The Khoi and San are not divided, but the process has divided the people.

Conditions cannot be attached to freedom. The 1868 border control Act was bad then there was Act 3 (of 2019). The application forms (for recognition under the TKLA) that are to be submitted don't speak to the reality of the customs and culture of the five groups.

The Korana has made 22 applications, but what is the status quo of the applications? There must be a struc-

ture in place that speaks to the heritage of the Khoi and San.

A formal proposal must be tabled to government, which is consultative. The Korana have a responsibility to speak on a world that has passed.

The Khoi and San had to face colonialism in the past, and currently still have to face bodies preventing their progress. There is an appeal for the Khoi and San to go forward, but this cannot be done without resources.



MELVIN ARENDSE

Govt aware of our issues

ZENZILE KHOISAN – CAPE KHOI

The people to whom the Khoi-San make their appeal must understand that we are very firm in our appeal, showing the government that we are a people worthy of restitution, recognition, restoration and respect.

We need to have an unencumbered discussion, based on the truth, and it is an untruth that the government of South African doesn't know what our issues are.

We should not forget that the government of South Africa is a signatory to the 2007 United Nations Declaration of the Rights of Indigenous People and that, that signatory, now near-

ly two decades later, requires validation. There are a number of issues that have been brought forward to government. Why the Khoi-San are

aggrieved, particularly in the cognition process, is that the issues brought to government started with CODESA, where the future of the country was being decided.

The NKSC fought for the rights of the Khoi-San without money. The weight of history doesn't allow us to cut and

paste the narrative according to what we feel should have been done. If one looks at how the TKLA was written, it is so that most people won't fit the criteria, as one would refer to fitting through the eye of a needle.



ZENZILE KHOISAN

Respect tradition of Nama culture

KAPT. AFRIKANER – NAMA

This is a consultative session, but I want to know how it will work with the Nama, as they are divided into clans, and currently there are 13 Nama clans. Historically in Namakwaland there were five recognised Nama clans – Afrikaner, Witbooi, Goliath, Lambert and Frederick Witbooi. After 1905, the Nama Herero genocide, the Nama clans were spread across South Africa and the Orange River.

If the government wants to take us seriously, they should respect the tradition of the Nama culture.

There is a supreme council, elders

council and they have a captain operating as King of the clan. These Gaobs come together in a structure called the Nama Leaders Traditional Authority. Every captain is autonomous and

each clan's independence is respected and all have the same power and authority. The Nama people are here to say "We want to work together". We acknowledge the differences, but we have to respect these differences. Regarding the alienation of land

and identity, we give thanks to the government now, as the leaders before didn't take the Khoi-San matters as seriously as the current government.



KAPT. AFRIKANER

Do not build on our blood



PC CEDAS

PARAMOUNT CHIEF CEDAS – |XAM

We are all part of |Xam and we are here to represent our people. The colonial people forced our forefathers out of the country.

Many challenges have been faced by the First Nation people and the NKSC was nowhere to be found.

People are building houses on our blood.

In this meeting people say they want unity, but when they go home they are not unified.

I am happy to see so many faces here, representing their tribes.

Some have offended me, but I did not say anything. You cannot sit on the NKSC when you are not familiar with the culture, language and traditions of the First Nation people.

We are the first nation of this country and our forefather's bones are still here, they build over the them such as the SAKK office.

Not with one voice

MARKUS JETEMBU – SAN

The San are responsible for the markings/rock art across South Africa. In terms of the previous speakers, some of the things mentioned, the San is in agreement with, but not all of it.

Every year this type of platform is provided, however, nothing comes of it. The minister spoke of having one voice, but because we don't speak with one voice, we just come to these events for leisure.

Everyone is complaining about the NKC, the San support the NKC, but there is just a problem with equal representation.

We want recognition within our culture, land and language. Even President Mandela asked the question: "Where does the Khoi and San fit into the Rainbow Nation".

There are 11 official languages. The Khoi and San also have languages, but it is not official.



MARKUS JETEMBU

Min. disregards majority at Convention

ZENZILE KHOISAN

Thirty years after democracy in South Africa, senior government leaders have been at pains to deal with the greatest omission at our transition to democracy, the deliberate failure to include Khoi and San leaders in the negotiations that opened the way to democracy.

Facing the indictment and correcting the injustice resulting from this fatal oversight is not an easy matter. Now, under the Government of National Unity, the 7th administration has been faced with the difficult task of answering a groundswell of discontent from Khoi and San descendants who believe that they have a right to recognition, restitution and restoration in the land of their ancestors.

With this background and a record of more than three decades without any definitive outcomes or results, Minister Velenkosini Hlabisa and the ministry of Cooperative Governance and Traditional Affairs responded to the outcry from within the Khoi and San communities.

They've done this by convening a three-day All-inclusive convention with Khoi-San communities in Boksburg, Gauteng from 14 to 16 February.

The convention was comprised of many leaders, structures and perspectives within what is broadly defined as the Khoi and San resurgence. There were also several prominent leaders that were not present as accredited delegates.

Several delegates were therefore concerned that an attempt would be made to bring about the dissolution of the NKSC, which had led the campaign for recognition, or to force a vote for a "super-structure" to replace it.

Min. Hlabisa in his opening comments addressed these fears and concerns when he emphatically stated that "there will be no elections over these three days" and further clarified the matters when he added that "the convention is not a platform to say structures should be disbanded".

He warned against those stoking division among the foundational peoples, specifically stating that "as long as you remain divided and do not unite, your divided voices will not be heard".

The convention, the minister explained, "would mark the process that will result in the full recognition of the Khoi and San in South Africa as a legitimate community in South Africa."

The declared objectives of the convention was to have the Khoi and San community:

- speaking with one voice,
- open doors for them to participate in the country's decision-making processes", and
- this would result in the "full recognition" of the descendants of South Africa's foundational peoples.

Numerous events had preceded the convening of this gathering of leadership from among the Khoi-San peoples, including a mass gathering convened by Sports, Arts and Culture Minister Gayton McKenzie at Kenilworth Racecourse in October 2024.

At that meeting McKenzie proclaimed that "the Khoi-San revolution has begun" and further stated that he had sought and been granted permission from Hlabisa to host the gathering.

This was followed by a meeting with leaders of the National Khoi and San Council on 23 December 2024, and finally a ventilation of pertinent issues at a meeting between the NKSC and the parliamentary portfolio committee on cooperative governance and traditional affairs at parliament on 23 January where, according to NKSC secretary Frans Kraalshoek, "there had been a frank exchange of views and information".

Three weeks after this encounter, Minister Hlabisa gathered representatives from various entities and



MINISTER VELENKOSINI HLABISA

perspectives within the Khoi and San communities into one hall as an "All-inclusive convention."

In his opening address the minister paid tribute to the fallen heroes of the Khoi and San and declared his department's "wholehearted commitment to celebrating the heritage of the Khoi and San" who, he noted, "have a painful history and story to tell".

He noted that what was sought from the engagement was "to have one voice for the Khoi and San community" that would interface with government.

Other primary objectives of the watershed encounter were to facilitate the integration of Khoi and San leaders and communities into "existing forums of democracy" to meaningfully participate and champion Khoi and San matters and "to craft a roadmap" to guide the process towards the statutory recognition of the Khoi and San communities.

He warned against their continued division, saying they will always be on the periphery of governance if they allow themselves to be fragmented.

The minister cautioned delegates that legislation through which Khoi and San leaders will be recognised, such as the Traditional and Khoi-San Leadership Act (TKLA) –currently referred to parliament for review and amendments by the constitutional court – needed to be addressed through the formal

channels and ominously warned that "if you reject the TKLA you will lose your rights".

There seemed general agreement among delegates that the process was firmly in hand and that the gathering would not become an unseemly slugfest where factional agendas are advanced to manipulate outcomes.

However, these desired outcomes, the most pertinent of which would be to emerge with a strong sense of unity of purpose with broad agreement on the main issues, were placed in peril.

These included defamatory statements from the floor, where unsubstantiated attacks were launched on the National Khoi and San Council by a group calling itself the Circle of elders, which was allowed to stand without a proper response.

These events preceded what had been formally laid out in the convention program, notably the breakaway deliberations by delegates into the five groups legally described within the Traditional and Khoi-San leadership Act (TKLA) as constituting South Africa's foundational peoples.

It is only leaders of these specific groups who, under this legislation, are eligible to submit applications for recognition to the Commission on Khoi-San Matters.

