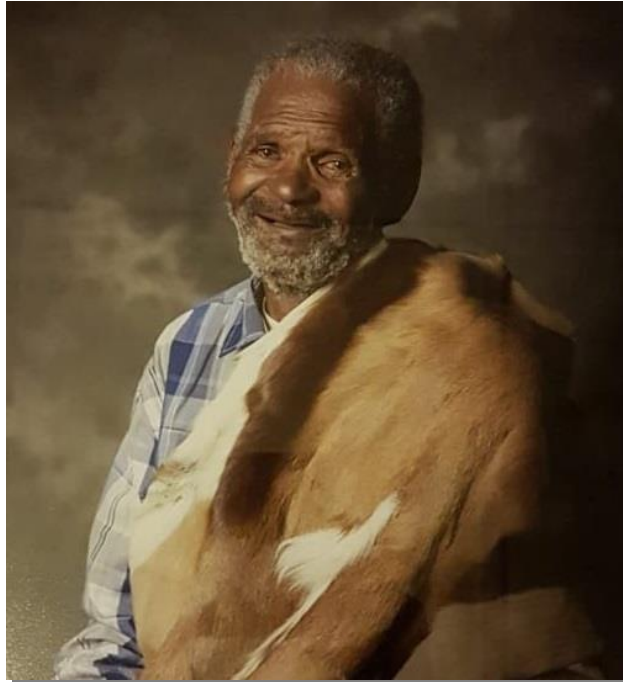




FREE
STATE
GRIQUA
COUNCIL

2021 REPORT



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| Approved by Raymond Loff and Frans Kraalshoek

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Introduction

In 1974 one man, Johannes Kraalshoek (cover page) took it upon himself to find them forgotten Khoe & San community within the Province. His mission was to educate them about their culture, history and language. The places that he visited included Springfontein; Bethulie; Welkom; Philippolis; Boshof; Bloemfontein; Thaba Putsoa and Edenburg. It was during this year that the Free State Griqua Council was established.

The Organization is registered in terms of the Nonprofit Organizations Act, 1997 as a Non-Profit Organization, **NPO: 083-284** and is also registered as the **Free State Griqua Trust** on 18 April 2011, in terms of Section 6(1) of the Trust Property Control Act, 1988 (Act 57 of 1988).

Mission Statement

- a. To cooperate with other Khoe-San organisations / homes / groups in promoting Griqua nationalism.
- b. To keep Griqua traditions and culture alive and to treat them with the necessary respect.
- c. To negotiate with the government of the day as Indigenous and First nation, and to attain representation on all governmental levels.
- d. To attain our right to self-determination as First nation.
- e. To strive towards the Charter for Indigenous Peoples issued by the United Nations.
- f. To promote the education and training of the Griqua nation through socio-economic development.
- g. To empower and to uplift the Griqua people by means of development and other programmes.
- h. To reach out to other Indigenous Peoples and to sign treaties of cooperation with them.

Objectives

To empower the Griqua people and to built them up to be a dynamic nation through socio-economic, religious, culture and political development

The year 2021 came with prosperity of growth and recognition. Some of the challenges for the Council during this year included:

- Woman and youth empowerment
- Non support by the Department Rural Development and Land Affairs
- Legal Assistance on land challenges
- Promoting and developing Khoekhoegowab in the Province.
- Completion of Captain's Historical book
- Financial support
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Captain's Vision



Captain J. Kraalshoek took a position in the province is to ensure that the language, culture, heritage and religion of the Griqua communities are addressed. The leader made it a point for over the past 47 years. The notion of the leader is that any leader who is leading must make sure that they lead their Branches as leaders. Leaders must lead and ensure that all programs of the organization is implemented and protected as such.

There is a strong view of the leader that the Trust must be implemented to provide proper services for the communities as per the objectives stated in the trust. The trust can address all the challenges of the communities and the trust can be used to set up a business plan to request funds from the Rooibos Tea.

