

A celebration
of the life of

THABO MAEMO MASEBE

1964-2022

Public servant.
Freedom fighter.
Strategist.
Communicator.
Mentor.
Friend.
Golfer.
Wine connoisseur



GAUTENG
PROVINCIAL GOVERNMENT
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

GGT2030
GROWING GAUTENG TOGETHER

LIFE AND TIMES OF Thabo Masebe

Mr Thabo Masebe was an experienced, versatile communications practitioner with a wealth of experience as a public servant. He had more than 20 years of experience working at various levels of Senior Management echelons in government. In his various capacities as a communications practitioner, he contributed immensely in promoting effective communication between government and the people.

Before his appointment as the Head of Communications at the Gauteng Provincial Government, he worked at the Presidency as the spokesperson to former Deputy President, Kgalema Motlanthe.

During his tenure at the Presidency, he was also responsible for managing the Communications Directorate in the private office of the Deputy President which included media liaison, issue management as well as speech writing.

Based on his deep knowledge and understanding of communications and its challenges, over the years, he strived to find creative and innovative ways to improve communication between government and the people. He spent many years writing communication strategies and advising members of the Executive both at national and provincial spheres of government.

Mr Masebe strongly believed in an integrated approach to government communication and spent most of his years as a government communicator building the government communication system and sharing his knowledge and experience with other government communicators.

He contributed immensely to the cultivation of healthy working relations between government and the media. He worked hard to maintain these relations and spent a great deal of

time talking to journalists, including senior editorial executives. He continues to be held in high regard by media practitioners.

Masebe's skills were honed during his time in the ANC Youth League, where he served as Head of Communications and held various other leadership positions. He also served as spokesperson of the ANC during 1998 and 1999 and was involved in several high-profile projects, including the 1999 elections campaign, during which he had a significant contribution in promoting a positive profile of President Thabo Mbeki.

Masebe also had short stint as a public relations practitioner in 1998 where he was responsible for writing public relations strategies and advising clients on public affairs.

At the time of his untimely passing, Mr Masebe was Gauteng government's Acting Director General.

He is survived by his two sons, Chamaano Masebe and Moitshepi Masebe, his three sisters Moleboge, Moelelwa and Florence and his two brothers, Homolang and Bheki Masebe.

Go well Comrade Thabo Masebe. Go well good servant. Go well Comrade Maemo. Your journey is a fulfilled one. You gave the people of South Africa the best that you had.

Kha vha egele nga mulalo, Makovhagadla! Gumani nga nne ni vhuye, phaanda hanga a hu tsheena munwe! ■



Masebe's skills were honed during his time in the ANC Youth League, where he served as Head of Communications and held various other leadership positions.



A MAN OF STRUCTURE, PROCESS, AND METHOD

EULOGY BY PREMIER DAVID MAKHURA

I am truly honoured to speak on behalf of both the national and provincial government about this special type of a public servant – a true mandarin – who distinguished himself in the service of our nation and its young democracy.

Thabo Masebe's presence enriched and improved government work and enhanced the quality of governance and service delivery. His sudden and unexpected departure leaves us grief-stricken. Our hearts are broken. He leaves a big gap in government and in the African National Congress (ANC).

Thabo was both a pillar of strength to the elders and a great inspiration to younger generations of the family. He was the pivot around which family festivities and activities were planned.

Maya Angelou says: "When great trees fall, rocks on distant hills shudder, lions hunker down in tall grasses, and even elephants lumber after safety. When great trees fall in the forests, small things recoil into silence, their senses eroded beyond fear. When great souls die, the air around us becomes light, rare, sterile. We breathe briefly. Our eyes, briefly see with hurtful clarity."

Thabo's greatness was not in the noise of his voice or pomposity or big-headedness. It was his quietness and comfort with working in the background to ensure things get done and others say what he believes must be said.

We are to express our heartfelt gratitude to the family for planting and growing this great tree. We hope his incredible and indelible legacy of tireless involvement in our nation's democratic, transformative and emancipatory efforts will help the family to find solace and healing.