The groups were specifically asked to deliberate on whether they supported the creation of a super-structure and to state whether the NKSC should disband.

Towards the conclusion of day two of the convention the five groups reported back to the full plenary on the decisions taken by the Nama, San, Griqua, Korana and Cape Khoi groups.

The Griqua, Nama and Cape Khoi groups all held a similar view, notably that all did not consent to the disbanding of the NKSC or the creation of a super-structure. The San, held two divergent positions and the Korana commission opted for the creation of a super-structure.

It is then, after hearing the overwhelming view from the five main groups, that Minister Hlabisa's pronouncements seemed at odds with the tone he had set at the start of the convention.

He started out by acknowledging that all the presentations had made a call to the issues to be looked at "with the intention of redress."

There was an uproar in the plenary hall when Hlabisa seemed to undermine his own opening position on hearing what had emerged as the majority view.

"We did not agree unanimously that we create a super-structure," he stated, but then went on to state that "one thing we agreed unanimously was that we need to have an inclusive body of the Khoi and San."

Despite the conference not discussing a unified body or its composition, the CoGTA minister then went on to explain that this body would be composed of five members each of the five main groups, five for an additional group and five members for the National Khoi and San Council.

Input of Director General, Zweli Mkhize

What is important is how we will be working together (in terms of a program) to get guidance on how to address Khoi-San issues in the various communities, as these issues have not been receiving adequate attention.

The interaction during the days of CODESA is part of this history, and the interaction with former President Nelson Mandela, which led to the formation of the National Khoi and San Council, is part of the journey.

The fact that there are many issues to raise in the performance of the NKC

and the performance of government, shows that there are gaps in the process of negotiation, and also in the processes of constituting our constitution; in the process of 30 years of democracy, and it indicates that we have to be inclusive as we move into the future.

One of the leaders who prayed spoke about a broken community, but it is not just a community that is broken, but the community was systematically broken by the colonial system.

We need to identify those gaps and these issues must be addressed, not only as Khoi-San, but as South Africans.

The role of parliament is to ensure that government sticks to the program and that they become the Voice of the Khoi and San, ensuring that the government does in fact address the Khoi and San issues.

When they are in Parliament they would like to follow up on matters raised by the Khoi and San, and when the minister is in the department he will make sure that the issues are addressed.

This is the best way to influence the Executive and Parliament.



ZWELI MKHIZE
DG OF CoGTA

NKSR AMPER GEKAAP

Minister ignoreer demokratiese reëls en meerderheidsbesluit

Dis 1992. By die Konvensie vir 'n Demokratiese Suid-Afrika (KODESA) word besin oor die toekoms van ons land en al sy mense.

So het ons gedink, maar toe wyle Opperhoof A.A.S. le Fleur II aansoek doen om aan daai geskiedkundige tafel te sit, was hy geweier. Teen die tyd toe ons swart broers en susters van die sogenaamde tuislande se erkenning in 2004 begin, was ons reeds 12 jaar agter.

Die Griekwas het dit nie aanvaar nie. In 1995 nader hulle die Verenigde Nasies in Switserland en lig hulle in dat Suid-Afrika nie onse menseregte respekteer nie.

Ondanks vise-pres. Thabo Mbeki se beroemde *I am an African* toespraak dat die Khoi-San uitgesterf het (perished), sien pres. Nelson Mandela die lig, bring 'n Griekwa Nasionale Forum op die been en daarna die Nasionale Khoi-San Forum in 1999 – wat later die Nasionale Khoi-San Raad word (NKSR).

Glo dit as julle wil of nie, maar eers **tien** jaar daarna publiseer CoGTA (Departement van Same-werkende Regering en Tradisionele Sake) die eerste wetsontwerp vir onse grondwetlike inskakeling. Verdragingsaktiek.

Intussen ontvang die NKSR slegs geldelike hulp in die vorm van vervoer en akkommodasie en nie derduisende rande in salarisse soos wat hul vyande in vuil Faceboekies skryf nie.

Toe ek in 1987 vir my Ph.D. die waardes van die Khoi-San nagevors het, het twee dinge my getref:

- ons goddelikheid en
- die kulturele beginsel van khoi-namxa-sib: medemenslikheid.

Dok William Langeveldt het dit mooier gestel: mensliewendheid. Ons is 'n baie groot familie en in enige familie is daar verskil van opinies, rusies en daarna weer vrede. Maar as daardie binne-verskille op 'n lelike manier buitentoe geneem word sodat die wêreld en belangrike politici se koppe gevul word met giftige leuens, dan skiet ons onself in die voet.

Ek kan dit nog verstaan van jongmense wat nie weet van die lang pynlike pad wat ons geloop het nie, maar dat ouer Khoi-San wat deel van die UDF was, meedoen aan sulke skanddalige gedrag, is pynlik.

Daar het ons geleer *an injury to one is an injury to all*. As een groot familie bly ons in hierdie land in een kraal en in die middel van daardie kraal is 'n hut – die NKSR onder leiding van Cecil le Fleur.

Toe hy vir my en Prof. Jatti Bredekamp gevra het om die lewensverhaal van sy oupa, A.A.S. le Fleur I op te teken, het ons oor 'n tydperk van 5 jaar duisende kilometers saam gereis. So het ek 'n man met integriteit leer ken en insae gekry in die op-en-

Die bitter pil is dat die minister ons tereg waarsku teen verdeeldheid, maar wat gaan hy nou bereik? SUPER onenigheid en SUPER verdeeldheid, skryf
DR. WILLA BOEZAK



af stryd van die NKSR met CoGTA.

Van die begin af was dit duidelik dat op daai nasionale raad ELKE hoofgroep verteenwoordig sal word: die San/Boesmans, Nama, Kaapse Khoi, Griekwa en Korana. Dit wil sê ons almal. Toe kom misverstande en asprisgeit in wat tot vandag toe nog uitspeel.

In die jaar 1999, toe mnr. Mandela daardie liggaam gestig het, is hul mandaat uiteengesit, naamlik, as die enigste amptelike liggaam met wie die regering sal onderhandel oor ons erkenning. Dit was 'n kabinetsbesluit.

Ongelukkig het hulle ook van die begin af verklaar dat daar nie 'n eerste nasie bestaan nie omdat ons almal Afrikane (Africans) is wat rondgetrek het op dieselfde kontinent, Alkebulan (Afrika) en gesamentlik die inheemse mense van Suid-Afrika is.

Die NKSR het daardie argument verwerp en aangedring daarop dat ons 'n afsonderlike wet kry omdat ons Komvandaan in baie opsigte anders is:

- **Argeoloë** bewys dat deur artefakte in grotte, asook rotskuns ons derduidende jare voor enige ander nasie hier was.
- **Geskiedkundiges** bewys dat ons die eerste vryheidsvegters was – in 1510 en in 1659 met Nomoaä-Doman vooraan. Daarna talle versetsoorloë.
- **Taalkundiges** bewys dat ons in 1595 die eerste was om Afrikaans te ontwerp saam met die Hollanders.
- **Antropoloë** bewys dat ons die enigste groep is wat in 1950 deur die apartheidsregering gedwing was om onself Kleurlinge te noem. Toe ek in 1981 na die magistraatskantoor gaan op Springbok om die naam van ons eerste dogtertjie in te gee en weer om Kleurling in te vul, is ek vertel: “Dominee, as jy dit nie invul nie, sal jou kind ongeregistreerd bly.”

As gevolg van daardie verskille, laat weet die NKSR vir CoGTA dat ons 'n wet moet kry wat óns pas, maar hul versoek is nogmaals geweier. Ons is toe as Afdeling B ingesluit en dit het nare gevolge gehad.

Hewige kritiek teen Afdeling A (Tradisionele Sake) het in die hoogste hof gaan draai. Ek en Cecil het self uit Menseregte-prokureurs se monde gehoor dat hulle graag geregtigheid vir ons wil sien, maar daar is ernstige probleme oor grond in die tuislande asook verdrukking van vroue en gays.

Omdat ons met hulle soos 'n Siamese tweeling vassit in een wet, word die wetsontwerpe elke keer uitgestel of sekere dele afgekeur al is dit nie ons skuld nie. Daaraan kon die NKSR niks doen nie, maar vyande binne ons kraal kruisig hulle.

Kom ons verstaan asseblief dit nou reg: Daardie NKS Raadslede het nie hulle eie belange bevorder nie, maar ons almal s'n.

