



sport, arts & culture

Department:
Sport, Arts and Culture
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA



Media Invitation

13th August 2026

Attention: News Editors and Journalists

NELSON MANDELA MUSEUM HONOURS THE UNSUNG WOMEN OF THE MPONDO REVOLT

Flagstaff, Eastern Cape – The Nelson Mandela Museum, in partnership with the Department of Sport, Recreation, Arts and Culture and Ingquza Hill Local Municipality, will host a Women's Dialogue on 25 August 2026 to commemorate the 70th Anniversary of the Historic 1956 Women's March, while paying tribute to the courageous women whose lives were forever changed by the Mpondo Revolt and the Ingquza Hill Massacre.

The dialogue seeks to recognize and document the often-overlooked stories of widows, mothers, daughters, and other women who bore the emotional, social, and economic consequences of the Mpondo Revolt. Through storytelling and reflection, the event will provide a platform for healing, remembrance and reconciliation.

Ingquza Hill Local Municipality derives its name from the historic mountain of Ingquza, where Mpondo communities gathered in defence of their land and their people. The area remains one of South Africa's most significant sites of resistance. During the Mpondo Revolt, many men and women lost their lives or were injured at the hands of the apartheid regime, culminating in the tragic Ingquza Hill Massacre of 6 June 1960.

While much attention has historically focused on those who died during the massacre, this year's dialogue intentionally shifts the spotlight to the women who survived, endured immense hardship, and carried the burden of loss for generations.

Their resilience, courage, and unwavering commitment to their families and communities form an integral part of South Africa's liberation history.

Held under the theme:

“Forgotten Voices: Documenting the Struggle and Survival of Women in the Aftermath of the Ingquza Hill Massacre of 1960.”

The dialogue will explore two key pillars:

- Trauma and Healing
- Strength and Resilience

The programme will feature oral testimonies, intergenerational conversations and reflections from women directly affected by the Mpondo Revolt, ensuring that their lived experiences are preserved as part of the country's collective memory.

The Acting Chief Executive Officer of the Nelson Mandela Museum, Mr Mandisi Msongelwa CA(SA), said the dialogue forms part of the Museum's ongoing commitment to preserving all dimensions of South Africa's liberation history.

“The sacrifices made by the people of Mpondoland in defence of their land and dignity remain a powerful symbol of courage and unity. The collective resistance demonstrated by communities from Lusikisiki, Ntabankulu, Flagstaff, Bizana and Mount Ayliff continues to inspire present and future generations. The Mpondo Revolt is not merely a provincial chapter of history—it is a national symbol of the struggle for freedom, justice and reconciliation.”

Mr Msongelwa further added:

“For many years our commemorative programmes have honored those who lost their lives during the Mpondo Revolt. This year we deliberately place women at the centre of the conversation. Behind every life lost was a widow, a mother, a daughter or a sister who carried the pain in silence. Their resilience deserves recognition, and this dialogue provides a space for healing through storytelling while ensuring that their voices become part of our national heritage.”

Event Details

Date: Tuesday, 25 August 2026

Venue: Flagstaff Hall, Ingquza Hill Local Municipality

Time: 10h00

Members of the media are invited to attend and cover this important commemoration.

RSVP: Fumanekile Wisani at 076 8429 432 or email: fumanekile@nelsonmandelamuseum.org.za

For interviews, call Nelson Mandela Museum Senior Manager Public Engagement and Marketing, Ms Nontlahla Tandwa Dalindyabo @ 047-501 9500/072 791 3493 or email @ nontlahla@nelsonmandelamuseum.org.za