Masebe brought the best traditions of the liberation struggle into his government work and to his relationship with the media. He was calm, humble, truthful, hardworking, competent and



Masebe brought the best traditions of the liberation struggle into his government work and to his relationship with the media. He was calm, humble, truthful, hardworking, competent and ethical to the core. He placed the interest of the people above everything else.

ethical to the core. He placed the interest of the people above everything else.

This is what made the ANC great in the best of times. His greatness lied in understanding a strong independent media combined with an effective government communication to contribute to an informed and active citizenry, and an accountable, capable and ethical government.

Masebe's communication ability was founded on a very good understanding of the policies of the ANC and the government. He could explain, not spin, every policy position in very simple language.

His greatness was his intellectual stamina to debate any question for

Continued - pg 4

countless hours with people deadily opposed to such and still maintain pleasant relations with those with whom he disagreed.

In his standard approach, he eschewed empty political rhetoric, sloganeering and phrase-mongering. His greatness was in his simplicity and clarity of thought in public discourse and political communications.

In a typical Masebe style, if you can't explain it to a young child, you don't know what you are talking about. He set a gold standard for many young government communicators: be truthful, factual, transparent and proactive when you work with the media.

In "seeking truth from facts", as the Chinese would say, Thabo demonstrated his impeccable integrity and greatness in a world characterised increasingly by "alternative truths".

Masebe was a man of structure, process, and method. He was very organised and consistent in asking the same questions which we should ask ourselves whenever we prepare speeches, media statements and policy documents.

Thabo's greatness was not in the noise of his voice or pomposity or big-headedness. It was his quietness and comfort with working in the background to ensure things get done and others say what he believes must be said.

His questions were always: What are you trying to communicate - what are the key messages? What is the theme? Is it truthful and factual? Does the message deal with the issues of fundamental concern to the people? How do we enlist stakeholder involvement?

Thabo's greatness was in his methodical and disciplined approach to dealing with all government

In Thabo Masebe, we had a true cadre of the ANC in the genuine and historical sense of the word - someone who has been deliberately prepared or trained for a specific assignment or area of operation, equipped with the necessary skills and tools.

communication. Media enquiries earned him so much respect among the younger generation of government communicators that he became some kind of professorial enigma.

Masebe was the kind of mandarin that would make a great contribution to the training of a new type of public servant. I cherished and dreamed of the day he would be joining the National School of Government to train government communicators nationwide.

He was not only a communicator. He was a mandarin who understood the teething problems of lack of implementation and pathologies of government administration such as corruption and incompetence.

Thabo was a very reluctant administrator who accepted the appointment to be the Acting Director General out of duty and respect. He mistrusted the bureaucracy and often complained about the hidden motives of many government officials who are in the public service for wrong reasons.

Thabo was central to ensuring that the provincial government deals head-on with some of the major setbacks and failures that eroded public confidence in our provincial government. His greatness as an administrator was in

being forthright and firm in pointing out the misdemeanours.