Eksel self het nooit daarin belanggestel om benoem te word nie, want ons as Kaapse Khoi het onse verteenwoordigers soos stamhoof Poem Mooney, wat ons belange beskerm en bevorder.

Hulle duidelike stemme was genoeg, nie getalle nie. Die twak het begin nadat sommige gevoel het hulle word nie verteenwoordig nie en dat die Raad moet vergroot word. Aan hulle is gehoor gegee en toe word dit uitgebrei van 22 tot 30.

Wat sommige tot vandag nie verstaan nie: as jy 'n Khoi-San is maak dit nie saak wat jou stam of clan se naam is of waar jy woon nie – julle word outomaties verteenwoordig en die Raad baklei vir julle regte.

En stop met die verdagmaking. Ons Rooibosfonds is beveilig deur 'n trust.

Uiteindelik is Wet 3 van 2019 deur pres. Cyril Ramaphosa afgeteken en ons erkenning sou nou moes begin né?

Toe nou nie, want die verantwoordelike minister was meer bekommerd oor sigarette, wat dalk Covid veroorsaak, as ons toekoms.

Die Regering van Nasionale Eenheid (RNE) kom en ons kry vir die soveelste keer weer 'n nuwe minister – agbare Velenkosini Hlabisa. Hy begaan eers die fout om ons byeen te roep op 23 Desember 2024 te Bloemfontein, vergetende dat vir ons kom families eerste tydens Kerstyd en Contralesa (Congress of Traditional Leaders of SA) maak kapse daarteen deur hoofkaptein Aaron Messelaar.

Hlabisa besin en verskuif dit na 14–16 Februarie 2025. Dit was wragtag die eerste keer in 26 jaar dat 'n minister en sy top amptenare die NKSR sien, al was dit met 'n klomp ander. Dis prysenswaardig. Nou waarom was die beraad uiteindelik so 'n groot teleurstelling?

Ons moes toe stem vir 'n groter NKSR of 'n nuwe Super Structure. Hoekom en vir wat? Die meeste afgevaardigdes staan egter sterk en stem dat die NKSR bly en stem téén 'n Super Struktuur.

Maar die minister ignoreer toe demokratiese reëls en kondig teen die meerderheidsbesluit in aan dat albei sal geld. Finish en klaar!

Die bitter pil is dat die minister ons tereg waarsku teen verdeeldheid, maar wat gaan hy nou bereik? SUPER onenigheid en SUPER verdeeldheid. Ons is besig om onse goddelikheid en mensliewendheid te verloor.

Convention ambushed by politicians

AARON MESSELAAR
DEP. SECR GENERAL, CONTRALESA

The convention at Birchwood Hotel was a highly contentious event, particularly for the five Khoi-San groups who felt ambushed by the politicians' tactics.

Before the convention the groups were misled into believing they could only bring five delegates, only to find out that MPs from MK and PA had bused in people.

This is a clear example of unfair manipulation. It is indeed very concerning that politicians had already devised a structure and planned to dissolve the NKSC, which seems to undermine the autonomy



KAPT. AARON MESSELAAR

and self-determination of the Khoi and San communities.

By inviting organisations to make submissions, it appears that the politicians were attempting to legitimise their preconceived plans, rather than genuinely engaging with the concerns of the five groups.

The actions of the politicians have derailed the focus of the five groups, who are advocating for constitutional accommodation based on their First Nation status.

This is a critical issue, as the Khoi and San communities have historically been marginalised and excluded from decision-making processes that affect their lives and lands.

The struggle for recognition and rights is ongoing, and it's essential that the voices and concerns of the Khoi-San communities are heard and respected.



Cecil le Fleur, chairman of the National Khoi-San Council with Kgosi Pilane, Deputy President of Contralesa, at the Opening of the National House of Traditional and Khoi-San Leaders.

NKSC disrespected at opening of Trad House

**CECIL LE FLEUR
CHAIRMAN, NKSC**

I am deeply unsettled and concerned about unseemly events that have occurred related to a poisonous campaign against the National Khoi and San Council that reaches into our National political life. Politicians have descended into the arena in an attempt to destabilise, undermine and ultimately sideline and destroy the NKSC.

The NKSC has over decades led the campaign for the constitutional recognition for Khoi and San people in SA.

These events occurred prior to and during the opening of the National House of Traditional leaders, where all protocols related to the manner in which the NKSC has been treated since our first democratic parliament under President Nelson Rolihlahla Mandela have been violated.

The opening of the National House of Traditional and Khoi-San leaders and the opening of parliament are high level state events that follow well-developed, strict protocols that preserve both the dignity of the event and the dignity of the persons who have been invited to part of these important occasions.

As had been the case for many years, the NKSC has always been invited and has always been treated with the appropriate decorum and respect in the past.

This meant that the chairperson of the National House of Traditional and Khoi-San Leaders has always in their opening welcome statements and protocols recognised the NKSC and its leadership.

Unlike in the past when the NKSC and its leadership was treated with dignity and respect, Kgosi Seahlolo, the chair of the NHTKL, did not recognise the NKSC and its leadership at all during his opening welcoming address, even though he did recognise the leadership of the Contralesa, as also the leadership of Royal leaders of South Africa (ROLESA).

Pres. Cyril Ramaphosa did well recognise the NKSC and stated that the Khoi-San issues are receiving attention, but that is said all the time.

As is customary during the official state lunch, where the NKSC and other institutions have always been asked to give a message of support, this time the NKSC was completely omitted from the program. This grave violation of our dignity and the accepted protocols was reinforced when the NKSC was not invited to be part of the official photo session which records this event for posterity.

Other events in which it has always been

customary for the NKSC to be recognised and participate is during the official state lunch hosted by the NHTKL and the official photo session, where the chair reads out the names of the invited guests who are to be part of the official photographic record of this very important event in our national political life.

What is deeply disconcerting and extremely disturbing is that just before the actual event I received a call from one of the officials involved with the protocols and execution of this event and was informed I no longer could attend the event because the NKSC is no longer the official structure engaged with government on Khoi and San matters.

When I questioned how the decision had been made, the official informed me that the majority of delegates at the All-inclusive Khoi-San Convention, held at the Birchwood centre earlier this month, had voted to disband the NKSC and created a new structure, the so-called National Khoi-San Interim Forum.

I immediately set the record straight and informed the official that he was misinformed and that the exact opposite was true, namely that the majority of delegates had actually voted against the establishment of the so-called super-structure and not to disband the NKSC.

I was later called by Mr Sithole, the secretary of the National House of Traditional Leaders, who confirmed my attendance at the event and reassured me, that I would not be treated in an unbecoming manner, embarrassed or made to feel unwelcome.

A press release, sent out the day before the event, by the media department Minister Hlabisa of CoGTA, seemed to justify my attendance when it stated: "The Minister will be joined by the Deputy Ministers of Cooperative Governance and Traditional Affairs, Prince Zolile Burns-Ncamashe and Dr Namane Dickson Masemola.

Also expected to be in attendance are inter alia, Cabinet Ministers and Deputy Ministers; Premiers; MECs responsible for Traditional Affairs; Kings; Chairpersons and Deputy Chairpersons of Provincial Houses; CONTRALESA; ROLESA; Business and Religious Sectors; NGOs and the National Khoi-San Council as well as Chapter 9 Institutions."

What actually occurred when I, in my capacity as chairperson of the NKSC, attended the opening of the NHTKL was extremely disappointing, a crude and unseemly violation of the protocol with which the NKSC has been treated from the time of President Mandela.

NKSR by opening van NHTKL geminag

**CECIL LE FLEUR
VOORS. NKSR**

Ek is diep ontsteld en oor die onbehoorlike dinge wat tans besig is om hulle af te speel, veral wat betref die aanhoudende en giftige aanvalle teen die Nasionale Khoi en San Raad (NKSR).

Dit is ook onstellend om te sien hoe die politici in ons nasionale politieke lewe inmeng, en uit hul pad gaan om ons te ondermyn.

Dit is alles 'n poging om die NKSR te destabiliseer, te ondermyn en uiteindelik te vernietig – dieselfde liggaam wat die stryd gelei het vir grondwetlike erkenning van die Khoi-San-volk in Suid-Afrika.

Wat my erg ontstig het was tydens die opening van die Nasionale Huis van Tradisionele en Khoi-San Leiers, waar alle protokolle, wat verband hou met die manier waarop die NKSR sedert ons eerste demokratiese parlement onder President Nelson Mandela behandel is, erg geskend is.

