



PUBLIC NOTICE

FOR PUBLIC COMMENT

NOTIFICATION OF PROPOSED DECLARATION OF THE GRAVE OF CHIEF CHUNGWA OF AMAGQUNUKHWEBE; ALEXANDRIA; EASTERN CAPE AS A NATIONAL HERITAGE SITE
(Section 27 of the National Heritage Resources Act, No. 25 of 1999)

The South African Heritage Resources Agency (SAHRA) intends to declare the grave of Chief Chungwa of AmaQqunukhwebe in Alexandria, Eastern Cape as a National Heritage Site.

“Chief Chungwa, who rose into power in 1795 following the killing of his father in 1793, played a critical role in defending the rights of Indigenous people, who were being threatened by colonial settlers. He has become a symbolic leading figure in the resistance against colonialism which aimed to ethnically cleanse all amaXhosa from the western side of the Fish River, including also the amaGqunukhwebe. Chief Chungwa was killed in the line of defending his subjects and was subsequently buried at the top of the mountain. The site of his burial is of spiritual significance to his people, who visit on regular basis for traditional practices. His grave is representative of the entire history behind the Frontier Wars (1779-1880), the most protracted anti-colonial struggle in South African history. This is a conflict that brought various groups together, joined together by the interest to protect themselves against colonial expansion.

Chief Chungwa has become a significant symbol that represents the struggles against colonialism during the Frontier Wars. He grew up to an adult age while still engaged in conflicts with the colonialists, thus becoming a significant figure in the identity of the amaGqunukhwebe people. This is even though he fought in only three of these nine wars that lasted for a century – and continued for 67 years after his death. His name soars above other traditional leaders also played their parts in the war over land and the general comfort of an African life. In honour of the amaGqunukhwebe hero, his subjects today have an oath ‘Ndifung’uChungwa efel’eMnyameni’ (I swear by Chungwa who died at Mnyameni). While it is today called Alexandria, the place has always been referred to as Mnyameni by amaGqunukhwebe.”

The South African Heritage Resources Agency identified the site as having qualities so exceptional that it is of special national significance and warrants the declaration as a National Heritage Site.

Your comments regarding our intention are highly appreciated. For more information and to send us your comments and opinions, please indicate by ticking the boxes below, or scan the QR code below and visit our website at www.sahra.org.za. Email form to declarationscoms@sahra.org.za

Comments will close on the 14th August 2026



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