



## 11th Mpumalanga Oral History Conference 2025 Mpumalanga Province: Thembisile Hani Local Municipality | 10th – 12th September 2025

### “Echoes of the past: Memory, Identity, and Heritage”

South Africa as a country emerged from a long history of subjugation, where the majority of the population was denied rights such as political freedom and human rights in general. Oppression was experienced through colonialism, imperialism and apartheid. The other form of oppression was experienced in the family, the community and in the organisations that were formed to liberate the people.

Our history has been distorted, where the hunter was glorified and the lion never got an opportunity to tell its story. Women played a pivotal role during the fight for liberation; they did not only keep the home fire burning, but they also contributed actively in the struggle, forcing their way to the front.

Colonialism also wanted to change people's identity, erasing their cultural practices, introducing new religious practices and undermining their heritage. New languages were introduced until today, some people still consider speaking English fluently as being clever, which is not true.

It is time to recall the hardships and suffering that generations of our people endured, their struggles, their sacrifices and their undying commitment to build SA that belongs to all who live in it. This year's theme hopes to grapple with the notion of leadership, the role of women in society, narratives of memories, and the revision of historical discourse that shapes our understanding of our past.

**Presenters from various disciplines are welcome to probe into these epochs of memory and critically reflect on one of the cross-cutting sub-themes below:**

1. The battle for African Spirituality: Religion, Colonization and Cultural Erasure.
2. Oral History and family traditions: your family story.
3. Traditional leadership and the identity of ancient kingdoms.
4. Language and Identity: the disappearance of indigenous tongues
5. Storytelling in the classroom.
6. The Role of Women in the Liberation Struggle: Unheard Voices.
7. The struggle of women in the liberation struggle.
8. Land dispossession: the paradox of a rainbow nation
9. The evolution of Indigenous Knowledge Systems (IKS) in a developing world.
10. Revisioning history: the power of perspectives.

Proposals are invited for contributions to the 11th Annual Oral History Conference. Although the conference is primarily academic, case study reports and other contributions are welcome. The contributions must be based on original work and have a clear focus on oral history

The envisaged end-product of the conference will be a publication of the proceedings through OHASA. Interested contributors are encouraged to bring along to the conference papers that are photo-ready for publication.

**NB: THIS IS AN ORAL HISTORY CONFERENCE: PAPERS DELIVERED MUST BE BASED ON ORAL HISTORY RESEARCH AND NOT ONLY ON PUBLISHED SOURCES**

**If you are interested, please send us a short proposal including:**

1. An abstract of your paper or case study report (100-300 words)
2. The relevant conference sub-theme.
3. A short biography of yourself (50-100 words).
4. Your contact information (name and surname, affiliation, postal address, e-mail address, phone and fax numbers)

The duration of the presentation will not exceed twenty (20) minutes, and this will be followed by a group discussion.

We intend to publish refereed conference proceedings. The papers shall not be longer than 5000 words. It is a requirement that finished papers be submitted by 15 August 2025.

**NB: The deadline for proposals/abstracts is on or before 30 May 2025, and the conference organising committee will confirm acceptance or rejection of your abstract by 30th June 2025**

**Send proposal to: [mashigok@mpg.gov.za](mailto:mashigok@mpg.gov.za)**

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