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The Mountain Name Change Campaign (MNCC) is a grassroots effort to return the peak known as Devil's Peak to one of its historical names, Dove's Peak (or Duiwenkop), in the interests of peace and nation building. The MNCC was formalised in 2011 in partnership with Cape Peninsula Transformation Africa, which is a Christian initiative to take Cape Town out of the poverty, crime and social degradation of many of its inhabitants. However, over the years there have been several attempts to change the name of Devil's Peak to one that is less offensive for many people, irrespective of religious or spiritual persuasion.

Representatives of the campaign, Director of Cape Peninsula Transformation Africa and CCFM Station Manager Barry Isaacs, and Cape Town Advocate Murray Bridgman, met with the Western Cape Provincial Geographical Names Committee (WCPGNC) on Friday, May 30, and proposed the renaming of the mountain. Bridgman, says, "The objectives are simple: to change the name of the mountain from Devil's Peak to Dove's Peak, which will set a precedent for peace within the city and beyond."

Based on a thorough study of maps and historical documents, there is evidence that the mountain was previously referred to most commonly as Dove's Peak, or Duiwenkop. As the dove is a symbol of peace and unity, the MNCC has settled on that historic name.

The campaign will be launching an engagement plan to reach as many interested and affected parties within the next few weeks to fulfil WCPGNC's requirement in respect of widespread consultation. "This consultation will be inclusive and will target as many people as possible with the aim of explaining the intentions and merits of the campaign. There is little doubt that names are important and meaningful. Most people believe this, irrespective of religion or creed. We would like to motivate for a name that will symbolise what we strive for as a city and as a nation. This is especially significant when one considers that Table Mountain is regarded as one of the Seven Wonders of the World," says Bridgman.

Devil's Peak has had a long list of names in the past. A drawing in the journal of traveler and author, Sir Thomas Herbert, which is dated 1638, shows the peak named Herbert's Mount; a map dated 1657-1660 indicates the name as "Windberg / Duiwekop"; and in 1675 it was called Charles Mount by English map and chart seller, John Sellar. Other names given to the peak include, inter alia, Blase Baltch and Mont du Vent (around 1691), and The Sugar Loaf (around 1777). Many believe that the legend about a 17th century Dutch pirate who, whilst sitting on the mountain one day, got into a smoking competition with a stranger, who later revealed himself as the devil, resulted in the mountain being renamed Devil's Peak. However, the story of Van Hunks was recorded for the first time by Ian Colvin in about 1900 in *The Romance of South Africa*, and there are references to the Devil's Peak name long before that. There are also oral records of an indigenous name //Hui !Gaeb, which means 'Place where the clouds gather'. This indigenous name is difficult to pronounce as it contains a click and a guttural g.

Bridgman adds that "We believe that renaming the peak will positively impact on the transformation and unity of not only Cape Town but Africa."

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