



Date: April 4, 2006  
Media Invitation

## **TRACING THE FOOTSTEPS OF THE BHAMBATHA REBELLION**

All media are invited to what is expected to be a reveling and historic moment for the people of KwaZulu-Natal when the events of 1906 will be remembered, revered and recognized at the public launch of the Bhambatha Centenary Commemoration, spearheaded by the KwaZulu-Natal Provincial Government.

The Year 2006 marks 100 Years of the Bhambatha Poll Tax Uprising. The KwaZulu-Natal Provincial Government and the Bhambatha Centenary Committee have identified a series of events and programmes to commemorate this historical event.

This coming Saturday, April 8<sup>th</sup>, the provincial government and the Bhambatha Centenary Committee will remember the event of April 4<sup>th</sup>, 1906 and subsequent uprisings elsewhere at Mpanza (outside Greytown).

Apart from the official programme to commemorate this event, special tours to the famous Bhambatha Ambush Rock, the Bhambatha Police Memorial, the Mpanza Hotel (now a community school), has been arranged for interested media and other key stakeholders.

Families and descendants of the heroes of the Bhambatha Uprising will join officials, army personnel and the public as wreaths are laid to remember those who fought in the rebellion.

You are invited to attend this momentous occasion, joining the Provincial Government, members of the South African National Defence Force, South Africa Police Services, historians, families of the struggle heroes, in a public launch of the commemoration.

Warriors from various clans who were at the forefront of the Uprising have already started converging at the venue of the celebration. The public launch will entail traditional dance, tributes from representatives of clans that participated in the uprising, a stage play, kwaito and festivities that will last

deep into the night. Artists like Kelly Khumalo, Tzozo and Professor, Jabu Khanyile and many others will perform on the day.

Today, April 4<sup>th</sup>, 2006 (Tuesday) marks the 100 years of the Police ambush by Bhambatha and his group of 150 warriors, or so called 'rebels' as they were referred to then. On the 4<sup>th</sup> of April 1906, Greytwon Mayor, Mr. J.W. Cross, accompanied by two civilians and four Natal Police under the leadership of Inspector Rose were ambushed on their way back from investigating Bhambatha's attempt to reclaim uBuKhosi after having been deposed by the Natal government.

Four policemen were killed in the ambush and Bhambatha became public enemy number one. The police ambush marked the beginning of what was later to be known as the Bhambatha Poll Tax Uprising of 1906. Many clans at Nkandla, Maphumulo and Richmond joined the uprising

Watch press for further details.

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