

## CHAPTER 6

### CONCLUSION

The forced removal of the Bakwena ba Mogopa from Mogopa to Pachsdraai constituted part of the cruel and emotional aspect of the history of South Africa during the era of apartheid.

The aim of this study as stated in Chapter 1, was to establish and analyse the reasons, methods and effects of the forced removal of the Bakwena ba Mogopa and also to challenge the perception that the Bakwena ba Bakwena had moved voluntarily. This was discussed in four chapters.

The analysis indicated that the Bakwena ba Mogopa came into being due to various splits in the Kwena group of tribes. They moved around and settled at various places between the Marico and Crocodile rivers. Due to various internal and external conflicts, they became dispersed in various areas until they fled to Basotholand. The people who remained dispersed on various farms of the Orange Free State when the major group returned to their original settlement, consolidated themselves as the Bakwena ba Mogopa by settling on the farms Swartkop and Hartebeeslaagte (Ventersdorp district) bought in 1911 and 1931 respectively. It was from these farms where they were removed in the period from 1983 to 1984.

Forced removals were among other factors due to the homeland consolidation and clearance of the "black spots" policy of the government. The settlements of the Bakwena ba Mogopa were regarded as "black spots" or "badly situated" areas. Their land became part of this consolidation policy. Against this background, it becomes clear that the removal of the Bakwena ba Mogopa was planned and formed part of the general policy affecting blacks. The Government needed to achieve its aims and no one could be

allowed to compromise the policy of separate development (apartheid). There was no choice.

An impression was created by the Government that the Bakwena ba Mogopa moved voluntarily. The study has, however, by and large, revealed the opposite. It is clear that cruel methods were used to forcibly remove the majority of the Bakwena ba Mogopa from Mogopa to Pachsdraai. The Bakwena ba Mogopa tried to resist and stop their removal from Mogopa to Pachsdraai. They rebuilt the demolished school, installed a new pump, and confronted the Ventersdorp magistrate to reinstate services that were terminated such as the payment of old age pensions, the stamping and removal of work permits and business licences. They even used the legal process to challenge the validity of State President's order but all efforts were in vain. The methods used help to refute the myth of voluntary removal. The Bakwena ba Mogopa did not have an option to stay, and were forcibly removed from their ancestral land, Mogopa. The fact that one group voluntarily moved in June 1983 before the use of brute force, cannot be used to support the myth of voluntary removal. The cutting off of essential services such as water, the bus service to Ventersdorp, the payment of old age pensions, the demolition of schools and the use of brute force, show that there had been no option to stay.

The negative effects of the forced removal of the Bakwena ba Mogopa on the economic, social and political life and infrastructure were analysed. The forced removal socially ruined the Bakwena ba Mogopa. Their removal from the habitat of their ancestors left them insecure and traumatised. The social and religious life of the Bakwena ba Mogopa was disrupted and some families disintegrated. The Bakwena ba Mogopa were transformed from a stable community into a vagrant and uprooted community seeking refuge in other areas such as Bethanie and Onderstepoort. Education, which is dependent on a normal community life, suffered, as there was no normal community life for the Bakwena ba Mogopa since their forced removal.

The forced removal also had a negative impact on the economy and development of the Bakwena ba Mogopa. The forced removal denied them to carry out their normal economic activities. Having moved from a well-watered agricultural zone in the Maize Triangle to a dry bushveld agricultural zone, it became difficult for the community to effectively farm the area. The area demanded capital intensive equipments such as irrigation schemes for production and a shift from subsistence farming to commercial farming. This impoverished the community further. As revealed in this study, the community lost almost everything during the forced removal. Compensation, which was one of the conditions of the forced removal, was never satisfactory paid and the community was therefore economically ruined.

As far as land is concerned, the Bakwena ba Mogopa gained land when they returned to their ancestral land, Mogopa, from 1991. In addition to Mogopa, they occupied Pachsdraai and Onderstepoort.

Forced removal of the Bakwena ba Mogopa created various political problems. The tribal authority was undermined and in some instances destroyed. It left the community members (especially those who returned to Mogopa) without any traditional form of governance. Attempts to transform traditional authority into the new policy of participatory democracy, proved to be a disaster, as it created tension and internal conflict between elected representatives and traditional tribal elders.

Forced removal of the Bakwena ba Mogopa delayed developments at Mogopa. There is no electricity, water supply and other services and Mogopa is behind the other tribal areas around it.