

FULL HISTORY OF SCHOONOORD IN LIMPOPO PROVINCE, SOUTH AFRICA

Written By: Pekwa Nicholas Mohlala

Edited By: Nkahloleng Eric Mohlala

August 2019

Schoonoord is a name of a farm. Our Schoonoord village in Limpopo South Africa was built on the farm Schoonoord 326 KT. The owner of the farm named it after a town in the Netherlands where his family came from before settling in South Africa. Schoonoord in Netherlands was founded in 1854 by labourmen from Smilde who dug the Oranjekanaal. Later, when the peat in the neighbouring Odoornerveen was being cut, more workers settled in the village. The name of the village was thought up by the peat digger Klijn. It literally means "beautiful place". Most people in South Africa tend to think that the Afikaners (well, part of the Afikaner nation) comes from a country called Holland, this country is not Holland. The correct name for this country where those Afikaner people originally come from is the Netherlands. But confusion is understandable - the general region been renamed a lot over a thousand including as: The Dutch Republic, The United States of Belgium, and The Kingdom of Holland. But it is not just history that makes this country's name confusing because the Netherlands is divided into twelve provinces, namely: 1. Groningen 2. Drenthe 3. Overijssel 4. Gelderland 5. Limburg 6. Brabant 7. Zeeland 8. Friesland 9. Flevoland 10. Utrecht, and here is the confusion: 11. Noord (North) Holland 12. and Zuid (South) Holland. These provinces make calling the Netherlands Holland is like calling South Africa Gauteng. The two Hollands are the most populated provinces and have some of the biggest attractions like, Amsterdam and Keukenhof. Even the government's travel website for the country is Holland.com --officially because it sounds friendlier, but unofficially it is probably what people are actually searching for. Confusion continues because: People who live in the Hollands are called Hollanders, but all citizens of the Netherlands are called Dutch as is their language. But in Dutch they say: Nederlands sprekende Nederlanders in Nederland which sounds like they will rather we call them Nederlanders speaking Netherlandish. Meanwhile, next door in Germany, they are Deutsche sprechen Deutsch in Deutschland. Which sounds like they will rather be called Dutch. This linguistic confusion is why Americans call the Pennsylvania Dutch even though they are Germans. To review: The country where Afikaners come from before settling in South Africa is the Netherlands, its people are Dutch, they speak Dutch. There is no country called Holland, but there are provinces of North and South Holland. NOW, BACK TO OUR SCHOONOORD IN LIMPOPO PROVINCE OF SOUTH AFRICA Before Ba Ga Mohlala came to Schoonoord they were staying in Mamone with Ba Ga Phaahla. They left behind Ba Ga Modila who were their siblings in Mamone and settled in Schoonoord under Batau Ba Nkadimeng. Before Ba Ga Mohlala settled in Mamone, they were from Mogodumo (Chuenespoort) under the leadership of the firstborn son Mohlala Morudi, that was after the split of Ba Ga Mohlala and the split of the collective Banareng and Batlokwa. Ba Ga Nkadimeng settled Ba Ga Mohlala in Selokong and allocated them a piece of land today called Schoonoord (which is the farm called Schoonoord 326KT which includes areas we today call Ga Mohlala, Ga Mashegwana, Ga Maloma, Phase 4, Kotsiri, and part of Bonwatau). That is after they themselves (Ba Nkadimeng) relocated from Ngwanakwenain Schoonoord to Manganeng in the farm called (Avontuur Farm, which included areas we today call Ga Malila Mapitsana and Mashite) Mopong at the foot of Mount Ntswetau.