

MADAM



KHOE-SAN: THE FIRST INDIGENOUS PEOPLES

MOVEMENT AGAINST DOMINATION OF AFRICAN MINORITIES

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EXECUTVE MEMBERS: PRESIDENT – VICE CHIEF JJ JANSEN;
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GENERAL SECRETARY – HEADPERSON LJ JANSEN-LAWRENCE
TREASURER – HEADPERSON EJ LAWRENCE

FOREWORD

MADAM (Movement Against Domination of Indigenous African Minorities) is a non-sectarian, non-denominational, anti-racist indigenous, cultural movement which strives for the recognition, liberation, education, restoration, advancement, development and protection of the Khoe-khoe (Quena / Khoina) and/or Khoisan Peoples of South and southern Africa.

Our struggle as a movement, is at once a cultural and a political struggle for the future preservation of our culture, history, heritage, language and traditions.

Through the oppressive systems of colonialism, apartheid and an apparent democracy our Indigenous Peoples have been stripped of their humanity, along with their dignity, self worth, self respect and independence as a nation.

A calculated and systematic eradication of their true identity, which is that of the First Indigenous Nation of South Africa, was facilitated by the dispossession of their lands, territories and property. Combined with the ruthless attempts at the effective elimination of our Nama-mother tongue and invoking the doctrine of assimilation the colonialists sought to breed out the Nation of Khoina and stopped at nothing to ensure the total extinction of an entire nation.

It is in the light of this generational oppression, suffering and a 500 year struggle to retain and regain our ancestral indigenous virtues, values and heritage and further, in the light of the continuous marginalization, victimization and discrimination of the Khoe-khoe and Sonqua (San) Peoples within the workplace and every where else, that MADAM commits itself to continue the fight against injustice and for the liberation of the First Indigenous Peoples of South and southern Africa.

MADAM seeks to eradicate the falsities, untrue notions and lies that had been embedded in our Peoples through colonialist legislation, propaganda and histories written by the hand of the oppressor, which has engrained in our Peoples a sense of self-worthlessness and self hate that sees our Peoples destroying themselves and the communities they live in.

The apartheid state classified Khoe and Sonqua (San) peoples as "coloured" and applied racist policies relating to land ownership, group areas and job reservation, equally to them as to other African citizens. But this classification also had the additional effect of denying indigenous peoples their existence and any depictions which there were, for example in textbooks, school curricula and museums, were profoundly dehumanizing in their portrayal of a homogenous, largely static and primitive culture.

Being legislatively boxed and defined as "Coloured" or so-called coloured by the racist apartheid government's Population Registration Act No.30 of 1950 only served to completely alienate our peoples from their truthful identity, as the racist and offensive term coloured, that was forced upon us, had absolutely no connection to the real history of our country. This was deliberately done by the powers that be to utterly and severely sever all links to our past, as the derogatorily nicknames

“hotknot” (short for Hottentot/Otentottu) or “boesman” (Bushman) still seemed a bit to close to home.

It is in this regard and as was recommended by the Special Rapporteur Rudolfo Stavenhagen, in his report on the situation of human rights and fundamental freedoms of indigenous peoples during his special visit to SA, that MADAM wants to call on government and lobby for the immediate abolishment of the use of the racist terminology “coloured.”

MADAM wants to assist government in its declared commitment to meet the demands of the indigenous peoples to effectively formulate and implement appropriate legislation and policies as guided by the UN’s Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples and as set out by the ILO Convention 169 to address the issues of land restitution, multilingual and multicultural education, the representation of indigenous authorities in public life and the delivery of all other services.

MADAM wants to restore the virtues of humaneness, caring, empathy, sharing, hospitality, honesty and humility that was the basis of our ancestral, traditional indigenous and harmonious Afro-centric way of life. As modern urban / cosmopolitan Khoe-khoe we have forgotten our true nature and has fallen victim to the trappings of an individualistic capitalist society.

