

UNIVERSITY OF LIMPOPO

**COMMUNAL IDENTITY CREATION
AMONG THE MAKGABENG RURAL
PEOPLE IN LIMPOPO PROVINCE**

Tlou Setumu

Submitted in fulfilment of the requirements for the

DOCTORAL DEGREE (PhD)

**In the
Department of History**

**In the
School of Social Sciences,**

UNIVERSITY OF LIMPOPO, SOUTH AFRICA

SUPERVISOR: Dr. A. V. Dhliwayo

2009

TABLE OF CONTENTS

DECLARATION	i
DEDICATION	ii
ACKNOWLEDGEMENT	iii
ABSTRACT	vi
PREFACE	vii
1. INTRODUCTION TO MAKGABENG.	1
• The name, “Makgabeng”.	1
• Aims, objectives and focus of this study.	8
• Methodology.	12
• Sources.	18
• Historiographical discussion on Makgabeng.	39
2. THEORETICAL DISCUSSION OF THE TOPIC.	43
• What is identity?	43
• Identity, globalisation and nation states.	47
• Identity creation through Afrocentric perspective.	53
• Identity creation (formation) and contexts.	61
• Expression and observation of identity.	64
• Identity as “shared experience”.	67
• Imposed versus spontaneous identity creation (formation).	70
• Social, cultural and political aspects on identity.	72

3. HOW ENVIRONMENTAL CONDITIONS AFFECTED IDENTITIES FROM THE EARLIEST OCCUPATION OF MAKGABENG, 600 AD – 1850s	76
• Geology and geography of Makgabeng.	78
• Flora and fauna.	86
• Earliest human habitation in Makgabeng.	97
4. POLITICAL CHANGES BROUGHT BY EUROPEAN TRAVELLERS, MISSIONARIES, BOERS AND THE BRITISH, 1850s – 1910.	135
• Earliest European appearances in Makgabeng.	138
• Impact of Mfecane/Difaqane on political identities in Makgabeng.	152
• Makgabeng political identities and the arrival of colonial settlers, the Boers and the British.	156
• Missionaries and political identities.	169
5. CHANGES IN RELIGION, SOCIAL CUSTOMS, HEALTH AND EDUCATION SINCE THE 1850s.	179
• Lutheran and Wesleyan missionary conversions in Makgabeng.	182
• The missionaries' attacks on social customs.	201
• Missionaries on economic activity, health and education.	212
6. LAND AND THE FORMATION OF COMMUNAL IDENTITIES.	222

• Land in Makgabeng before European arrivals.	224
• The first European appearances on the Makgabeng land.	233
• Land in Makgabeng after 1900.	246
• The purchase of land (farms) in the Makgabeng area.	276
• Tensions brought by the purchase of farms.	300
• Makgabeng within the homeland system.	317
7. MIGRANT LABOUR SYSTEM, TRADE AND TECHNOLOGY IN MAKGABENG.	323
• The origins of labour migrancy in Makgabeng.	323
• The impact of South Africa's mineral revolution on Makgabeng.	332
• The consequences of labour migrancy for Makgabeng.	359
8. MAKGABENG IDENTITIES TODAY.	371
BIBLIOGRAPHY.	421
ANNEXURES	445