

# CELEBRATING OUR ICON Since 1891



## CELEBRATING OUR ICON – NGAKA MODIRI MOLEMA

Dr. Silas Modiri Molema (Silas Modiri) was born in 1891 in Mafikeng, South Africa. His father was a member of the Royal family of the Barolong chieftaincy and was secretary and chief advisors to Chief Montshioa of the Barolong boo Ratshidi in Mafikeng. Dr Molema was educated at Lovedale Institution, where he matriculated. Prior to this, he had spent some time in Kimberly where he was a teacher until 1914 when he moved to Europe. There he was admitted into the Medical School of Glasgow University.

Since the 1940s, Dr Molema was involved in the African National Congress (ANC) and he became its National Secretary in December 1949. He also served on the African Advisory Council, Joint Advisory Council, and the Constitutional Committee that set the Bechuanaland Protectorate on its road to independence as a Republic of Botswana. He also served as a member of Legislative Council established by the British government as a transitional body sharing power with the Colonial government. Dr. Molema died in Mafikeng in 1965 at the age of 74. He was survived by his wife Lucretia (late) son Rene Lesedi (late) and daughter Warada

In the year 2007, the former Central District Municipality was renamed after Dr. Silas Modiri Molema to Ngaka Modiri Molema District Municipality but it was agreed that the Term Ngaka should be used instead of Dr.; because the Council in 2007 took resolution that November should be termed Ngaka Modiri Molema Month Life Celebration. This inaugural event took place on the 25<sup>th</sup> November 2008 with the unveiling of a 1.8 metre tall tombstone at the Molema cemetery. The celebrations further gathered masses at the Mmabana Arts Theatre for a memorial lecture which was delivered by Mme Thandi Modise who was then Speaker of the North West Legislature and Deputy Secretary General of the ANC. Since then the Municipality has celebrated this icon throughout the years

This year the main focus of the Celebration will be the official hand over and opening of the new Municipal office space.