

James 'Ngunyupezi' Maluleke: (1919 – 1996)
(Information provided by Sgt H.A. Maluleke, field ranger Stolznek)

Sergeant Maluleke served his career, which started in 1956, as a Field Ranger at Mahlangeni and served at many sections within the Kruger National Park including Shingwedzi and Punda Maria. In this time he head the opportunity to work with renowned rangers such as Lynn van Rooyen, Johan Kloppers (see Madolo); Ben Pretorius (see Masbambela) and Louis Olivier (see Mandleve). He retired in 1976 and went onto pension, this was not to last as in 1982 Sgt Maluleke was brought back into service by Louis Olivier as a security guard at Punda Maria Gate, where he stayed until he permanently retired in 1995.

James was remembered as a dedicated employee whose esteemed career in the Kruger National Park was well remembered. Sadly, Sgt Maluleke passed away in 1996, but his legacy is continued through his son Albert Maluleke who is currently a Field Ranger Sergeant in the Stolznek section.

Extracts from his son Sgt H.A. Maluleke, field ranger Stolznek

While working at Punda Maria he was riding his bike towards the Punda Maria gate, he came across eight lions. On his bike strapped to the back was some biltong 'padkos'. Two lion chased him one of which bit the bicycle puncturing the tire and damaging the bike. From here, he had to walk about 5 kilometers to Punda Maria gate without a torch using a box of matches, lighting the matches one by one, for a light source.

The lion continued to pursue James Maluleke (Sgt) while he used the matches as light, and chased him all the way to the gate fence. He had to shout at the lion and evade them through very inhospitable thorn scrub in the dead of night. By the time, he got to his home in Matiane his cloths were shredded and torn, and he could not speak a word due to exhaustion.

addo elephant

agulhas

augrabies falls

bontebok

golden gate highlands

karoo

kgalagadi transfrontier

knysna lake area

kruger

mapungubwe

marakele

mountain zebra

namaqua

table mountain

tankwa-karoo

tsitsikamma

|ai-|ais/richtersveld

vaalbos

west coast

wilderness