

Valodagoma NPC
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Joint Constitutional Review Committee
Parliament Street
Cape Town
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Date: 28/05/2020

To: Pilate Gwebu (*Secretariat*)

Subject: *Call to have Khilovedu recognized as an official language and included in the mandate to develop the Khoi and San languages, and sign language that have been mandated in Act 10 of 1999 (amending Act 59 of 1995) of The Constitution of the Republic of South Africa.*

I, Khutso Isaac Selowa, [REDACTED] make this submission on behalf of Valodagoma NPC as a director/incorporator of the organisation. Valodagoma NPC is an organisation with a mandate to enhance, develop and advocate for the language, culture, heritage and well-being of Khilovedu, Valovedu and Vulovedu in terms of all that is for their betterment. The call to have Khilovedu recognised as an official language of South Africa is one that has been echoed by The Modjaji Royal House of Valovedu since the dawn of democracy in South Africa. This call was acknowledged and endorsed in February 2019 as a promise and as an instruction by current State President Cyril Ramaphosa to the relevant state institutions (institutions like PanSALB) to develop the Khilovedu language and to get it to official status (Ramothwala, 2018; Semono, 2018).

The hurdle commonly cited by institutions such as PanSALB as the reason for the slowed pace in the process of recognising the Khilovedu language was the lack of an existing written orthography that could be used to develop the language further. To address this hurdle we include in this submission a copy of a published comprehensive Khilovedu orthography and dictionary produced in 2018 by Kgotatso Seshayi. This orthography and dictionary is currently being developed as an English-Khilovedu picture dictionary geared at Grade R-3 learners. Furthermore, for the development of this new orthography and dictionary, Valodagoma have also identified archived written examples of the Khilovedu language developed by Simion Modjadji based in Vulovedu during the period of 1930 to 1940 before the systematic marginalisation of the Khilovedu language, as well as archived audio

recording of technical Khilovedu linguistic examples made by a German linguist visiting Vulovedu in 1952. This newly published dictionary (Seshayi, 2018) together with the available archived resources present fertile grounds for recovering and formalising the language in favour of Khilovedu speakers. And the adoption of khelobedu as requested in this letter would make the necessary funds available to make sure that the dictionary is developed to the highest standard.

Accompanying this submission is a pdf of the Dictionary prefaced with the orthography, and some images of the published dictionary and working draft of the picture dictionary, as well as some images of the archived writing sample from Simeon Modjadji. I also include a working bibliography of some resources like Academic articles, academic theses, News articles and Extracts from books addressing the issues around the call for the Khilovedu Language to be developed into an official language. Given the chance Valodagoma NPC would like to orally present some of these resources to the Joint Constitutional Review Committee.

I trust you will find this submission in order.

Kind regards

Khutso Isaac Selowa

Director/Incorporator

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