Quarter 1 (January – March)

The year 2021 open once again with an historical event, the birthday of Captain Johannes Kraalshoek which took place on the 22 January 2021. This was a happy but also a sad moment because Captain's wife was not present. At that time, Corona did not had such a negative impact on our lives yet

1.

PLENARY MEETING AT PHILIPPOLIS

The Free State Griqua Plenary meeting took place in Philippolis on Saturday, 08 February 2021. During this meeting strategic direction has been given by the leader on how to grow the organization. The event took place at the museum in Phillipolis and the department always support the organization when it comes to the hosting of our events.



A challenge been registered that this area is the historical side of the Griqua community and been neglected for many years. This area must be uplifted and the leadership must play a very important role. Historical sides must be preserved as well as historical graves must be visited. A program must be put in place respect and acknowledge the historical sides in the area. Land must be at the center since there is various farms which belonged to Griqua communities.



Based on our calendar plan we must make sure that effective programs must take place to remind us about matters such as historical dates such as the Maitland treaty. This is so important that we must not lose side on the area to celebrate these dates and events. The Department Sport Arts and culture must be brought to the party to understand the importance of the area. The local municipality must also be breath about the existence of the FSGC. A special meeting must take place with strategic stakeholders in the area for the advancements of the organization.



Our cultural activities must also be address so that we as a council come up with a standard attire. This is a very important matter since us as the Traditional Council must send a clear direction based on our dress code. It is one of the matters our leader is looking forward based on our cultural appearance. The youth and woman organizations need to come up with a new drive on making the community aware of the existence in the area.



More focus must be given in the New Year on the branch, leadership and the community. Base on the history and 40 farms outstanding to be claimed by the Trust and looking into the acceptance policy to look at historical sides. We must also align our challenges also with existing Khoi Khoi communities in the country who has the same in tress in this matter.

The executive must make it a point to provide support to the area and making use of the media to promote the Griqua people. The chairperson of the branch must use his available resources and community meetings to mobilize the members.

GRIQUA NATIONAL CONFERENCE IN CAPE TOWN WITH THE ROYAL HOUSE

The Griqua National Conference was held in Bloemfontein in conjunction with the Griqua Royal House. This Conference took place on the 21 – 22 February 2020 and was attended by Griqua delegates from 9 Provinces including representatives from the Free State Griqua Council's branches.



It must be noted that Captain J. Kraalshoek has been appointed as the regent of the Royal house and its day to day activities is managed by HC and this is a great deal for the Free State Griqua Council. Based on the agreement signed with the Royal House the FSGC is still economical self-sustainable and independent in their cultural activities and running of their council under the leadership of Captain.

Independency and self-sustainability is the two pillars which binds the Barend Griqua House and the Free State Griqua Council in the Royal House.



The FSGC executive needs to find a way to get a sitting with the NEC of the Royal House to be in a better position to understand the working relationship and responsibilities. The leader deemed it fit that the structure exist in relation with a partnership to promote the Griqua people. This is the only way to get the correct king to be identified. The vision of the leader is that each organization must be represented on the structure which is responsible for the day to activities.

VISIT BY CHOVIE WOLF FORMER MEMBER OF BETHANY COMMITTEE



Above is one of the leaders who helped and served with the leader on claiming the land (Bethany Farm). This has been the first historical claim in the province and Mr. Wolf is very clear that the land belonged to the Griqua communities. Mr. Wolf visit the leader so that he must be provided with a side since he had played a critical role in as far getting the land back. This visit come at a critical time since there is a challenge with the concern group as well as the Department Rural Development and land Reform. The current illegal CPA is inexistence for almost five years at Bethany so far without having any of the Griqua community on the board.

The above matter must be addressed with the National office to make a difference in the lives of the communities. There is currently a force that this matter needs intervention of an attorney to take action on the delay of given land back to the Griqua committee as per the Human Rights commission report 2016.

Quarter 2 (March - June)

SITTING WITH COGTA

The leader attended to opening of the House for the year. This uplifted the leadership role which we can learn from the leader in the Province. Regardless his remoteness he is still active in taking the organization forward. He was accompanied by the provincial secretary Mr. R. Loff and the outcome of this sitting was evaluated in a positive manner by the delegation.

