

South Africa

"Nkosi Sikelel' iAfrika"

Enoch Sontonga 1897

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"Nkosi Sikelel' iAfrika" was composed in 1897 by Enoch Sontonga. It was widely popular and became the anthem of the ANC in 1925. Another song 'Die Stem van Suid-Afrika' ('The Call of South Africa') became the official anthem of the apartheid era government in 1957. With the ending of apartheid in 1994 the new government under Nelson Mandela merged the two anthems. The new anthem now uses five of the eleven official South African languages: Xhosa, Zulu, Sotho, Afrikaans and finally English. Listen out for them at the opening game.