

## Glossary

The changing nuances of the social, political and economic roles associated with positions of leadership over time, are very difficult to capture in English terms. As far as possible, the Venda language terms were used in this study, except for the early periods where very little is known about the structure of leadership. In such cases, the term “ruler” was simply opted for. In this glossary, an attempt is made to provide English translations for Venda terms.

<b>TshiVenda</b>	<b>English</b>
<i>a mile tshivhindi</i>	a Venda idiom meaning assassination of a <i>khosi</i> or the heir to the throne
<i>a zama</i>	the passing of the king
<i>Bele-la-Mambo</i>	hyena of the king, also known as <i>Vele la Mbeu</i> to the Venda people
<i>bune</i>	a game of hiding played by Venda girls and boys in the evening
<i>domba</i>	girls’ initiation school to womanhood that is also attended by men
<i>dzekiso</i>	the cattle paid for the marriage of the royal wife.
<i>dzinanga</i>	healers
<i>enkosi</i>	refers to a chief in Zulu language
<i>Fundudzi</i>	the lake of gods of the Vhatavhatsindi, “ <i>Dzivha la vhadzimu vha Vhatavhatsindi</i> ”
<i>gota (pl. magota)</i>	headman
<i>grens</i>	<i>Afrikaans</i> for boundary or border.
<i>hosi</i>	chief in Tsonga language
<i>imbi</i>	warriors
<i>khoro</i>	the royal court
<i>kgosikgadi</i>	refers to queen in Kelobedu and the other Sepedi dialects
<i>Khoro ya Mahosi</i>	the Council of Chiefs
<i>khoro ya musanda</i>	royal council

<i>khosi (pl. mahosi)</i>	chief
<i>khosikhulu</i>	paramount chief, or king
<i>Kwivhula</i>	refers to the one that turns red, in this case it was referring to the blood spilled into this river during the battle between Tshivhase and Munzhedzi
<i>lobola</i>	dowry paid for marriage
<i>maine</i>	traditional healers
<i>makhadzi</i>	the title given to the king's sisters and it is also the title given to any woman who is a sister in a commoner's family
<i>masakha</i>	boundary or border
<i>Masingo</i>	<i>Vhasenzi</i> people who in the early 1700s migrated from what is today Zimbabwe and settled in the Vhangona land where they absorbed the language and culture of their subjects. The Venda rulers are <i>Masingo</i>
<i>mativha oxa</i>	when the king or chief dies
<i>Matongoni</i>	the Senzi kingdom in Zimbabwe before they came to the Soutpansberg.
<i>mitupo</i>	a Venda totem which refers to the nation or community
<i>Moletsi</i>	the area of the Batlokwa people and it is currently known as Moletji in Limpopo.
<i>Mudzimu</i>	a word indicating the way a <i>khosikulu</i> would consider himself as the 'god' of his people
<i>Mudzwiri</i>	an indigenous tree species.
<i>muhaga</i>	a strong powerful Venda man
<i>mukololo (pl. vhakololo)</i>	from the royal family / prince(s)
<i>mukoma</i>	the chief or headmen's spokesman
<i>mukumba</i>	skin of a slaughtered ox in which a deceased khosi would be wrapped
<i>mulaifa</i>	heir

<i>murundu</i>	circumcision school
<i>musandamuswa</i>	new royal enclosure
<i>mushonga</i>	magical medicine
<i>musiwana (pl. vhasiwana)</i>	commoner
<i>mutahabvu</i>	the late king
<i>mutanuni</i>	refers to the queen / royal wife in the Venda language
<i>muzwala</i>	cousin
<i>ngomalungundu</i>	magic drum
<i>ndumi</i>	the king or chief's assistant, a younger brother to the king or chief, who is crowned with him
<i>nndu thukhu</i>	junior house
<i>nnduni ya vuhosivhuhulu</i>	at the royal family / house
<i>pfamo</i>	royal palace
<i>-pfareli</i>	acting (king, chief or headman)
<i>skuts</i>	( <i>Afrikaans</i> ) hunters skilled in using fire-arms
<i>Songozwi</i>	mountain range in Venda also known by its Dutch/ <i>Afrikaans</i> name <i>Soutpansberg</i>
<i>thovele</i>	respectful address form for a ruler
<i>thovho</i>	mat
<i>tshikona</i>	traditional Venda dance and music for major celebrations, such as before and after the crowning of a new chief, or before the chief or king speaks, performed mostly by men with a horn as their musical instrument
<i>tshileli</i>	royal servant
<i>u mala</i>	marriage process

<i>u pembela</i>	a ceremony used for celebration where the community would be dancing a traditional dance, <i>malende</i> , which indicated that the community was happy and they would also be drinking traditional beer, <i>mahafhe</i> .
<i>u swenda</i>	part of the rituals performed by royal family members after the death of the king or chief. Members of the royal family sit on the floor and make a movement using the bums on the spot where the king or chief died
<i>Vhadzimu</i>	gods or ancestor spirits
<i>vhailafuri</i>	totem of the Vhasenzi, or Singo people, the Ramabulana community
<i>vhalindi</i>	guards
<i>Vhamusanda</i>	what Venda people call their chief
<i>Vhangona</i>	widely regarded as the 'authentic' Venda-speakers and owners of the Venda land.
<i>Vhasenzi</i>	see <i>Masingo</i>
<i>vhatanuni</i>	the chief's wives
<i>Vhembe</i>	Venda name for the Limpopo River
<i>vhomalume</i>	the uncles of the royal princes and princesses
<i>vhongwaniwapo</i>	first inhabitants
<i>vhoswitwa</i>	the burial of the king.
<i>vhuhosi</i>	chieftainship
<i>vhuhosivhuhulu</i>	kingship
<i>Vhukalanga</i>	the name Venda people used to refer to Zimbabwe. They called it the land of <i>Vhakalanga</i> , referring to the Shona people
<i>vhura</i>	arrow

*Voortrekkers*

the first wave of white settlers in the area between the Vaal and the Limpopo rivers (referred to as the *Transvaal*); they spoke Dutch-Afrikaans and as from the late nineteenth-century their descendants became known as the *Boers*.

*zwifho*

place where the kings and chiefs are buried

*zwileli zwa khosikhulu*

chief's royal servants

### **Historical term**

Northern Transvaal

Rhodesia

### **Present-day term**

current Limpopo Province in South Africa

Zimbabwe

### **Abbreviations**

ANC

African National Congress

AZAPO

Azanian People's Organisation

EFF

Economic Freedom Fighters

NP

National Party

PAC

Pan Africanist Congress

SWAPO

South West African People's Organisation - the current ruling party in Namibia but during apartheid it was the banned resistance movement for the independence of (then) South West Africa

VIPP

Venda Independence People's Party – the main opposition in the Venda Homeland Parliament. Its leader was the Johannesburg-based sociologist, Baldwin Mudau

VNP

Venda National Party – the ruling party in the Venda Homeland, under Patrick Ramaano Mphephu