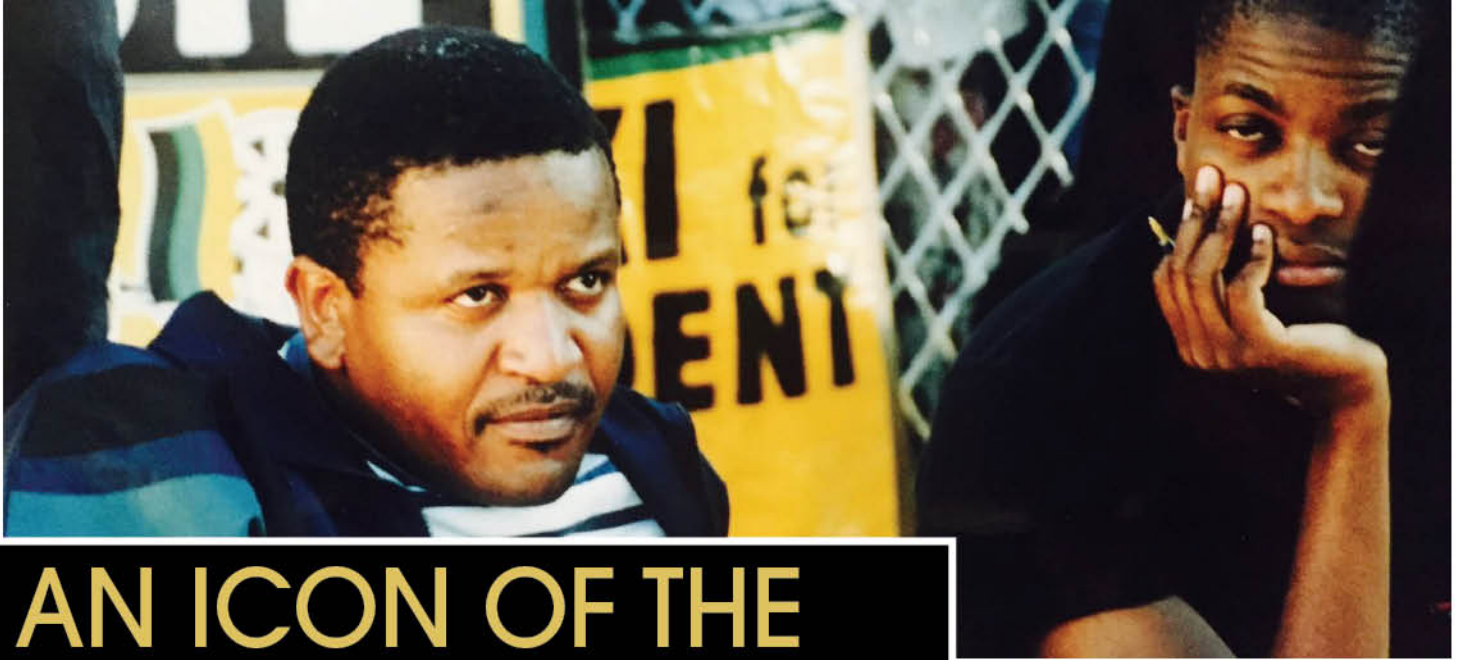
Jerry Ndou, Lulu Johnson and Febe Potgieter know extensively about how Masebe became a dependable and trusted member of the Young Lions of Oliver Tambo who defied death and rendered apartheid unworkable.

I regard myself fortunate that I have known Thabo Masebe since 1989 and can attest to his greatness, consistency of character and impeccable integrity. He came to Turfloop (University of Limpopo) to help students who needed financial assistance through the Educational Aid Programme.

In Thabo Masebe, we had a true cadre of the ANC in the genuine and historical sense of the word - someone who has been deliberately prepared or trained for a specific assignment or area of operation, equipped with the necessary skills and tools.

"And when great souls die, after a period of peace blooms, slowly and always irregularly. Spaces fill with a kind of soothing electric vibration. Our senses, restored, never to be the same, whisper to us. They existed. They existed. We can be. Be and be better, for they existed."

Thabo was central to ensuring that the provincial government deals head-on with some of the major setbacks and failures that eroded public confidence in our provincial government. His greatness as an administrator was in being forthright and firm in pointing out the misdemeanours.



AN ICON OF THE

YOUNG LION GENERATION

Political parties have also paid tribute to Thabo Masebe, the anti-apartheid struggle activist, saying he left an indelible legacy as a political servant.

Masebe's political life and patriotism can be traced back to his student days in the Congress youth movement in the 1980s in the then Northern Transvaal, now Limpopo.

A youth activist with a mission, the liberation movement, the African National Congress (ANC), became his natural political home.

From the generation of young lions, he served as chairperson of the ANC Youth League before serving in the

National Executive Committee.

When the 1994 ANC Youth League congress transitioned from Peter Mokaba to Rapu Molekane, Masebe was elected to serve as Treasurer General of the league.

He launched his career as a spokesperson of the ANC between 1998 and 1999 and subsequently progressed to becoming the most creative and innovative government communicator.

ANC national spokesperson Pule

Mabe described Masebe as a diligent, hardworking, and consistent servant and leader of the people.