One concern registered was that the delegates from the Korana group misuse there position by means of hijack all opportunities for themselves. The executive must focus more on the visibility of the structure amongst the different departments.



Official opening of the Fourth Ordinary Session of the Fifth House of the Free State House of Traditional Leaders, 8 April 2021

Every year the leadership attend the session but what is still outstanding is the recognition of the house as per Act 3 of 2019. This is a matter which needs to be addressed by all the leadership in the different branches.



Captain with the delegates from different traditional authorities at the opening of the house. The message was that unity must be strived for. The matter of COVIT 19 was discussed and the role of the traditional leadership was discussed on how to assist government. One of the main objectives was to bring to the attention of the government structures that the Khoi and San communities exist in the Free State province. The sitting did not provide proper guidance on what the purpose of the day is. The leader state this sitting was just like someone put a lolly in your mouth to keep you busy in the meantime.

NATIONAL KHOI AND SAN COUNCIL

Delegation of the National Khoi and San council met with the President of the country to discuss three critical issues: transition of the council while the act will be enacted into law, secondly the issue on land has been addressed and the presence of the Khoi San structure, thirdly the matter of Khoi San South Africa and what the NKC is going to do about him.

The President agreed that there cannot be a vacuum after the act has been signed into law and the acknowledgement period. Secondly he told the delegate that it was his office mistake by means of leaving the NKC out of the process and discussions of the land issue which is critical for the Khoi communities.



The chairperson of the FSGC was part of the delegation and could experience the sitting with the president with the view to represent the Khoi San communities in tress in SA. We as one structure must get our application form ready for the recognition of the community since it will be the only way that we will form part of the legal representation as per Act 3 of 2019. There is also a need that we must get a full research document on our land issues in the province. The second important document is the one for the heritage route of which next to the Riet and Modder Rivier our people moved and there spirit and trails are still to be recognized.

BRANCH VISITATION TOOK PLACE ON 18 APRIL 2021 AT KROONSTAD.

Visit to the different branches are very important for the striving of acknowledgement by the political heads and various government structures. This is a matter which the leader is very passionate about and it was these strategies which put or placed us historically where we are today. Community members must be informed and there need to be a touch with their leadership.

Captain always remind the leaders that one of the most important matters in the running or restoration of identity of a nation people need to be informed. Apart from the written word leaders must serve their people. It brings us to the point to ask what a nation without a leader is but firstly this leader must have followers.



This meeting was one of the challenging actions of the executive council. A program was set up to visit all branches and only this branch could be visited. Transport and financial muscle is a big challenge for the organization. Branches need to pay their monthly fees and the financial committee need to be effective. Several attempts has been made to get this structure from the ground but it is very difficult. The provincial committee has been put in place but a proper hand over must take place to get the unit in action.

The visit to the different branches must find space in the calendar plan of the organization so that chairpersons can get their community members ready. Monthly meetings must take place in the communities and the provincial secretary must ensure that this sitting must take place.

ROOIBOS NEGOTIATION TEAM

Natural Justice arrange a meeting in Ficksburg to discuss the new negotiations which is going to take place in the Buchu negotiations. The purpose of the sitting was to train all the delegates' together with the other stakeholders such as the Buchu farmers. The workshop was conducted on 15 April 2021 and all members were positive about the arrangements.



The secretary of the NKC was previously not part of the negotiation team but was now newly added to the team. The training was created for capacity building while waiting for the negotiations to take place. There will be negotiations for the year 2022 with the various industries to determine the TK holders of the species.

FSGC DELEGATE ATTEND COMMUNITY MEETING IN HEIDEDAL

The chairperson and Mr. Human attend the political discussion in Heidedal with the intention to get the Khoi Khoi voice in the different political platforms. The political leaders appreciated the presence of the organization since the impact they make in the different communities.

