THE ETHNOTAXONOMIC PRINCIPLES OF USEFUL INDIGENOUS PLANTS OF THE MAMABOLO COMMUNITY IN THE LIMPOPO PROVINCE `

By

Alice Shaena Mailula

SUBMITTED IN PARTIAL FULFILLMENT OF THE REQUIREMENTS FOR THE DEGREE OF MASTERS IN FOLKLORE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL SCIENCES, UNIVERSITY OF LIMPOPO, SOVENGA, SOUTH AFRICA.

SUPERVISOR: RANKOANA S. A.

CO- SUPERVISOR: PROFESSOR KGATLA S. T.

SUBMITTED DATE: MARCH 2009

DECLARATION

I declare that the Ethnotaxonomic Principles of useful Indigenous Plants of the Mamabolo Community in the Limpopo Province (mini-dissertation) hereby submitted to the University of Limpopo, for the degree of Masters of Arts in Folklore Studies) has not previously been submitted by me for a degree at this or any other university; that it is my work in design and in execution, and that all material contained therein has been duly acknowledged.

_____ 12 April 2010

A.S Mailula Mrs **Date**

ABSTRACT

This study contains documentation and naming of indigenous plant species of the GaMamabolo area. Knowledge about their classification and their local natural resources has been acknowledged through this study. It is not only naming and classification but extending information about interaction of useful indigenous plants with human society. This is followed by a survey of 85 plant species found in the Mamabolo area. The immense cultural significance of the traditional knowledge system is portrayed in this study.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Acknowledgements are due to the following:

This dissertation is dedicated to my family, in particular, my loving husband, Sidney Lesetja Mailula, through the support he has shown from the beginning of this study. May the Almighty God shower him with never-ending blessings. Not forgetting my sweet children, Mpekana, Kanti and Daggy, for encouraging me to pursue my studies even though I was about to retire from the teaching fraternity. I thank also my friends and relatives who were also motivating me. Anna Segooa gave me support in offering me access to her internet.

Mr Molepo Ditšie, helped me with the knowledge of how indigenous plants are utilized and their significance in people`s life. Mrs Lamola Sefofane as an herbalist has been open with her Indigenous Knowledge Systems. My husband's friends who reside in GaMamabolo, contributed with their information about some of GaMamabolo useful indigenous species taxonomy.

The following people have also contributed to this dissertation in showing me how to utilize a computer:

Mr Matlala Kgaudi Phillemon
Namethe Roafa
Lethabo
Thendo
Mokgadi

Sincere thanks are due to my supervisor, Ms AS Rankoana, for being always there whenever I needed help. She has personally played a definite role in stimulating my interest and perseverance through-out this study. I am also grateful to my co-supervisor, Prof. Kgatla, for his guidance.

Above all mentioned people; I thank the Almighty God for the completion of this study, by giving me healthy mind and body to pursue the course work, research proposal and the dissertation.

ALICE SHAENA MAILULA

APRIL 2010

TABLE OF CONTENTS

PAGES