

THE  
*Freedom*  
PARK TRUST

**Survivors of the Boipatong Massacre and the Sharpeville Human Rights Memorial Project Visit The Freedom Park**

*27 November 2007, Pretoria*, On Tuesday, 27 November 2007, at 10:30 the survivors of the Boipatong massacre and staff of the Sharpeville Human Rights Memorial Project will visit The Freedom Park. The Freedom Park Trust initiated this visit to allow the survivors and other stakeholders the opportunity to view the way in which the Park memorialises those who died fighting for freedom and liberation. The Honorable Mayor of Sedibeng, Mr Mlungisi Hlongwane, will also attend the event.

Delegates have the opportunity to tour The Freedom Park between 10:30 and 12:30, followed by an address by the Honorable Mayor of the Sedibeng District Municipality, Mr Mlungise Hlongwane, and the Chief Executive Officer of The Freedom Park Trust, Dr M.W. Serote.

The delegation will subsequently view a presentation on the process that The Freedom Park Trust follows for the collection of names to be inscribed on the Wall of Names. This presentation focuses on the names collected from the Sedibeng area, i.e. Sharpeville and Boipatong. The presentation also discusses the concept of the 'virtual' Wall of Names, which is an electronic database that allows visitors to add biographies and other information. Once the information has gone through a verification process, it will be added to the virtual wall.

Delegates will subsequently break into small groups for a discussion focusing on, amongst others:

- delegates' experiences surrounding the Boipatong and Sharpeville massacres as well as its effects and consequences as captured by The Freedom Park Trust;

- delegates' experiences of The Freedom Park and the way in which the project memorialises fallen comrades, with special reference on the Boipatong and Sharpeville massacres; and
- ways in which The Freedom Park Trust as well as the Boipatong and Sharpeville communities can partner to ensure that the history of these two events are recorded and memorialised at both provincial and national levels.

The above discussions will be documented and stored as oral history within the Pan African Archives.

Once the discussions have been finalised, delegates will convene to discuss the way forward. "Our desired outcome for the day is a structured way forward, be that in the form of a formalised partnership or a memorandum of understanding, on how the relevant institutions can work together to fill information voids and thus ensure that the history surrounding these events are recorded accurately and in full," explains Dr Mongane Wally Serote: Chief Executive Officer of The Freedom Park Trust.

"The Freedom Park depicts historically significant events such as Boipatong and Sharpeville by inscribing the names of fallen heroes and heroines on the Wall of Names. Memorialising these events and individuals who shaped what South Africa is today serves as a means to inform and educate our youth but also acts as a reminder that such tragedies should in future be avoided at all costs," concludes Dr Serote.

A grand opening of two of The Freedom Park's elements, namely Isivivane and Sikhumbuto, takes place on 26 January 2008, after which the Park will be open for public visitation. Preview tours can in the meantime be arranged by contacting a Tour Guide on (012) 470 7400 or at [info@freedompark.co.za](mailto:info@freedompark.co.za). The Freedom Park Trust is currently engaged in the strategic conceptualisation of the Park's second phase, which includes //hapo, where the story of Southern Africa, dating back 3,6 billion years, will be told.

**Issued by The Freedom Park Trust**  
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