Die opening van die NHTKL, asook die opening van Parlement, is hoëvlak staatsgeleenthede wat streng protokolle volg.

Hierdie protokolle is daar om die waardigheid van die geleentheid én die waardigheid van die gaste te bewaar.

Soos dit vir baie jare die geval was, is die NKSR altyd genooi en is hulle altyd met die nodige respek en waardigheid behandel.

Dit was dan ook die gebruik dat die voorsitter van die (NHTKL) in sy openingsrede erkenning gee aan die NKSR en sy leierskap.

Vanjaar het dit nie gebeur nie. Die voorsitter van die NHTKL, Kgosi Seahlolo, het nagelaat om die NKSR of sy leierskap in sy openingsrede te erken.

Dit, terwyl hy wel erkenning gegee het aan die leierskap van Contralesa en die Royal Leaders of South Africa (ROLESA).

Pres. Cyril Ramaphosa het wel erkenning gegee aan die NKSR en verklaar dat die Khoi-San-kwessies aandag geniet, woorde wat gereeld herhaal word sonder enige optrede.

Wat ook voorheen gebruiklik was tydens die amptelike staatsmiddage, was dat die NKSR altyd 'n boodskap van ondersteuning kon lewer. Hierdie keer is die NKSR Verder is die NKSR ook nie genooi om deel te wees van die amptelike

fotosessie nie, wat hierdie gebeurtenis vir die geskiedenis vaslê.

Nog 'n geleentheid waar die NKSR tradisioneel erkenning geniet en deelgeneem het, is die amptelike staatsmiddage wat deur die Huis NHTKL aangebied word.

Normaalweg lees die voorsitter die name van die gaste voor wat deel van die amptelike fotografiese-sessie sal wees. Wat my verder ontstel het, is dat ek net voor die geleentheid 'n oproep ontvang het van 'n amptenaar wat betrokke is by die protokol. Hy het my meegedeel dat ek nie langer die geleentheid mag bywoon nie, omdat die NKSR glo nie meer die amptelike struktuur is wat met die regering oor Khoi-San-sake onderhandel nie.

Toe ek vra hoe hierdie besluit geneem is, is ek meegedeel dat 'n meerderheid afgevaardigdes by die All-inclusive Khoi-San Konvensie, wat by die Birchwood-sentrum in Gauteng gehou is, gestem het om die NKSR te ontbind en 'n nuwe struktuur te skep, naamlik die sogenaamde Nasionale Khoi-San Interim Forum.

Ek het dadelik die rekord reggestel en die amptenaar ingelig dat hy verkeerd ingelig is. Die teenoorgestelde is eintlik waar: die meerderheid afgevaardigdes het teen die stigting van hierdie sogenaamde superstruktuur gestem en nie die ontbinding van die NKSR goedgekeur nie.

Ek is later deur mnr. Sithole, die sekretaris van die NHTKL gebel, wat my teenwoordigheid bevestig het en my verseker het dat ek nie onvanpas behandel sou word, of ongemaklik sou voel nie.

'n Persverklaring wat 'n dag voor die geleentheid deur Minister Hlabisa van CoGTA uitgereik is, het my deelname geregverdig deur te verklaar:

"Die Minister sal vergesel word deur onder andere Kabinets-lede; Konings; Contralesa; RoleSA; die Sake en Godsdienst-sektor; NGOs die Nasionale Khoi-San Raad, sowel as Hoofstuk 9-instellings."

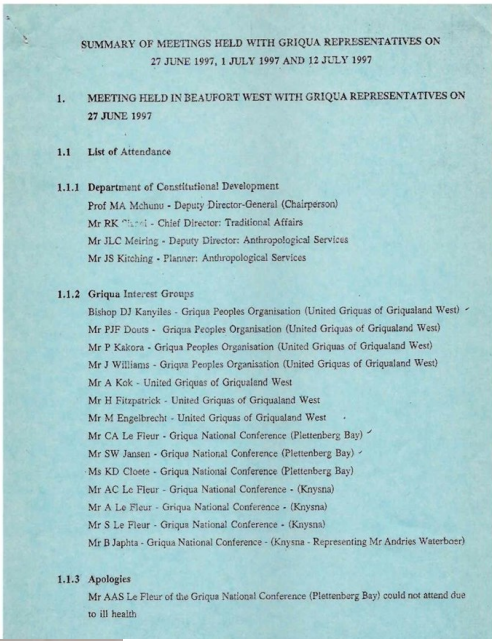
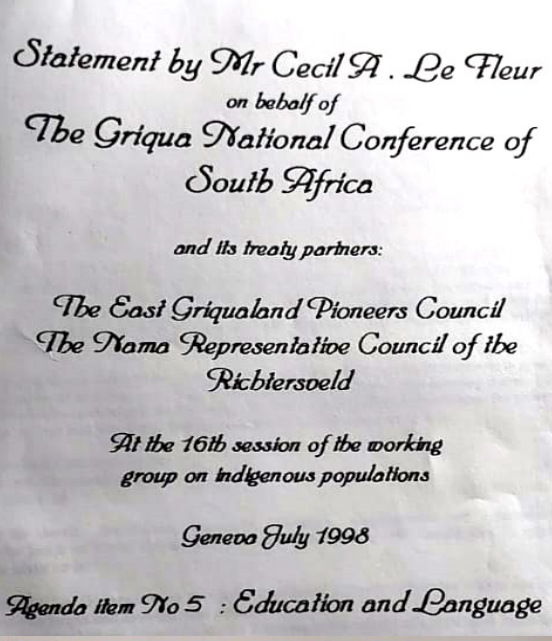
Wat uiteindelik gebeur het toe ek, in my hoedanigheid as voorsitter van die NKSR, die opening van die Nasionale Huis van Tradisionele en Khoi-San Leiers bygewoon het, was 'n vernedering.

Dit was 'n growwe en onvanpaste skending van die protokol waarmee die NKSR sedert die tyd van president Mandela behandel is.

Excerpt of a presentation to the COGTA Portfolio Committee by NKSC chair, Cecil le Fleur

Overview of the NKSC

- ▶ The Griqua unsuccessfully petitioned for inclusion in the CODESA process.
- ▶ After the first democratic election, they approached Pres. Mandela for an audience to which he consented.
- ▶ During a meeting with Griqua leaders, he requested them to prepare a memorandum regarding their aspirations.
- ▶ After the memorandum was handed to him in 1997, he initiated the forming of the Griqua National Forum, as a unitary body to represent all Khoi and San groups in negotiations with government. (This was the forerunner of the NKSC.)
- ▶ In July 1998 the Griqua National Conference of South Africa, with its treaty partners the East Griqualand Pioneers Council and the Nama Representative Council of the Richtersveld put its case for recognition before the 16th session of the United Nations Working Group on Indigenous Populations in Geneva, Switzerland. They urged the SA government to establish a body representative of all Khoi-San peoples.
- ▶ The NKSC was formed in 1999 after consultation with all the Khoi and San groups in South Africa.
- ▶ In 2000, the Department of Constitutional Development commissioned the Status quo report on the Khoi-San communities in SA.
- ▶ The report confirmed the existence of the five main groups namely the Nama, Griqua, Koranna, Cape Khoi and the San.
- ▶ The NKSC thus consist of these five main groupings as well as their respective sub-groupings.



Therefore we want to use this international platform to urge the South African Government to give urgent attention to the establishment of an indigenous First Nation Representative Council with statutory status. [We are currently in negotiation with the government on this issue] We believe that such a body must have the power to address and rectify all the wrongs that have been done to the Khoisan including matters such as:

1. Traditional land restitution claims
2. Language and educational decay
3. Cultural affairs, etc.

HISTORICAL RECORD:
Some of the documents that signpost the road the NKSC travelled in the fight for the recognition of Khoi and San descendants in South Africa.

