

## KNOW YOUR HISTORY

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**FOREWORD**  
**BA GA MOHLALA IN SCHOONOORD HISTORY SOURCES AND RESEARCHERS**

Our sources for our ongoing research on the history of Ba Ga Mohlala :The main sources that we use in our ongoing researches on the history of Ba Ga Mohlala in Schoonoord are government official records, archival records, and oral evidence. There are few archival records on the history on the history of Ba Ga Mohlala in general, Banareng, and Batlokwa Ba Lethebe. There are also very few published documents (especially books and others forms of researched publications) on Ba Ga Mohlala in general, Banareng, and Batlokwa Ba Lethebe, and this is one of the principal motivations for the need to record the history of Ba Ga Mohlala in general, Banareng, and Batlokwa Ba Lethebe. Therefore, the bulk of secondary are the available general works of South African History, and most of such works deal scantily with the history of Ba Ga Mohlala, Banareng, and Batlokwa Ba Lethebe, that is because those general works mainly deal with South African tribes in general rather than Ba Ga Mohlala, Banareng, and Batlokwa Ba Lethebe in particular. As such those sources are used to contextualize the history of Ba Ga Mohlala, Banareng, and Batlokwa Ba Lethebe, and are mostly used to develop theoretical framework. Oral evidence forms an important part of our researches. That is because most of the history of clans, and tribes in South Africa, such as Ba Ga Mohlala, Banareng, and Batlokwa Ba Lethebe was not written and it is expected that very few written records do exist on their history. As a result, the few written records which are available are used in conjunction with oral evidence. Most importantly, the other sources which have been mentioned thus far are used to corroborate oral information, and vice versa. Thus, the combination of all these sources result in a more balanced and objective study of the history of Ba Ga Mohlala, Banareng, and Batlokwa Ba Lethebe. We also do review various theories and schools of thoughts on the available history on South African tribes, clans, Ba Ga Mohlala, Banareng, and Batlokwa Ba Lethebe. As there is no academic history on Ba Ga Mohlala, Banareng and Batlokwa Ba Lethebe, we do mostly rely on the general works of J. A. Van Warmelo on which he documented and analysed the origins and short histories of almost all Black polities and communities in South Africa. We also use general works of Monning, and other writers. We use these sources in addition to oral evidence as the combined usage is important in producing a balanced and objective history of Ba Ga Mohlala, Banareng, and Batlokwa Ba Lethebe

Because oral information is one of the core sources of our studies in the history of Ba Ga Mohlala, Banareng, and Batlokwa Ba Lethebe, best practices in oral research are thoroughly followed in order to achieve the best possible outcome possible. Like any other forms of collecting evidence, and as well as other sources of information, oral evidence has its own problem areas and some benefits, and there are also processes of dealing with those problem areas. There are three main problem areas of oral history. Firstly, the limitations of the interviewee which include, unreliability of memory, deliberate falsification, unfairness through vindictiveness, excessive discretion, superficiality and gossip, oversimplification, distortion of interviewee's role, lack of perspective, distortion due to personal feelings, self-consciousness, influence of hindsight, and repetition of published evidence. Secondly, the interviewer has limitations which include, unrepresentative sampling, biased questioning, difference and bias towards the interviews, and interviews as a replacement for reading documents. The third and last problem areas of oral is about the limitations inherent in the nature of interviewing itself which include, misinterpretation of what the interviewee have said, inability of oral history to verified by others, interview transcripts missing the essence of the interview, impossibility of true communication, and dependence on survivors and those who agree to be interviewed. Despite of the problem areas mentioned above, there are benefits to be derived from collecting oral evidence. Firstly, evidence collected orally can help to fill the gaps in

documentary evidence which personalities (with their mannerisms, habits, etc.) can make the richest contribution. Oral evidence can be particularly effective in supplying information about relationships of personalities whose information is being collected because how relationships function in practice is often different from how they are officially supposed to work. Secondly, where for instance, organisation development may pose problems, witnesses can often piece together events. Thirdly, oral evidence can help in the interpretation of documents it can give the researcher synoptic accounts of whole areas for which no overall evidence exists. Where documents frequently contradict one another, oral evidence can save time and clear the blockage. Interviews might well be essential for providing missing facts to complete the picture. Finally, other benefits of oral evidence collection include, adding atmosphere of colour in evidence, discovering new information, adding insight into to the subject, personality and thought processes, add evidence from non -elite witnesses, enrichment of experience and understanding, as well as adding an extra dimension (because of the human element of voice, humour, and so on, oral interview make it as a source make things livelier than other passive sources).In addition to the audible sound of human voice in an interview, there is an added advantage of asking follow up questions for clarification, something that is totally not there in other sources.