

## MEDIA RELEASE

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### FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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## Honouring Sobukwe at 100: A Centenary Celebration Rooted in Reflection and Renewal

On **28 March 2025**, Freedom Park Heritage Site and Museum, in partnership with the **Sarah Baartman District Municipality**, **Beyers Naudé Local Municipality**, **Robert Mangaliso Sobukwe Trust**, and the **National Heritage Council** will host a landmark event to commemorate **100 years since the birth of Dr Robert Mangaliso Sobukwe**, one of the most revered leaders in South Africa's liberation struggle.

Under the theme, "**Return to the Source: Rekindling the Values of Robert Sobukwe**," the celebration invites South Africans to revisit the principles that defined Sobukwe's life—integrity, courage, Pan-Africanism, and an unyielding belief in African self-determination.

The event, to be held at the **Botanical Gardens in Graaff-Reinet**, Sobukwe's birthplace, will feature a robust programme of **dialogues, cultural performances, community engagement**, and keynote addresses by political thought leaders, historians, and activists. It will provide a space for critical reflection on the enduring relevance of Sobukwe's philosophy in addressing issues such as racial justice, land reform, and national identity in contemporary South Africa.

### Highlights of the Centenary Programme:

- **Centenary Dialogue & Lecture** featuring top political analysts and historians
- **Visit to Sobukwe's childhood home** and community sites of historical significance
- Launch announcement of the **Robert Sobukwe Exhibition** at Freedom Park (1 April – 30 June 2025)
- **Documentary screenings, storytelling sessions, and educational outreach programmes** across schools and community centres
- **Handover** of the necessities to Nqweba High School in Graaff-Reinet through the NHC's Ubuntu Initiative in partnership with the Robert Sobukwe Foundation on 26 March 2025

The 2025 Centenary Celebration will also mark the beginning of a deeper partnership between Freedom Park, the Robert Sobukwe Trust, and academic institutions to **preserve and archive Sobukwe's legacy** through multimedia exhibitions, oral histories, and educational content for future generations.

"True leadership demands complete subjugation of self, honesty and integrity, uprightness of character, courage and fearlessness, and above all a consuming love for one's people." – Robert Sobukwe

Join us in honouring this profound legacy and ensuring that the values Sobukwe championed continue to guide South Africa's journey towards justice, unity, and humanity.

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