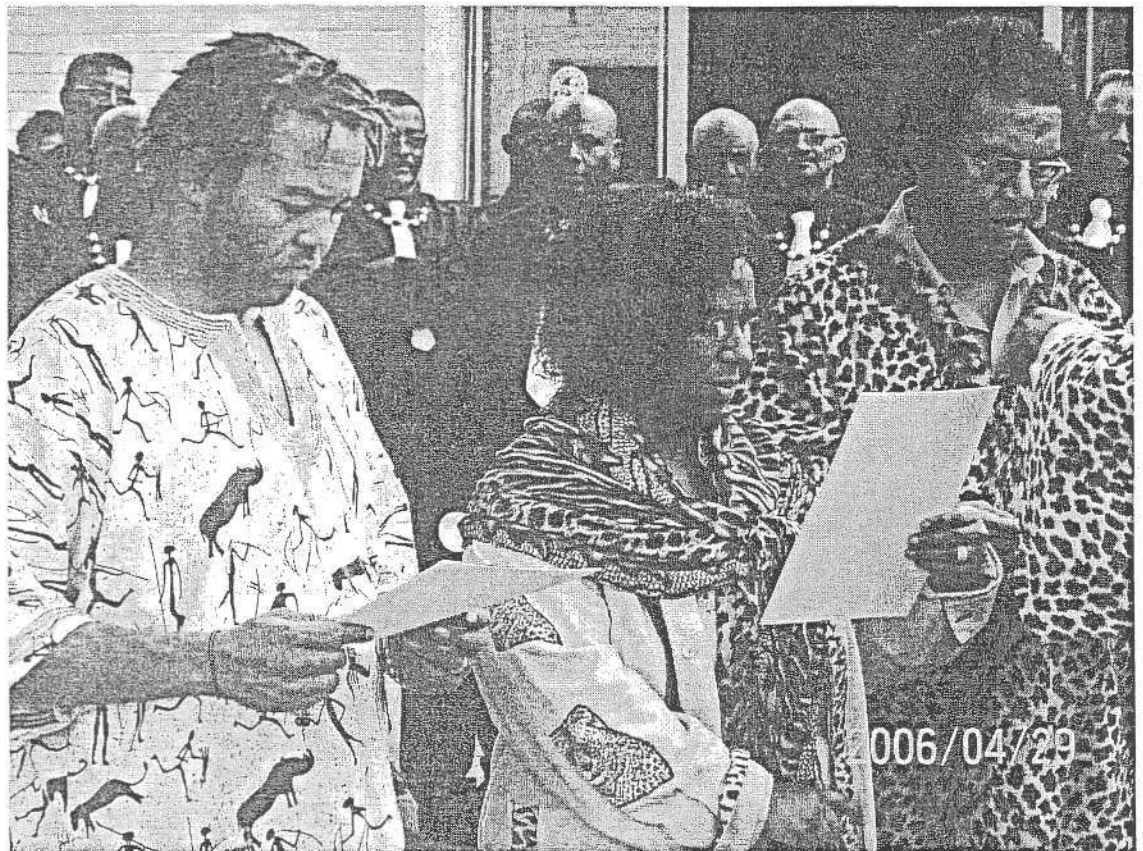
Through effective awareness campaigns and educational instruction MADAM wants to educate and create a greater awareness amongst the descendents of the Khoe-khoe and Sonqua peoples of their true history, heritage and identity. As a movement we want to continue in the spirit and purport of our Constitution (Act 108 of 1996) and its Bill of Rights which promotes the values that underlie an open and democratic society based on human dignity, equality and freedom. The adoption of our Constitution ushered in a new era for the rights of indigenous people in which they are encouraged to assert their culture and identity and to take their place in South Africa’s rich tapestry. As remarked by then President Nelson Mandela at the Khoisan Identities and Cultural Heritage Conference in 1997 “that by challenging current perceptions and enriching our understanding of Khoisan cultural heritage this conference will contribute to the renewal of our nation, our region and our continent.”

In conclusion, we are encouraged by the commitment of our President Thabo Mbeki –“*who owes his being to the Khoi and the San whose desolate souls haunt the great expanses of the beautiful Cape*”- in his continued dedication to the fulfillment of South Africa’s pact with the United Nations in this second decade of the Indigenous Peoples.

MADAM is as dedicated, in its vision to realize the ideal of the effective implementation of the highest visual symbol of the state: the Coat of Arms which promotes the principles of Unity in Diversity in our motto !ke e: /xarra // ke:

We want to heed to the calls for our nation to unite in a common sense of belonging and national pride, so that we all can stand proud and be secure in the knowledge that none dare contest the assertion, that I am an African.

Vice Chief JJ Jansen
President of MADAM
KCHDC Spokesperson
Western Cape Khoisan Leader



Founder members of MADAM at the !Nau rites ceremony organized by the KCHDC held in Oudtshoorn in 2006

From left to right: Senior Headperson EJ Lawrence (Treasurer-General), Senior Headperson LJ Jansen-Lawrence (General Secretary & Legal Representative of Madam &KCHDC) and Vice Chief JJ Jansen (President of Madam)