Historical background

Former President Nelson Mandela's role in the formation of the NKSC

- The lack of a formal structure to serve as a mouthpiece between the late president and the Khoi-San peoples, urged President Mandela to commission, the then dept of Justice, to establish the National Khoi-San Council in 1999 in Upington.
- The mandate given to this body was to negotiate the constitutional accommodation of the khoi-San Peoples within the different spheres of Government. This development was preceded by a meeting called by the president at his official residence, Genadendal.
- At that occasion he met with key leaders to discuss the needs and shortfalls of the Khoi and San peoples in post Apartheid South Africa. He also asked us to draw up a memorandum to highlight our concerns in that regard



Some of the Geographical areas represented by the NKSC

- Kranshoek, Plettenberg Bay
 - Vredendal
 - Cape Town/ Cape flats
 - Richtersveld
 - Bloemfontein
 - Upington
 - Kwazulu-Natal
 - Johannesburg
 - Platfontein, Kimberley
 - Paarl
 - Worcester
- Steinkopf
 - Kalahari
 - Port Elizabeth other parts of the Eastern Cape
 - George
 - Oudtshoorn
 - Montagu
 - Mossel Bay
 - Knysna
 - Overberg region
 - Genadendal

CHALLENGES ENCOUNTERED BY NKC

- ▶ Lack of funding for meetings, accommodation and travel to various places.
- ▶ Lack of resources for research and archiving of documents
- ▶ No tools of the trade provided by the state for meetings etc.
- ▶ No offices for the council as we currently have to utilize private office spaces for the various functions of the council
- ▶ Loss of income for working members as they sometimes have to apply for unpaid leave to attend meetings and events
- ▶ No support services to arrange meetings, logistics and no secretarial services
- ▶ Lack of engagement from the various government departments the council have to work with in order to fulfill its mandate
- ▶ Broken promises made by govt officials to obtain budgets for the council
- ▶ No communication devices or cellphone allowances makes proper communication extremely difficult
- ▶ No laptops, printers, paper provided to the council amounts to out of pocket expenses for members

COMMUNITY CONSULTATIONS & COMMUNITY PROTOCOL

NKC supported by Natural Justice consulted with the following communities on their community priorities. The following areas were visited in 2011: Kalahari • Oudtshoorn • Cape flats • Upington • Platfontein • Kimberley

Communities confirmed these priority areas of the NKSC:

- ▶ No funds from Government or any department to consult with our communities
- ▶ Only time COGTA assisted with consultations was through the TKLA bill
- ▶ Despite the above we consulted with communities through Provincial Khoi & San structures
- ▶ We have also communicated through the “Eerste Nasie / First Nation” newspapers that’s distributed through communities

- The work of the NKSC continues despite Act 3 of 2019 being found to be unconstitutional.
- The various items in the act which the council finds problematic, still has to be addressed and workshopped with the Department.
- We have not been contacted by any official in that regard and again have been left to our own devices.
- Furthermore, Govt departments needs to be engaged

RECOMMENDATIONS ON TKLA

on the outstanding issues of land claims, the heritage routes and bio-diversity issues.

- The council accepts that there would be even more judicial challenges to the Act in its current form and it would probably take many more years for the implemen-

tation of the act.

- The recognition process by the Commission have not even started yet and this makes it difficult to ascertain who legitimate leaders of the Khoi and San are.
- The recommendations made by the Commission will inevitably also become the subject of judicial challenges which will further postpone the seating of leadership in the various levels of governance provided for in the act.

Report back from group commissions

GRIQUA REPORT BACK

Reservation that super-structure will carry mandate of politicians

The Griqua will work with all Khoi and San communities and have an integrated approach within all communities, not leaving anyone behind.

The situation in South Africa must be analysed and a SWOT analysis is needed, when looking at current status.

Regarding Policy and Legislation, we need to look into recognition of Khoi and San land rights,



FRANS KRAALSHOEK

community participation, consent and protection of cultural heritage.

Funding needs to be provided for development, with accountability and transparency.

The Griqua also commits to the engagement of United Nations and to interface with government through communication.

The Resolution: The proposed super-structure presents concerns that it may carry the mandate of politicians.

The Griqua supports the National Khoi and San Council structure and the filling of vacancies left by deceased members.

The Griqua also support

the expansion of the NKSC and setting up of provincial and local structures and support the efforts and endeavours in seeking recognition and empowerment, as outlined in the section 211 and 212 of the constitution.

There are concerns which include the lack of resources and the department's failure to provide funding and resources to NKSC, as also recognition and empowerment.

The Griqua are seeking recognition by government, as well as empowerment. The group propose that each grouping should appoint five people, broadening the reach of the NKSC.

There should be committees on land issues, heritage, biodiversity and language development programs.

Different portfolios should be integrated in the Master plan and proper communication should be in place at municipal, district and provincial level.

The Griqua people note that the government's lack of support for the NKSC has led to a lack of trust and accountability. The Griqua want COGTA to take steps toward supporting and empowering traditional communities. The NKSC should also incorporate youth and women into their structures.

SAN 1 REPORT BACK

Paradigm shift needed

King Esbie, providing the one report on the San commission stated that social cohesion will play an important role in all communities.

This commission stated that there should be more communication and that ideas should be shared.

Reporting on the Intersection in relation with history, Esbie reported that in order to achieve anything, a budget and administrative intervention is required, through education and awareness.

They stated that the most important place to start is at a ward level because if they don't start in the wards, there will be no growth.



KING OSCAR ESBIE

This group also reported that extreme emphasis should be placed on displaying culture. Change is needed as a paradigm shift in the law with more focus on customary law, as Roman Dutch law might be good, but constrains the cultural folk, Esbie reported.

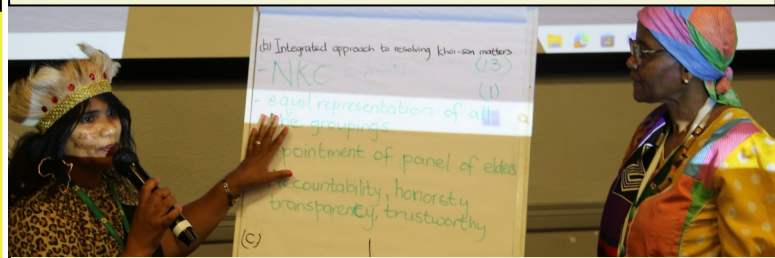
They also want the Traditional and Khoi-San Leadership Act to include royal councils.

The San stated that land restitution or restoration is needed, as this policy will hasten the issue of recognition, which would also involve remapping the land in and about 1889.

A transitional government structure is needed, speaking to all needs and shortfalls of the Khoi and San and this structure needs to be fully funded, including legal counsel (paid for by the structure).

Socio-economic issues cannot be excluded to deal with issues such as unruly children. Regarding government's suggestion on NKSC, the conglomerate agreed to a super-structure which includes all Khoi and San communities and that other groups outside of the five groups must also be included.

NAMA REPORT BACK



Queen Cuomo and Lady Imelda Simon-Claasen

More honesty, transparency needed

The Nama stated that social cohesion involves respect for each other, their views, and respect for the Nama culture.

On the question whether they support the creation of a super-structure to interface with the government; and what their position is regarding the NKSC, the report from the Nama commission is that the majority of Nama people support the NKSC, while only one of the delegates supported the crea-

tion of a super-structure.

The Namas stated they require more honesty and transparency, and their people seek recognition and want their land back.

The group also stated that they seek a budget to empower their people and develop their land.

In addition, the Nama want to have a direct interface and communication with government and the NKSC.

KORANA REPORT BACK

Rescue mission to ensure unity

Khoebaha Melvin Arendse noted that although the Khoi and San want recognition, they don't recognise each other and whatever structure we select, it will not serve its purpose if there is no direct consultation.

He stated that social cohesion is an internal choice and a contract of consciousness for one human being to accept another.

As Korana, a historic milestone has been reached, which is unity. He stated that there will still be fights with the rest of the Khoi and San, but as Korana leaders they feel that there is no choice but to get along.

The Korana have decided to implement dual leadership (male and female) in their structures and the Koranas will share

the information on their applications to CoGTA amongst one another. They believe that a super-structure should be put in place and this structure should give all a fair chance to give input into the amend-

ments that will be submitted to government. This interim structure is required, while government continues with the process.

Koranas do not wish to impose and are not superior. They propose a rescue mission, in ensuring unity amongst all. There should be a representative from each tribe on the executive.



MELVIN ARENDSE

SAN 1 REPORT BACK

Support for NKSC

Benjamin Marsala, also from the San group, stated that there were delegates within the San Commission who could be considered part of this major group.

Marsala reported that he had consulted with his leaders back home in the Northern Cape and stated that their support went to the NKSC, which was the appropriate structure for interfacing with government.



B. MASALA

The foundation of the architecture of pain in SA first resides with Khoi and San. These First Indigenous People were the first to be terrorised and who faced dispossession.

A constant theme is that if the Khoi and San are to build and find restoration, they first need to listen and understand that self-determination and autonomy is intertwined with respect and finding the mechanisms that will assist in crossing over difficult lines.

