



Mangaung Metropolitan council honours Mr Petros Molemela

One of Mangaung's prominent citizens addresses MMM Council



The home ground for Bloemfontein Celtic will soon be renamed in honour of its founder, Ntate Petrus Molemela

The home of the Bloemfontein Celtic football club, formerly known as Seisa Ramabodu stadium, will upon completion in a few months be renamed in honour of one of Mangaung's key citizens, Ntate Petros Molemela.

This was revealed by

Executive Mayor, Cllr. Thabo Manyoni, at a council meeting held on Thursday, 26 February, following a public participation process.

Ntate Molemela, as he is fondly regarded in the streets of Mangaung, is also the founder of Bloemfontein's premier soccer club.

With tears in his eyes, Ntate Molemela said: "Thank you very much for such an honour. We have come very far as a nation. I remember that once a time I was called 'Petros K*' because I shared the same name with a colleague. Thank you once again for recognising my contribution in Mangaung."

Synopsis of Ntate Petros Molemela's biography - By Executive Mayor Cllr. T Manyoni

Petros Rantlai Molemela was born on 16 April 1933, at a farm called Bethel. At the tender age of 10, he joined the labour market as a farm worker without any education background. Following his father's passing in 1948, he was appointed by PAO as a road construction worker using picks and shovels while his peers were at school.

"Today I am considered as stupid by others because I didn't go to school, but I had no choice," Ntate Molemela says.

Early Years and career

In pursuit of a better opportunity, in 1949 he was appointed by Louis Construction in Bloemfontein where he became part of the workforce

that laid the foundation of the famous four Cooling Towers next to founding place of the ANC, Waaihoek. In 1952 he was appointed by Du Plessis Construction which constructed the High Court.

The move to Bloemfontein was also the start of Molemela Construction, which Ntate Molemela started by building toilets in the township of Bochabela.

This pioneer credits some of his achievements to people like the late Mme Winkie Direko, Principal Mochochoko of Number One School and a teacher by the name of Rabaji for earnestly begging him to attend night school. He started schooling in 1949, where he discovered his love for mathematics.

Involvement in Sport

Ironically, Dr. Molemela has never played soccer in his life. Rather, he was a cyclist who joined the Royal Rovers Cycling in his earlier years. He was introduced to Bloemfontein Celtic by his teacher, Rabaji.

He formally took over Celtic in 1974, sponsoring the club from his pocket.

Achievements:

- Honorary Doctorate from CUT
- Life President of BFN Celtic

He summarised his achievements as follows:

**"Katlheho ke lehlokwana
la tsela le tholwang
seretsheng"**