Issues such as housing and cultural recognition was discussed and the leadership was promised that their people will be attended to. The chairperson of Bloemfontein must attend to community meetings and let their issues be addressed. The existence of the branch in the community is blurry and none existing. Social media and different platforms are not effectively used for the advancement of the FSGC. It needs to be that there must be leadership changes in the year 2022.



PROVINCIAL OFFICE REPAIRS

A program was design to attend to the rebuilding of the office. A team has been assigned to ensure that the provincial office operate to each maximum. Utilization of the office with the view that the community in the local and provincial level is aware of the existence of the office to create an effective administration in the FSGC.

The building has been left un attended for many years and the leader has been concern of the status and the condition of the office. Historically the building has been around for the last 47 years and a lot of history is in and around the building. An attempt can be made to SARHA to preserve the building as a heritage side since it is more than 60 years old. The monument in front of the building testifies to the history of the structure. The leaders who visited the building contributed to the history of the building and the organization.



The secretary of the province delivered sand and other equipment for the rebuilding of the office. Mr. R. Loff, Mr. A. Kraalshoek, Mr. E. White and Ms. Loff was assigned to repair the office.

KOFFIFONTEIN MEETING

This branch has history around it since there is big heritage sides at the mine and this meeting took place at PETRA MINE who is currently the land owners of the side. Community participation and shearing of the wealth of the production of the mine is not experience by the local Griqua communities. Since the new CEO has been dismissed or resigned the branch could not convene any meetings with them.

A great effort must be made to get a meeting with the mine and discuss the future plan around social economical support to the Griqua Trust by the mine. The area is also reach as far as language and history is concern. The elders in the community must be group so that the oral history can be captured. This must be done as soon as possible before some of the elders are going to pass on.

One week must be dedicated to gather the elders as well as making provision on the calendar for the year 2022. Once per quarter their needs also be a meeting with the mine in Koffiefontein and Jagersfontein.

This area is one of the youngest branches with a passion amongst the community to restore there identity. Many people must be educated about their culture heritage and language. It is in particular very important for the youth be up to date and become relevant to their identity. Culture must be taken noted of and the community at large must know their leader in the province. It has been noted with concern that only leadership receive sittings and the community is left behind. For the New Year 2022 focus must be on the communities as well as the different professional structures:

- Educators
- Pastors
- Police
- Banks
- Government entities
- Municipalities
- Schools
- NGO's
- Private sectors



A report must be submitted to the mine on the activity of the day and they must be invited for a sitting so that we can make our position clear in the area. Leadership must at all times understand that this is about the people and not themselves. There must be no confusion amongst community members on who is their leadership and the role they must play.



One which make our leader happy is to see that his executive is standing side by side on the protection, preservation and promotion of our culture and heritage. This day was a day which can be recorded as one of the most relevant days in the history books of



the Free State Griqua Council.

Only one matter of concern on the day was that in the closing remarks of Leader Andrew Kraalshoek he mentioned the gap with the absence of Captain during this sitting could be felt.

Quarter 3 (July - September)

VISIT THE LEADERSHIP BY NETHERN CAPE

As a token of appreciation Mr. R. Korke visited the leader on the farm. He was blessed with the presence of the member from Nothern Cape and deem it important to go to the farm and send the message from the community from his province. This was again one of that cold days and the leadership does not let anything stop them to be in tach with the provincial leader. The 20 June 2021 with cold and C19 did not stop the chairperson to bless the leader with this visit.



Visiting Captain on 20/06/2021

CRL SITTING WITH GRIQUA COMMUNITY

Leadership Mr. E. White has been instrumental to run and organize this sitting. Since he has been assigned to be the contact person of the structure he use every opportunity to promote the FSGC. This is one of our mandates to ensure at all the gatherings we find ourselves is to put the organization first. No meeting must end if we did not create any contact and ensuring that our leader is recognized by the sitting.



This workshop was very important for the people so that they can shear knowledge with other orgins of the state in realising the existance of the Khoi Khoi communities in the Free State Province. So many people are confuse by thinking that the Khoi San communities only exist in the Nothern Cape Province. Captain J. Kraalshoek worked very effective and strategic in the FS province and took him 47 years that the government structures realise is and his people existance.