"He never shied away from speaking his mind and challenging any action that undermined the cause of freedom and development of the people. Throughout his life, he was committed to learning and self-development, building expertise and deep knowledge in whichever sphere he found himself."

Former leader of the Youth Movement, Kgaogelo Lekgoro said Masebe belonged in the generation whose students and youth activities were pushed beyond the frontiers as they sort to reach young people in academia, trade unions, religious organisations and political organisations.

"I remember him as very articulate on the crucial questions that confronted youth. He was able, with others in his cohort, to conceptualise the role of students' activities as part of the broader mobilisation of young people in and out of school.

Masebe was respected across the political divide. The EFF said Masebe was accountable and respected the South African public in times of great tragedy.

IFP Gauteng chairperson, Bonginkosi Dhlamini said he remained humble and embodied the 'Batho Pele' principles as he was on the side of what was right for the people.

The DA's Makashule Gana called him a great and humble human being. ■



A DOYEN COMMUNICATOR AND AN EXEMPLARY PUBLIC SERVANT:

A tribute by Phumla Williams

For more than 20 years, Thabo Masebe dedicated his life to the Public Service, serving the people of South Africa with honour and dignity. His precision for the craft of communication and his contribution to the development of a seamless government communication system is unmatched.

Bra Thabo or T'bos, as he was fondly known by many public servants and colleagues in the media sector, was a brilliant communicator and prolific strategist. So, it came as no surprise when the news of his death broke on Monday, 18 April 2022, followed by the outpouring of grief and unending condolences to his family and colleagues.

Masebe's death is a great loss to the government communication system and



to the country as a whole. He was an exceptional and skilled public servant.

In his various capacities as a communications practitioner, the soft-spoken Masebe contributed immensely in promoting effective communication between government and the public. His deep knowledge and understanding of government communication through the lens of the media fraternity earned him respect from a number of journalists.

As a government spokesperson in various high offices, Masebe often faced many difficult media questions but he

never shied away from handling them professionally because he understood the importance of transparent communication.

I am reminded of one of his last radio interviews that I listened to when he was articulating the delays in the refurbishment of the burnt section of the Charlotte Maxeke Johannesburg Academic Hospital. He owned up to the delays and the frustrations expressed by patients. He even apologised and made a commitment that the Gauteng Provincial Government would work with the National Government to get the hospital opened soon.

It would be amiss if I do not mention two of his amazing attributes – humility and a sense of humour.

T'bos was courteous when interacting with all his colleagues from the lowest ranks right up to his principals. He had an amazing capacity to listen to the views of others in any discussion. In his small way, he has taught us a lot about communication, particularly about the ability to listen attentively and not to take your audience for granted.

Masebe will continue to live on through the memories we share of him and through his dedication to government communication and the Public Service.

Lala Ngoxolo Bra Thabo! Kha vha edele nga mulalo vho Bra Thabo! ■

Williams is the Director-General at the Government Communication and Information System (GCIS)



T'bos was courteous when interacting with all his colleagues from the lowest ranks right up to his principals.



Presidential communicator par excellence



An experienced, versatile communications practitioner, Thabo Masebe spent more than 20 years working at various levels of Senior Management echelons in government.

In 1999, he was deployed as Head of Communications for then ANC President Thabo Mbeki on the campaign trail during that year's National General Elections.

He was involved in several high-profile projects which had a significant contribution to promoting a positive profile of Mbeki.

Later, before he was appointed the Head of Communications at the Gauteng Provincial Government, he was the head of the Government Communication Information System (GCIS) Media Engagement from where he was seconded to The Presidency as the spokesperson for President Kgalema Motlanthe.

During his tenure at the Presidency, he was also responsible for managing the Communications Directorate in the private office of the Deputy President which included media liaison, issue management as well as speech writing.

In his tribute, Motlanthe said Masebe

was incorruptible in thoughts and deeds, believed with every fibre of his being that the ANC represented the people's greatest hope.

"Unassuming in his demeanour and consideration for others, Comrade Thabo was appreciated by all for his intellect, hard work, uprightness. He was a straight shooter, he radiated warmth and confidence. These qualities, together with his politeness and the patience to listen to other people, perhaps contributed the most in making him one of the most accomplished political communicators in the democratic era."

