



MOLEPO TRADITIONAL DANCE

2019

Photo credit: Bakone Malapa Open Air Museum

YEARBOOK

2019

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A CRITICAL REFLECTION ON OUR 4 YEARS ANNIVERSARY

A project to project approach

It's been 4 years since the first formation meeting in February 2015. As we look back, we are proud to have managed to keep the organization operating despite the challenges. Since 2015, the organization has been faced with capacity building challenges. Our experience shows that all the new members who showed interest in joining the organization, very few seem to understand the mission of the organization. Most are willing to take up part time roles in an organization that undertakes projects based on limited finances. The greatest challenge has been to encourage members to be active throughout the year. Instead, a lot of our members seem to want to contribute labour only when there is money to pay them. While we understand that our members need to be paid for work done, the organization is currently not in a position to pay members a monthly wage. We operate on a project to project basis.



Mahlaga J Molepo
Co-founder & member

Internal affairs

According to the organization's constitution, at least five people should sit on the board of directors. Directors have five years in office subject to re-election by general members of the cooperative. The organization should convene a general annual meeting during a financial year.

Since 2015 every effort has been made to ensure that the organization recruits capable members who can

ascend to the the board of directors once elected. Having a capable board of directors is crucial for good corporate governance, accountability, and transparency.

During the general annual meeting of 2018, it was reported that out of the initial members who co-founded the organization, two have not been active since 2016. These inactive members did not follow the internal procedures of the organization when they decided to stop participating in administrative activities. They went awol at a time when the external

environment was unstable. It was at a time when rival groups were at each others throats. Rumour spreading, lies and jealousy were rife. It is unfortunate that the two members left the organization during this period.

Since their departure, the two positions have remained vacant as the organization went on a recruitment drive. Between 2018 and 2019, the organization welcomed two new members. As we reach the end of 2019, we trust that our new members will play a greater role in 2020.

MEMBERSHIP

As of November 2019, the organization has one Dinaka group affiliated to its operations. The *Dinaka* group currently has 27 members, most of whom are young people between the ages of 11 and 35 years. Out of the 27, 5 members are aged between 20 and 70 years. Among the 7, 4 group members sit on the board of the organization. The organization will continue to forge partnerships with other *Mmino*

wa Setso groups in other regions. Partnerships between *Mmino wa Setso* groups are difficult to maintain because many of the groups are not properly organized. In many instances, structural challenges prevent these groups from having a meaningful partnership with our organization. For instance, between 2015 and 2016 our organization was affiliated to at least three *dinaka* groups in Ga Molepo. However,

we were unable to have a written agreement with the groups because they are not founded on any legal structure. Although our organization communicates with the groups from time to time, the relationship is only symbolic. All membership and group affiliation queries should be directed to Acting Secretary, Mr Mohlaka Molepo .

Email:
mohlaka@molepotraditionaldance.com

MMINO WA SETŠO - A DOCUMENTARY

PRODUCTION PHASE

The year 2019 was the year of film production. The film is part of our three year artistic program funded by the National Arts Council of South Africa (NAC). Our artistic program has been seriously affected by a delay in the release of funding from the NAC. In January, a project team was organised for the filming of Mmino wa Setšo - A Documentary. The project team consisted of practitioners of Mmino wa Setšo, academics, members of a film production company called Young World Empire. The production company was founded by graduates of film from Tshwane University of Technology. The following sections briefly highlight some of the groups which took part in interviews at Bakone Malapa Museum east of Polokwane City.

Magala-a-Mohwelere
Traditional Group from the
Capricorn District

Magala-a-Mohwelere is a 15 member *dinaka* music and dance group based at Makatsane in Ga Molepo, Capricorn District, Limpopo province, South Africa.

Mafoflosa-Nkwe Thabeng
from the Sekhukhune
District

Mafoflosa-Nkwe Thabeng is a *dinaka* music and dance group based at Mohlaletsi in the Sekhukhune district of Limpopo province, South Africa.

Boramaga Traditional Group
from Capricorn District

Boramaga Traditional Group is *dinaka* music and dance group based at Mankgaile, Ga Molepo, Capricorn district, Limpopo province, South Africa.



MMINO WA SETŠO
A DOCUMENTARY

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PRODUCTION PHASE INTERVIEWS CONT....

The team travelled to University of Venda for an interview with Professor Geoff Mapaya. The idea was to bring in a scholarly perspective to the story.



Meet the interviewee:

Professor Madimabe Geoff Mapaya
Lecturer of Music, Department of
Music, University of Venda

About the interviewee:

Madimabe Mapaya holds a PhD in African Studies; and specializes in the study of mmino wa setšo (indigenous African music), particularly its implications on the discipline of African musicology. He is currently the Head of the Music Department and a founding member of the Indigenous Music and Oral History project at the University of Venda. Apart from his university duties Professor Mapaya is a performing musician with several albums to his name. He is the author of the book titled The Music of Bahanamwa, followed by its second edition Mmino wa setšo (indigenous Music of Bahananwa). Mapaya is the author of a number of academic as well as opinion articles. He has, to date, edited three books.

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