

The Weekly

ANC CENTENARY TORCH IN MAFUBE

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Representing struggle sacrifice ... The Centenary Torch has begun its relay around the country.

The ANC's Centenary Torch continued on its journey through the province this week. On Wednesday, the torch passed from the Metsimaholo Local Municipality in Sasolburg to Frankfort in the Mafube Local Municipality.

It also stopped by Vrede in the Phumelela Local Municipality. It is scheduled to arrive in QwaQwa today (Friday). The torch, which symbolises the sacrifices made during the struggle, will travel the length and breadth of the province before it will be passed to the Western Cape on February 1.

The centenary torch arrived at James Jobe Hadebe Street (formerly Brand Street) in Frankfort. The street was renamed after a stalwart of the movement from the same town and a friend and comrade to the likes of the late longest-serving president of the ANC, Oliver Reginald Tambo.

Frankfort has historical significance to the leadership of the ANC as the headquarters of the municipality, which includes the towns of Villiers, Cornelia, and Tweeling. The tenth president of the ANC and the first democratically elected president of South Africa, Nelson Rolihlahla Mandela, passed by Villiers en route to KwaZulu-Natal. This further added to the significance of the torch's path. Mandela was subsequently arrested in Margate, after passing through Villiers.

The ANC in the Free State said this week that it was an honour and a privilege to the people of Mafube to host the torch as a reminder that the ANC, as the people's movement, has touched the lives of many people in the country in different ways.

"When the history of the movement is re-written we would know for sure that mention will be made of the many routes that the torch took and Mafube Local Municipality and Frankfort in particular will be counted amongst the towns where the torch passed by," said Sisi Ntombela, the chairperson of ANC Women's League in the Free State. Ntombela was accompanied by Public Works MEC Sisi Mabe, Jerry Phele, and REC members from the Fezile Dabi Region, the ANCYL, Cosatu, and the SACP.

[Source: www.theweekly.co.za]