For the Cape Khoi commission social cohesion is a very important process and there must be an understanding that in terms of

CAPE KHOI REPORT BACK

NKSC scapegoat for govt. mistakes

who we are meant to be, government needs to be what it needs to be.

On the question of the proposed super-structure or the dissolution of the NKC it was a case of damned if you do and damned if you don't. So a 3rd option was also discussed, looking at how other governments deal with aboriginals. The group accepted that there are false rumours that were spread about the NKC and even



ZENZILE KHOISAN

though there was harsh criticism for non-responsiveness, the Cape Khoi acknowledged the hard work of the NKC. It would seem that

government is making the NKC a scapegoat of their own mistakes.

The group did not give its support to the creation of the super-structure.

The Cape Khoi do not want to disband the NKC, but they should rather be

audited and every other Khoi and San organisation should also be subjected to the same scrutiny.

Regarding TKLA, it was accepted that all of the groups within the Cape Khoi should address their issues directly with government, as not everyone has the same viewpoint.

There should be an inter-departmental governmental exchange in relation to Khoi and San matters and there should be a strengthening on policy with regard to communication as government must be more attentive when it comes to Khoi and San matters and policies.

My 12-year journey with NKSC

CHANTAL REVELL
WC REPRESENTATIVE: NKSC

I have been involved in the Khoi and San Movement since 1995, as an activist. During those years there were limited to no resources available to the movement.

During early 2000 to 2009 there were formations of different groupings which led me to have more interaction with the then Khoi and San Leadership including Chief Zenzile, who spearheaded a mass march to parliament for constitutional recognition of the Khoi and San peoples.

The Western Cape Khoi groupings put immense pressure on government for recognition during this time and demanded the NKSC to be more inclusive and to expand. In 2012 the invitation went out to the known groupings and formations identifying as Khoi and San communities to attend a meeting where other members would be elected to the NKSC.

At this meeting, leaders representing the 19 historical tribes and structures in Western Cape at the time, with organisations such as FNR (Foundation Nation Restoration) and IRASA (Institution of the Restoration of Aboriginal People of South Africa), were present and participated in the election held at Goudini Spa, Rawsonville, organised logistically by the department of CoGTA.

The old NKSC were not part of the election process, although the Chairperson and Members of the Cape Khoi NKSC were present. The meeting elected its own chairperson, program director as well as facilitator.

The meeting nominated 12 Nominees – four women and eight men. Amongst those nominees were two men who were very opposed to the NKSC, yet accepted nomination. They were Chief Hennie van Wyk and Chief Stephen Skippers also known as Ras Bergwater. But four women were elected to demonstrate to the rest of the country that more women leaders needed to be uplifted.

The very next day attacks started on the NKSC by those who felt they should have been elected.

The journey with the NKSC since 2012

Our first meeting, held in Bloemfontein in November 2012 were very traumatic. The letters wrote to the chairperson and department from the leadership who lost the election brought a lot of uncertainty and security issues, one letter specifically stated that I was sent into the NKSC to break the NKSC up from within. This allegation not only tarnished my reputation, but placed my life in danger.

My experience as a NKSC representative is associated with immense stress, among them fearing for my life; constant accusations and character assassination. The support from government was very little to nothing at all. We never had, and still do not have a budget, therefore there were no resources to plan community meetings and have an office to facilitate the process, especially to keep up to date with the Act and other processes such as the Rooibos and Heritage Route.

During my term of office there were two public participations held. At the first one the TKLA was

rejected as a Bill in the Western Cape but was accepted by the other 8 Provinces. At the second public participation, more leadership emerged who were not aware of previous public participation process, nor the status quo report done by government and the United Nations special rapporteur, Rodolfo Steffenhagen to determine the five main groupings.

Most of these new leadership started to claim royalty and positions not recorded in history.

In 2013 the land issue was started with department of rural development and land reform, then led by Minister Gugile Nkwinti. The Kimberley 1 and Kimberley 2 summits of 2013 and 2014 produced a reference group (NAREG) of 45 members, with five representatives in all nine Provinces, similar to this newly so-called superstructure. The mandate of the reference group was to provide government with all



PRINCESS CHANTAL REVELL, WC REPRESENTATIVE ON THE NATIONAL KHOI-SAN COUNCIL.

the information on Khoi and San historical lands and burial site, as well as sacred sites. In the end the process was never rolled out because the government did not respect its own process and did not deliver on the recommendations from a structure they erected.

In 2019 President Cyril Ramaphosa signed Act 3 of 2019 therefore migrating our focus to the work that flowed out of the NKSC like the Rooibos agreement and the Khoi and San heritage route. The heritage route was implemented through legislation in 2019, although the NKSC had been working on this since 2002, with no budget and absolutely no implementation of this critical heritage route within our communities.

The resources challenges, absence of legislation and constant pressure from the communities to see results, led to several meetings between the NKSC and CoGTA and portfolio committee as well as members of parliament from the Mkhonto we Sizwe and the Patriotic Alliance parties.

Prior to these meetings Minister Gayton McKenzie of the Department of Sports, Arts and Culture, held a meeting in Cape Town where he called for unity.

The NKSC reached out to Minister McKenzie, but he point blank refused to meet with us prior to his

arranging of the meeting at the Kenilworth Race Course. Irrespective of the Minister's refusal to meet with the NKSC, his department still reached out to the NKSC to assist with getting the communities to the meeting as they did not have a database on our communities.

The minister of CoGTA called a meeting a few months after this one between the NKSC and MP's of the PA and MK to sort out issues and hear from both sides. What was very disturbing is the department of CoGTA had now yet another new minister and a new GNU government that did not know the history of the NKSC.

My experience in these meetings was pure torture as the MP's, especially MK-member Glen Taaibosch accused us of being thieves and not reporting back to our communities. He complained that the NKSC negotiated only 1.5 % for the communities and 15% for ourselves, which is an outright lie.

He also totally misread the Biocultural Community Protocol (BCP) and had no understanding of the wheel of distribution. Taaibosch also went into my community at Knoflokskraal under the auspices of CoGTA. The community had no service delivery and was under the impression that the he was coming to assist with their challenges there.

Instead, Taaibosch made allegations and defamation of character remarks against the NKSC and specifically against me.

The NKSC then met a second time with CoGTA and with the MP's of PA and MK and the CoGTA portfolio committee, where, for the first time ever, the NKSC had an opportunity to represent themselves at the Portfolio Committee.

During this meeting the chairperson of the NCOP made it clear to Mr Glen Taaibosch that the NKSC are not the body which authored the legislation and therefore he must not send out misinformation.

The meeting of the 14-16 February was also convened by the minister of CoGTA, where the MPs of both PA and MK were allowed to invite their delegation of 15 each and only the eight Members of NKSC, that attended the previous two meetings, were invited and could only bring 5 delegates each.

The conference itself was called to find common ground and to forge a way forward for the Khoi and San.

It was the most gruesome conference I have ever attended. The voices of the NKSC were muzzled by party agents to push their agenda and I never felt so disheartened in my walk as a Khoi leader.

Some of the men, calling themselves elders, abused women in the movement, while political leaders who were appointed as MP's by their parties, want to occupy a space that only Indigenous people with customary laws should occupy.

The Minister of CoGTA, Min Hlabisa did not take the majority decision and went ahead with the political agenda. Our people are more divided, disheartened and now will fight non-stop among each other.

I hope our people will begin to see that what has happened now is not the first time and surely will not be the last, we will forever keep on fighting, whilst government prolong our constitutional accommodation in the land of our birth.