Former President Thabo Mbeki said Masebe executed his work with dedication and diligence.

"In comrade Thabo, the ANC and the people of South Africa have lost a loyal and dedicated leader and Mandarin for progressive social change. His qualities are desperately needed now as the movement and government seek to

renew and steer the ship back on course," Mbeki said in a statement issued by his Foundation.

Mbeki said Masebe exuded some of the invaluable attributes which the movement sought to promote amongst its cadres.

"They include humility and, in that context, understanding the need for life-long self-cultivation to improve one's knowledge and capacity to understand society and the world, putting the national interest above the self and loyalty to principle." ■

In comrade Thabo, the ANC and the people of South Africa have lost a loyal and dedicated leader and Mandarin for progressive social change



The conveyor of **GOVERNMENT FACTS**

Thabo Masebe contributed immensely to the cultivation of healthy working relations between government and the media.



He worked hard to maintain these relations and spent a great deal of time talking to journalists, including senior editorial executives.

In any newsroom in the country, any journalist can attest that he was always available to listen, assist and go the extra mile for journalists because he acknowledged the role of the media in a democracy.

"Masebe was an incredible public servant, working closely with the media over the years. He shaped how government communication should be handled when it comes to the media. He was resolute and always ready to fairly engage with journalists," said Sbu Ngalwa, chairperson of the South African National Editors' Forum (SANEF).

Black Media Practitioners described Masebe as a true professional who would be accountable to the media whenever duty called and directed him.

"He was neither emotional nor personal in his engagements with whoever he interacted with within the course of his work. He leaves behind footprints by which to be followed," said the association's spokesperson Mpho Tsedu.

Journalist Rapule Tabane said Masebe was an ethical individual who was the first to acknowledge

He was one of the last of a generation of activists who combined political acumen with communication skills, underpinned by organisational loyalty and discipline. A role model for public communicators

government shortfalls. "One of a kind. We should celebrate his service and pray for more like him."

Ferial Haffajee said he has set the bar high for political communication. "He was informed, persuasive, kind, and also so much fun. Thabo did not spin but persuaded."

Broadcaster Redi Tlhabi said he was "kind and welcoming. So accessible and efficient in his tasks. And that laugh!!! Always half a second away from a big laugh over something."

Masebe was always kind, always patient, always generous said Mandy

Wiener. "Over years and years, he was the quintessential professional."

Mahlitse Mahlase said Masebe was a man of refreshing candour who served the country, a phone call away.

"He was one of the last of a generation of activists who combined political acumen with communication skills, underpinned by organisational loyalty and discipline. A role model for public communicators" said Chris Vick.

Mpumelelo Mkhabela added that he was a manual of integrity on government communications. ■



A TRUE STRATEGIST - COMMITTED TO TRANSPARENCY AND ACCOUNTABILITY

With his calm, unassuming demeanour and profound intellectual depth, Thabo Masebe spent many years writing communication strategies and advising members of the Executive both at national and provincial spheres of government.

Members of the Executive (MECs) in Gauteng have paid tribute to the man who laid a firm communication foundation and systems for democratic public leaders to value transparency, openness, and accountability.

■ Lebogang Maile - MEC for Human Settlements, Urban Planning, Cooperative Governance and Traditional Affairs

"For many of us, he was also an older brother, a sounding board, for others he was also a mentor, he was an exemplary ANC deployee into the state who served with great distinction, diligence, and utmost commitment as well as professionalism. He was a genuine revolutionary who never sought to bring attention to himself and to individuals in all his work, but out of a deep understanding of the power of the collective, he always sought to profile the work of the ANC and government in order to tell the full story and bring out the truest picture. In mourning his death, we must remind ourselves to pick up the baton and continue engaging in the battle of ideas within the public space, fighting to entrench our progressive values and ideals within the South African body politic. We must strive to better and more effectively analyse and explain our socio-economic transformation agenda to the people of South Africa."

