



University of Venda

A critical analysis of *dinaka*: a Moletjie Village case study

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Abstract

This study focuses on *dinaka* — one of the Northern Sotho indigenous music/dance genres, as practiced by the people of Moletjie village, near Polokwane in the Limpopo Province of South Africa. The history and origin of the people of Moletjie village is discussed briefly, as a way of providing background information to the study. The study further explores the role of *dinaka* in promoting culture, particularly its inherent teachings. It also discusses concepts that are used in composition and performance of *dinaka*. As an Afrocentric inquiry, this study adopts a qualitative research approach with its associated methodologies to collect and interpret data. Preliminary findings suggest that *dinaka* practice, as a component of African culture, is still prevalent in Moletjie village. However, this cultural practice is at risk of becoming extinct if not documented. Over and above the quest to document for posterity, it is envisaged that the findings of this study could be used in music classes in schools. The final research documented will add to the much-needed reference material on the music/dance subject and culture in general. Furthermore, this study will bring about awareness on issues pertinent to the preservation and promotion of a cultural heritage in Moletjie village.

Keywords: *Moletjie, dinaka, African music, Mmino wa setšo, African musicology*