



arts and culture

Department:
Arts and Culture
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA



KwaZulu-Natal
Provincial Government

MEDIA INVITATION

PRESIDENT THABO MBEKI SPEAKS AT THE BHAMBATHA CENTENARY COMMEMORATION

The Department of Arts and Culture and the KwaZulu-Natal Provincial Government invite members of the media to the Bhambatha Centenary Commemoration. President Thabo Mbeki will give a keynote address.

iNkosi Bhambatha will be posthumously reinstated onto the throne of the Zondi Clan on June 11 by the State President Thabo Mbeki at Mpanza, outside Greytown. This occasion marks a series of events marking commemoration of the 100 Years of Poll Tax Uprising.

The event, an initiative by the Dept of Arts and Culture and Provincial Govt of KwaZulu-Natal, together with the Bhambatha Centenary Committee, is expected to draw thousands of people from as far afield as Nkandla, Maphumulo, Richmond, Ladysmith, Msinga, Nquthu, uMgungundlovu as well as various dignitaries and politicians from all over the country. Before the posthumous reinstatement of iNkosi Bhambatha at Mpanza next to the Bhambatha Ambush Rock, uMvoti Municipality will grant Bhambatha the Freedom of Greytown followed by the renaming of Seargeant Street to iNkosi Bhambatha Street in Greytown.

The Minister of Communications, Dr. Ivy Matsepe-Cassaburi will also handover a specially made stamp by the Post Office bearing Bhambatha's head.

The imposition of the poll tax in 1906 was one of the many illegitimate measures by the Natal co government to strip the South African indigenous people of their sovereignty and make them economically dependent on the colonialists. Bhambatha, son of Mancinza the Chief of the Zondi clan in the Mvoti district on the Natal side of the uThukela near Greytown emerged as the leader of the resistance to the imposition of the poll tax.

The poll tax uprisings of 1906 and subsequent uprisings at KwaMaphumulo in 1907 contributed immensely towards the spirit and culture of resistance and played a critical part in the long struggle towards the liberation struggle. The contribution of these heroes and heroines who participated in the poll tax and subsequent uprisings in defence of their land and freedom has thus far not been properly acknowledged and commemorated.

Date: 11 June 2006

Venue: The commemoration, will start in Greytown and
the official programme will take place in Mpanza (Ngome)

Time: 08h30

Transport to and from Mpanza will be provided.

For enquiries about accreditation and transport, contact Jeff Hassan on 082 884 1872

For further information

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