■ Jacob Mamabolo - MEC for Roads, Transport and Infrastructure

I've met and known Thabo Masebe in the student and youth movement, and I also had a privilege of working in National and Provincial Government. I found him to be one of the best standard bearers of the highest ethics and morals that are critical for the work we do as revolutionaries deployed in the organs of the democratic state. He was a humble man, yet very engaging, deep in terms of content, whether in government in the revolutionary movement. I admired his depth of content and knowledge in the matters



that he was dealing with. I have no doubt that his revolutionary legacy will live-on deep into the future."

■ Nomathemba Mokgethi - MEC for Health

"Thabo Masebe was a man of high integrity, a disciplinarian and an intellectual. He was an exceptional public communicator, who was capable of conveying messages in few words, yet be understood in multiple ways without ambiguity. He was a man who has devoted his life to ensuring that this ANC-led government, delivers on its expectations, making the lives of people better."

■ Morakane Mosupye - MEC for Social Development

"We have been robbed of a dedicated incorruptible civil servant who selfless served this government with absolute distinction and loyalty. Thabo Masebe was an accomplished communicator with a very sharp and analytical mind who never shied away from a challenge. As an acting DG, he led the administration with distinction, we are poorer as a Province without him."

■ Nomantu Nkomo-Ralehoko - MEC for Finance and e-Government

His capability and discharge of every mandate was a marvel that remains unparalleled in our ranks and at times took worthy risks and trusted both his skills and gut feeling hence he always got better returns from any engagement and negotiations. Some of what he has achieved both as a communication specialist and as ANC cadre, was through personal traits, power of persuasion and personal respect earned from opponents and colleagues alike.

■ Mbali Hlophe, MEC for Sports, Arts Culture and Recreation

"Acting Director General Masebe will be solemnly missed by the province. As the Department of Arts, Culture and Recreation he worked closely with us, on critical programmes. He always made time to teach junior officials so that they would have an appreciation of what it means to be a public servant and to communicate effectively. The void he leaves will be felt." ■



The Communicator's Communicator

Thabo Masebe was a communicator not merely by profession, but by conviction because he understood the revolutionary function of communications.

For him it was a tool of conscientisation, rather a means to inform, to persuade, to empower and to overcome ignorance, apathy and cynicism.

If there is one person who knew exactly what the motto of 'Batho Pele' meant, it was Masebe. He nourished, built, and inspired many communicators. Gone too soon, however, he has left an enduring and indelible legacy of highly principled political servanthood and an outstanding new breed of public communications activists.

These are some of their tributes:



Themba Maseko - Wits School of Governance.

• "Thabo Masebe was a meticulous public servant with a wealth of knowledge. He was dependable and ethical. We may have lost a brother, mentor and a patriot, but the memories will remain with us till eternity. He was a pillar to many of us. Thank you to the Masebe family for allowing him to share his selfless spirit of activism with us and his outstanding contribution in bettering the lives of the people of Gauteng."



Bongo Ntshangase - Gauteng Office of the Premier.

• "Gauteng government communicators, young and old, seasoned and wet behind the ears, all looked up to him for guidance, and leadership. It was his levelheadedness, his quick wit, ability to think ahead, as well as his resoluteness even when the going got tough that saw us out of the storm and into a place of safety. Along the way he never missed an opportunity to impart lessons, true to the man Thabo Masebe was."



Mohlalefi Lebotha - Gauteng Office of the Premier

• "As a teacher, he demanded quality from those he worked with, clearly this was his way of testing if his teachings have fallen on fertile ground. Be it the development of key messages or a response to a media enquiry, Bra T always had a story accompanying how he may have tackled something similar or related during his tenure while working either with Presidents Mandela, Mbeki or Deputy President Motlanthe or as the ANC spokesperson in the late 90s. He left us with a huge challenge of keeping his legacy alive by producing quality work at all times so that at some point we may say with confidence that "Bra T has multiplied"



Selby Bokaba - City of Tshwane

• "Masebe was a rare breed of government communicators. He had a fine grasp of government machinery and managed to navigate treacherous waters with ease. He wasn't the boastful type. He had access to power, but never abused it."