A FALLEN HEROWIN

This day marks one of those days which will not be easily forgotten in our history. The mother the secretary (J. Tongha) of Bethany passed on and the chairperson (F. Kraalshoek) and provincial secretary (R. Loff) attended the funeral. The day 31 July 2021 will be marked as a day on the provincial calender that the history, legacy and drive of her late mother will be remembered. In particular the fact the the late bring life to this organisazion by means of a dinemic remarkeble secretary and leader to the nation of the Griqua people.



BRANCH ESTABLISHMENT AND REACHING OUT TO COMMUNITIES

The chairperson Mr. F. Kraalshoek made it one of his mandates as a leader to promote the existence of the Griqua people wherever he is going. He discovered this leader in Jagersfontein and made him aware of his culture and heritage. The leader is busy with a project of which he is making bricks according to the heritage of his elders and for fathers. Baking the bricks from clay and ash he gets from the mine. The project is managed by himself and kept alive for many years.



For many years he is continuing on his own and tried on several occasions to develop the youth but without success. Mr. Pikkie May is very positive that if he can just get support he will be in a position to establish a factory for the community and create jobs for our Griqua communities in the rural areas.

This project can be piloted and heritage plus knowledge can be preserved amongst our communities. During school holidays a team of 10 youth members from different areas can be deployed for skills development on making bricks. SITA can also be approached by means of investing of this skill transferal to the youth of the day. Social and Economical development can start to form part of the economical transformation process under our poor communities.



Above the chairperson was busy to launch Xhariep Dam branch. This branch historically formed part of the FSGC but during the times of Stoffel he left the community unattended. It was on the basis of the historical existence of the branch that the chairperson kept on the to inform the community of their existence. It took him two years to realize his objective but at the end of the day he could manage to re establish the branch.

It is important to establish branches but it is equally important to maintain the branch. Hence this is one of the priorities of the provincial secretary to make follow up and keep branches alive. Members need to be informed about any developments around them as well as the information in the country.





Above Mr. Ben been visited in Koffiefontein to get his role of support to the establishment of Oppermansgronde. Historical this branch was carried by Ms. Van Wyk and currently leader Andrew Kraalshoek was requested to re establish the branch. For Ben it is important that people must not with held him from his culture and heritage. He had a passion that his children must start to speak our language and that our cultures must be presented in the education sector.

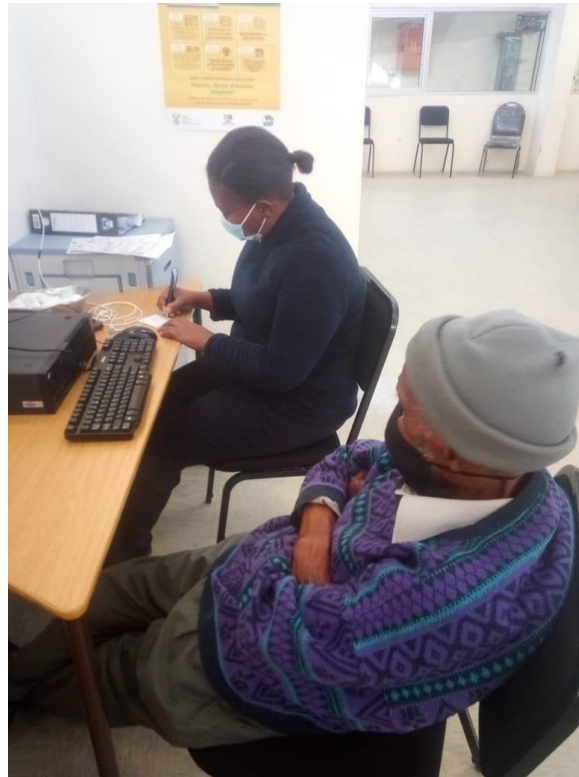
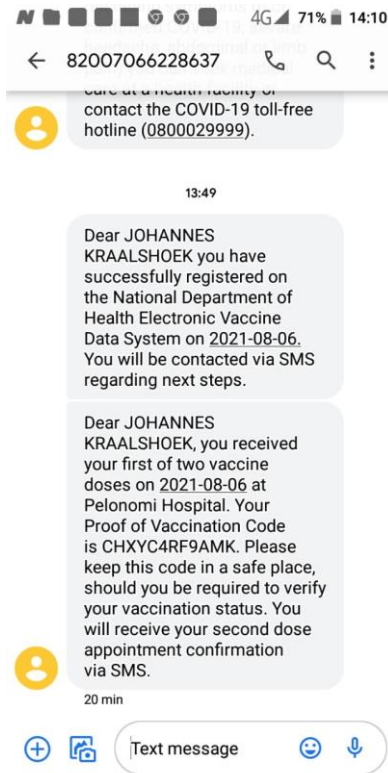
GRIQUA UNITY FORUM

