

Premier Makhura pays tribute Mama Winnie Madikizela-Mandela

03 April 2018

Premier David Makhura joins millions of South Africans and the international community in mourning the passing on of Mama Nomzamo Winnie Madikizela-Mandela. The Premier conveyed condolences to the Mandela and Madikizela families.

“The devastating news of the passing of Mama Winnie Madikizela-Mandela has left us with a profound sense of sadness. Mama Winnie was a fearless freedom fighter who had an unbreakable bond with the common men and women. She was deeply loyal to the masses and always echoed the fears, frustrations and aspirations of ordinary people. It is for this reason that she was dearly loved by the masses who christened her “Mother of the Nation”.

“Too often people use the phrase ‘speaking truth to power’ too easily. Winnie Madikizela-Mandela truly and fully spoke truth power during the apartheid years as well as under the democratic dispensation. She fiercely resisted apartheid tyranny and continued to speak out against wrongdoing in the government and her beloved movement. She constantly called leaders to come and explain themselves. No leader who embarrassed either the government or the ANC was ever spared a sharp rebuke from her”, said Premier Makhura.

For all her loyalty to the masses, Mama Winnie suffered severely in the brutal hands of the apartheid security police. She was detained repeatedly, tortured and banished but she never allowed the apartheid regime to break her.

“To many youth and student activists of the 1970s and 1980s, Mama Winnie was the living symbol of resistance as she connected the youth with the ANC, whose leaders were either in prison, banned or in exile. At the height of apartheid repression in the mid-1980s, many activists travelled from all, over the country to seek guidance and refuge from her. She trained many of the current generation of ANC and government leaders. She paid a huge prize for her faith in the youth and her uncompromising love of the masses.”

After the dawn of democracy in 1994, Mama Winnie Madikizela-Mandela continued to be the voice of the working class, the poor and the marginalised. She is one leader who could engage with angry communities in any part of the country and be listened to. The masses revered her consistency and enduring loyalty to them.

She had been conferred with numerous global, continental and local awards in recognition of her outstanding role in the liberation struggle. Among the awards she cherished most was the Order of Luthuli in Silver, which was conferred to her in 2016 during the National Orders.

On International Women's Day, 08 March 2018, the Gauteng Provincial Government conferred her Lifetime Achievement Award at the Albertina Sisulu Inaugural Gauteng Women's Awards. In response she said: "Thank you for the recognition of my little contribution. This award doesn't belong to me but millions of the women of South Africa who bear the brunt of apartheid oppression and patriarchy. I receive it on their behalf, with the painful knowledge that many of their exceptional women warriors are no longer with us today. These women shone the light so that women of today can insist they are equally capable to lead society in all fields of human endeavour".

The passing of this Great Daughter of Africa has left our country and continent reeling in pain and anguish. She was the source of inspiration to many of people across the globe.

As the Provincial Government and the people of Gauteng, we deep our heads in sorrow in honour of the "Mother of the Nation".

May Her Soul Rest in Eternal Peace.

We will always love you Mama!

Issued by the Gauteng Provincial Government

For media enquiries contact Phumla Sekhonyane, Spokesperson of the Gauteng Premier on 0718604496 or Phumla.Sekhonyane@gauteng.gov.za

For media releases, speeches and news visit www.gauteng.gov.za

Premier's Hotline 08600 11000 (For service delivery related complaints)