ARNISTON 2015: Princess Chantal Revell (far right) with Khoi and San leaders engaging government on recognition and land rights. **PIC: IFN MEDIA**



NKSC members subjected to abuse, cyber attacks

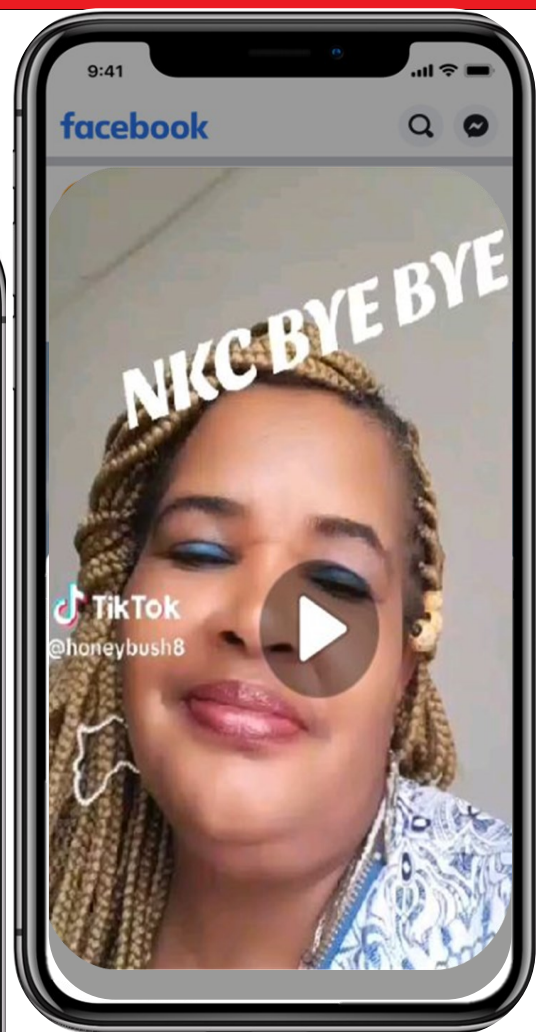
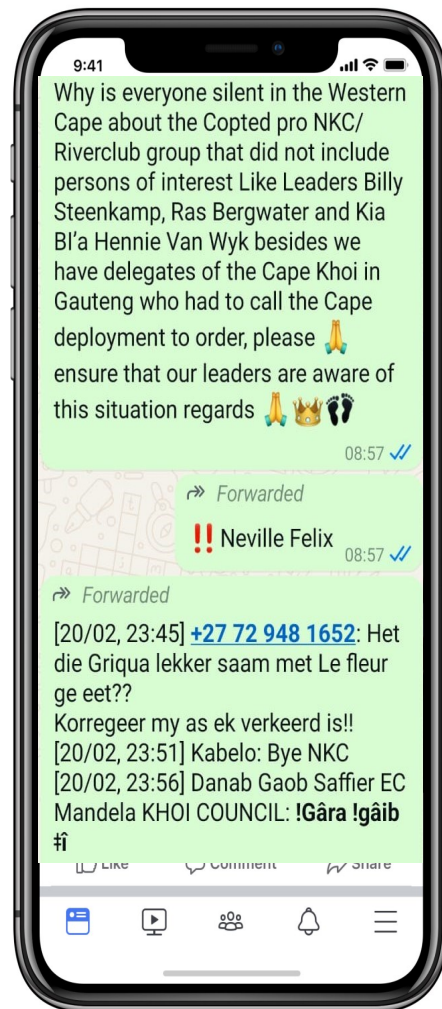
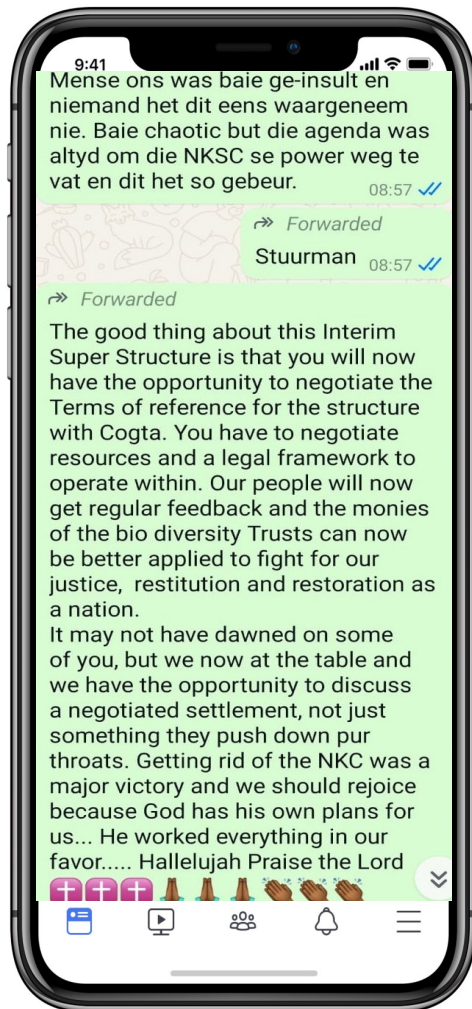
There have been increased cyber attacks and bullying tactics, alongside fake news against the National Khoi-San Council and its members.

These attacks have taken on such drastic proportions that the Government's Portfolio Committee on CoGTA has been asked to step in.

In their presentation to this portfolio committee the NKSC said the constant criticism and attacks on the organisation and its individual members are an immense distraction from the mandate of the council.

While NKSC members have sacrificed much over decades, they have become the targets of vicious and unwarranted attacks on social media.

The NKSC in its presentation made an urgent appeal that expect responsible members of the Portfolio committee to refrain being part of this abhorrent trend.



NKSR-leiers reageer op bewerings

Die lelike aanvalle op sosiale media wat veral op die NKSR gemik is, kom al vir jare aan.

Twee prominente NKSR-lede sê in hul reaksie dat mense wat hierdie onwaarhede versprei is oningelig en gebruik sosiale media om mense op te sweep. Hulle het ook die inmenging van politici sterk veroordeel.

Ds. Johannes Maarman, voorsitter van die Khoi-Khoi Peoples Biodiversiteit Trust en NKSR-lid, het in sy reaksie gesê: "Mense weet nie wat hier binne aangaan en hoe ons dinge gedoen kry nie. Pleks daarvan versprei hulle skinderstories op verskeie sosiale media en sê dinge waarvan hulle niks weet nie, of waarvan hulle nie die feite het nie."

Stanley Peterson, hoof-onderhandelaar en onder-voorsitter van die Khoi-Khoi Peoples Biodiversiteit Trust, het beswaar gemaak "teenoor die inmenging van die politici in die sake van die inheemse herlewering, wat probleme veroorsaak. Daai manne was al die jare nêrens, nou dat die gelde hier is, nou kom hulle skielik na vore," het Peterson gesê.

Ds. Maarman sê verder: "Hierdie aantuigings kan lelike gevolge inhou vir diegene wat aanhou om sulke leuens en aantuigings kwyte te raak. Ons sal geen ander keuse hê as om teen sulke mense op te tree wat ongegronde aantuigings op verskeie sosiale media platforms maak nie.

"Ons is reeds besig om regsopinie

in te win om hierdie vuilspel-taktiek stop te sit onder ons mense.

"Dit is gewoonlik hulle wat oningelig is, wat pleks van uitvind wat die ware toedrag van sake is, besluit om liewer die verkeerde en negatiewe stories te glo."

Peterson sê verder: "Dieselfde mense wat ons strukture soos die NKSR daarbuite lelik aanval draai dan om en kom soek geld by die Trust, wat gestig is as gevolg van die NKSR se harde werk.

"Die stories oor gelde wat gesteel is wat daar buite rondloop is heeltemal onwaar en dien dit om mense op te sweep.

"Gemeenskappe hier buite moenie agter stories aangaan nie. As jy wil weet oor die Rooibos Trust, of gelde van die Trust, kom praat met pastoor Maarman, en as jy nie vir hom kry nie, kom praat met my of Frans Kraalshoek (die tesourier)," het Peterson aanbeveel.

"Politiek maak net ons mense se dinge deurmekaar. Skielik is die trust-lede deur die minister gevra om 'n vergadering op 23 Desember 2024 by te woon om verslag aan parlementêre te gee. Dit net omdat twee Parlementslede van twee politieke partye, dit vereis het.

"Wat vir ons belangrik is, is dat elke sent van hierdie gelde vir die gemeenskap aangewend word om die volk op te bou.

"Dit is vir ons belangrik dat ons in die openbaar die geld oorhandig so dat diegene daar buite wat sê dat ons



die geld gevat het, kan sien dit is nie waar nie. Geen geld word in enige chief of individu se rekening betaal nie.

"As die Trust gaan ons dit monitor, dit is waarom ons vra dat die dokumente deur die voorsitters van die organisasies voor ons geteken word."

"Hierdie geld is om vir die regering en die mense daar buite te sê dat ons ons eie toekoms kan bepaal en ons moet daai voorbeeld wees vir ons jeug."

VALS GERUGTE, LASTER, BESWADDERING

In bogenoemde selfoon-greep-video beweer Gail Lawrence onder meer dat die NKSR iets van die verlede is.

Sy is glo trots daarop dat hulle uiteindelik dit reggekry het om van die NKSR ontslae te raak en dat hulle die Rooibos Biodiversiteitstrust-saak "aangespreek" het.