This sitting could not be attended by the provincial delegation due to financial contrains. The matter could only be taken up telephonical but no presence of the FSGC during this sitting. Main discussion was to hold a land summit.



COVID-19 VACCINATION

Captain J. Kraalshoek take the lead again by ensuring that he impliment government objectives by showing his community that he is a true leader. Like he use to say a leader leads from the front and by example. This is why he is so dinemic in what he is doing. A visionary leader with clear vision and objective.



Andrew and Lezelle Kraalshoek got vaccinated and set the tone for the community they are leading in the Khoi Khoi communities of the province. There is a clear understanding of the demands and objectives of the leader. This was a tauf year and leadership had to come out blaze gun fighting in the view to destroy C19 which had taken so many lives of our communities around the country.

Heritage Day

Heritage day was celebrated this year under difficult circumstances. C19 took the position of people coming together and show the passion in how they want to preserve their heritage. This was once more the branch of Koffiefontein under the leadership of the the day leader Ishmial Kok who made us proud on this day. Together with the municipality they could show the world about the existence of the Khoi Khoi people. He was supported by leader Realp Speek and his wife on the day. Mina Kok was also present and with her cultural knowledge and presence she could play an important role.





Mr. E. Human was also not stopped by the C19 and made the organization proud during the teater play and jocks he could broadcast via virtual platforms. He is one of the leaders been groomed by Captain and clearly understand the role of our culture and how we must preserve it.

On international arena he take the leed by positioning the organisation. Never in his history did he ever lead us done issues such as representation of the FSCG you will always find him. Not only on the cultural side but also in the field of language development.

SUTTLE IMPLIMENTATION OF 1913 ACT OF FORCEFULL REMOVAL BY AAA BOERDERY, V. BEKKER AND A. NOORDMAN

Many people will think that the impact and the non implimentation of the 1913 Act is not taking place. First AAA Boerdery give Captain a letter of endorcement that he can live life long on the side of Bethany Poortjie. COVIT was used as a reason to remove him from the side and that his life will be effected



Secondly the elader was explained that he must hand over the keys so that the old school can be repared since it create a dangour for Mr. Antoon Noordman son. This is a very comefortable reason but the time Captain stayed in the school it was apperently not dangerous.

13 November 2021 is marked as one of the days that finally Captain is indirectly removed from the land he remarkebly fouth for for so many years. Importantend dates such as 1881, 1911,1913, 1925, 1965,2018 and 2021 is calender dates which must be recaled as date of which we have been sribed from our indiginous and customary rights by the missionaries and the capatalish white people in SA.



What a picture for us as Griqua people watching and looking without any hope from Natural Justice, DRDLR, and Albertyn Channels to assist us with our land challenge. All we have left on the side is footprints and remnants of our land.

The days of our childhood and our fathers are stolen once more under a democratic SA. Kliptown resolutions don't protect the Khoi San people but only a few individuals. What is a Griqua without land. Who will come and be borned out of our children to take the fight forward to restore our land rights.

Captain J. Kraalshoek direct interpretation of the new land law is that land which belonged to the Griqua indigenous people of the country are just handed over by the government to the same people who steal the land from us.





Provincial chairperson

F. Kraalshoek

FSGC