



## PRESS RELEASE

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### FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

**07 OCTOBER 2019**

### **GA-KOMAPE COMMUNITY HEADS TO POLOKWANE HIGH COURT**

#### **GA-KOMAPE COMMUNITY IS STILL AWAITING THE REPORT FROM COMMISSION ON TRADITIONAL LEADERSHIP DISPUTES AND CLAIMS**

On 08 October 2019, the Ga-Komape community will return to the Polokwane High Court where their matter will be heard. Years after lodging a claim in terms of the Commission on Traditional Leadership Disputes and Claims, the findings of the report have been received with mixed reactions from communities and traditional leaders. This claim relates to the chieftainship in the Moletjie area, Limpopo where the Ga-Komape community resides.

The **Alliance for Rural Democracy (ARD)**, stands in solidarity with the Ga-Komape community as they return to court tomorrow to request access to information on the work of the Commission on Traditional Leadership Disputes and Claims. The Commission was established under the Traditional Leadership and Governance Framework Act 41 of 2003 [as amended]. As such, the Commission dismissed the claim concerning the chieftainship of the Ga-Komape community without any written reasons by way of research report or any other supporting documents. Dating far back before the advent of democracy, there are many recorded instances where traditional leadership has been subverted and distorted to serve the needs of powerful actors at the expense of traditional communities. These distortions and subversions have become accepted as fact and such a Commission has the potential to challenge this narrative of how customary law is defined. The ARD supports all communities who seek to *[re]define living customary law* on their own terms.

For more information about the ARD contact the office of the **National Coordinator, Constance Mogale on +27 82 559 0632** or visit [www.allianceforruraldemocracy.org](http://www.allianceforruraldemocracy.org) or visit [www.stopthebantustanbills.org](http://www.stopthebantustanbills.org)

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