Lawrence maak lasterlike bewerings dat die fondse wanbestuur is, sonder dat sy met enige konkrete bewyse kom, of aandui dat daar bewyse is.

Sy beweer ook dat lede uit die uitvoerende komitee bedank het of geskors is. Sy vra wie hulle geskors het, want aan wie is hulle verantwoordbaar?

Oor die NKSR-leierskap pleeg sy weer laster deur te sê dat "die NKSR is 'n vis wat al lankal van die kop af vrot. Julle het lekker geëet, maar dit is tyd dat julle loop."

Lawrence sê verder dat sy "moeg daarvoor is dat die fondse van die Khoi wanbestee word.

Sy noem dat behalwe rooibos, is fondse ook ontvang vir boegoe en heuningbos.

Alles ongegronde bewerings wat groot nagevolge kan inhou vir Lawrence en haar soort.

Call on CoGTA minister to set the record straight

NKSC

NATIONAL KHOI SAN COUNCIL

OPEN LETTER TO THE MINISTER OF CoGTA

Date: 18 February 2025
SUBJECT: URGENT DISCUSSION ON THE STATUTORY RECOGNITION OF THE NATIONAL KHOI SAN COUNCIL (NKSC)

Dear Minister Velekosini Hlabisa
I hope this message finds you well.

I am writing to highlight some critical points regarding the ongoing situation surrounding the National Khoi San Council (NKSC) and the recommendations from the Human Rights Commission report released in 2016.

As you are aware, one of the key recommendations was to take immediate steps toward the statutory recognition of the NKSC.

During the convention held from February 14 to 16, 2025, this message was reiterated to all delegates, departments, and leadership, including yourself and the deputy ministers.

Initially, the NKSC was intended to perform its functions until the introduction of the Traditional and Khoi-San Leadership Bill (TKLB) into Parliament.

However, due to the delays in finalising this Bill, it has become evident that the NKSC must continue to play an expanded role, providing vital support to the Department in navigating the Parliamentary processes related to the TKLB.

This includes educating Khoi-San communities about the Bill and fostering unity among Khoi-San leaders and their communities.

The discussions held on November 17, 2018, concluded that the NKSC would continue to operate as a coordinating consultative body on issues affecting Khoi-San communities.

However, it is concerning that there is still no consensus regarding the statutory recognition of the NKSC.

Despite the fact that three of the five main groupings have recommended the extension of the NKSC with additional members, we see the establishment of a new structure that raises concerns about political interference, particularly from organizations such as the MK and PA representing the Koranna group.

The formation of the National Khoi-San Interim Forum, which appears to sideline the Human Rights Commission's recommendations, threatens to further divide the Khoi-San communities.

As expressed during the recent convention, there was a clear commitment that the NKSC would remain intact, and it is essential that concrete terms of reference are established for both bodies moving forward.

I urge you to revisit the recommendations put forth in the Human Rights Commission report and ensure that the NKSC's statutory recognition is prioritised. It is vital for the cohesion and representation of Khoi-San communities that we achieve an outcome that is inclusive and reflective of their needs.

Thank you for your attention to this matter, and I look forward to discussing the steps needed to move forward constructively.

Sincerely,
F. Kraalshoek
Secretary, NKSC

Altyd in diens van Khoi-volk

OPPERHOOF REGGIE BOESAK
KAPELAAN: HERLEWING

By die konfensie wat by die Birchwood-sentrum gehou is, is die NKSR en strukture soos KCHDC, wat deel maak van hierdie liggaam, lelik aangeval.

Vir my, as Opperhoof binne KCHDC is dit kommerwekkend dat die strukture wat ons veldtog gelei het so aageval word.

Ek gee hiermee my standpunt en sienswyse, asook my agtergrond en betrokkenheid by die Khoi-San Herlewing.

Ek is geroep om die heilige Woord van God te verkondig. Ek is ingeseën op Port Nolloth in die Noord-Kaap op 16 Julie 1966 as predikant van die N.G. Sendingkerk-gemeente in die Richtersveld.

Op my knieë moes ek in nederigheid neerbuig voor die Allerheilige God om Sy seën te ontvang. Aan hierdie gelofte sal ek vaskleef met die genade van God, die Vader, Seun en Heilige Gees, my lewe lank.

Verder het ek 'n belofte afgelê – Die Eed van Bevestiging – in die teenwoordigheid van Senior stamhoofde, wat as getuienisse moes dien dat ek as stamhoof van die Hessekwa en die Khoi in die Wes-Kaap Provinsie, as eerste nasie, en afstammeling van die groot en magtige Khoi-nasie van Suider-Afrika, ons volk sal dien.

Hierdie heilige belofte het ek afgelê in opdrag en teenwoordigheid van ons groot leier, Biskop Daniel James Kanyiles, ons groot Griekwa Opperhoof, op 24 Junie 2000, by Schoemanspoort, Oudshoorn.

Hy was Kommissaris van Eede vir Suid-Afrika sowel as Suid-Wes Afrika (Vandag Namibië). Hy was ook die registrateur van die Khoi-stamhoofde.

Dit is waarom ek myself sien as 'n lojale en met trots-ge vulde Khoi, gebind aan die Griekwa-volk, as gevolg van hierdie gebeurtenis in my lewe.

In die jaar 2016 (as ek reg onthou) was ons as die Khoi Cultural Heritage Development Council of South Africa (KCHDC) saam met die Griekwa Nasionale Konferensie van Suid-Afrika (GNK) op Kranshoek, naby Plettenbergbaai, byeen.



REGGIE BOESAK

opment Council of South Africa (KCHDC) saam met die Griekwa Nasionale Konferensie van Suid-Afrika (GNK) op Kranshoek, naby Plettenbergbaai, byeen.

Hierdie byeenkoms was onder die leiding van Griekwa Opperhoof Alan le Fleur. Tydens die byeenkoms is daar op die volgende besluit.

In kort:

Volgens die ooreenkoms verklaar hierdie twee organisasies dat hulle as inheemse volke op alle terreine sal saamwerk en dat hierdie ooreenkoms onmiddellik van krag sal wees.

Dit is onderteken deur die Opperhoof van die GNK en die stamhoof van die KCHDC.

Omdat ek deel was van hierdie verdrag staan ek steeds onwrikbaar vas by hierdie ooreenkoms, ongeag wat daarna mag gebeur.

As stamhoof van die Hessekwa, en gebonde aan die KCHDC, is ek venoem tot Kapelaan van die KCHDC. Dit is vir my die heel belangrikste roeping in my lewe.

Tydens die Algemene Vergadering van die KCHDC op Mosselbaai op 10 November 2024, is ek as die Opperhoof van die KCHDC aangestel.

Ek stap dus in die spore van ons hoogs aangeskewe opperhoof Kanyiles met angs en bewing.

Omdat ek glo dat ook hierdie taak deur die Almagtige God aan my opgedra is, het ek geen keuse as om te sê: "Hier is ek Vader, stuur my."

Ek sê dit met die wete dat sonder Hom as my Herder en Leidsman, is alles tevergeefs.

Mag God my genadig wees.

In u diens, my Khoi-volk, stel ek my tot u beskikking.



NAMA VOLKS ORGANISASIE

OPEN LETTER TO THE MINISTER OF CoGTA, DEPARTMENT OF COOPERATIVE GOVERNANCE AND TRADITIONAL AFFAIRS

The National Minister, Cogta
Date: 2025-02-21

Dear Minister Velenkosini Hlabisa

We are writing to express our deep dissatisfaction with the manner in which you handled the National Khoi and San Council and its leaders during the National Khoisan Convention; development of Act 3 of 2019 and as recommended by the Human Rights Commission it should have been granted statutory status.

Instead, we are dismayed by the actions taken to undermine and dismantle the National Khoi and San Council. The decision to give politicians preference to bring more delegates to the convention, thereby gaining more support to your proposed super-structure, is particularly disturbing.

This move not only undermines the legitimacy of the National Khoi and San Council, but also disregards the rights and interests of the Khoi and San communities.

We urge you to reconsider your approach and engage in meaningful consultations with the National Khoi and San Council and its leaders. It is essential to recognize the importance of their role in promoting the rights and interests of the Khoi and San communities.

We request a response regarding the actions you intend to take to address our concerns and ensure that the rights and interests of the Khoi and San communities are protected.

Sincerely

Mr. Gert Joël Links
Chairperson



Fotobeeld van Khoi-San Konvensie



Snapshot of Khoi-San Convention



Ligte oomblikke by Khoi-San beraad