Sixolisiwe Ngele - Gauteng Office of the Premier

• "Bra T was ethereal. He imparted many lessons on many of us, including those of meticulousness, keeping your eye on the ball, choosing pragmatism over emotions when dealing with issues and being ethical always. Above all, he taught me love and kindness. A humble man, not obsessed with titles, compassionate and an all-round solid man. Thank you for teaching and guiding me, listening to me and providing contextual perspective through your storytelling. The lessons you imparted shall forever remain with us. To have served under leadership was truly an honour. Ours is to diligently continue your legacy."

Khuitsemang Diseko - Gauteng Department of Education

• "You were a mentor, a man gifted with quick wit and did not suffer fools easily. On your shoulders many stood and became better communicators and even more decent human beings. Thank you, Comrade Thabo. Greet Cde Peter and Cde Ignatius when you see them on the other side."





Harold Maloka - Auditor-General of South Africa.

• "Thabo Masebe!!! Where do I even begin, a comrade, friend, fellow golfer and disciplined communicator who was dedicated to his craft. Many years of service excellence, our many conversations were about improvement. We walked many difficult paths together."



John Sukazi - Gauteng Provincial Treasury

• "He was a servant leader with a calm demeanour even in difficult times. He was a highly skilled professional who positively influenced the lives and careers of many communication and marketing professionals both in the public and private sector. Thank you for instilling in us all that you thought was best for us to ensure that we serve the public better as communicators."



Vuyo Mhaga - Gauteng Office of the Premier

• "Mr Masebe was my mentor, he taught me the art of communication. He was the Editor in Chief. Bra T was a revolutionary communicator who understood that people come first and his duty was to inform, educate and empower the people. He told us that journalists are not the enemy but a critical pillar in a Democracy. Bra T paid attention to detail. Farewell my boss, my DG, will forever be grateful to your teachings."

In Loving Memory of Thabo Masebe



Acting Director General: Office of the Premier

25 August 1964- 18 April 2022

"No Spin - Just Facts"



A HUMBLE MAN WITH AN EYE FOR FINE THINGS

A tribute by Nomfanelo Kota

To lose a comrade is not easy especially when that Comrade became your brother in the process of struggle.

I was 21 years when I started working with Masebe at the 14th Floor of the ANCYL Headquarters on 51 Plein Street in downtown Johannesburg in 1994. We were both part of a collective across the country that had been elected to serve in the NEC of the ANC Youth League.

As full-time members of the National Working Committee, we met frequently in the execution of our duties and this is how the bonds of friendship and comradeship grew. I was the youngest in that group in 1994. He came from the Far North and I came from the Eastern Cape.

Often he admonished me about my poor command of the languages spoken in Gauteng, but I always told them "Ndiyaniva mos" and would answer back in English.

Thabo was measured, kind, and could be very detailed in his analysis. With him, you needed to have time, time to think, to plan, to deliberate.

Every Friday afternoon, after work he would travel to Polokwane from the office. His Cressida would be in tip-top mint condition. Ebelinene u Thabo. My office was the first from reception and when he passed, I could smell his fragrance from my door. Well dressed and in those days, gold jewellery was a thing for men. My friend Ntuthu Nqabeni who had an eye for fine things in life would ask in admiration: did you see those jeans, shoes, belt, golf shirt Thabo was wearing? I was often clueless about the brands. With time, I improved thanks to him.

As an activist, he could be very persuasive and argumentative. Ebenayo nenkani if he didn't agree with you. When Ronnie Mamoepa left for government, we both worked at the Department of Information and Publicity at Luthuli House, he held the reigns until Cde Smuts Nkonyama took over as Head of

the Presidency and DIP.

Thabo worked well with the media. He truly did not believe in spinning. He was a backroom guy as much as he was confident behind the microphone. His quiet measured demeanour was an asset in often tricky situations. I will miss him. A true young lion and member of the Mahlangu Detachment, to his colleagues in Gauteng, you have lost a very fine soldier, a true patriot, and a loyal servant to the end. ■

Kota is the former deputy secretary-general of the ANC Youth League and national media coordinator between 1994 and 2002.



The many caps of **THABO MASEBE**

While Thabo Masebe was a man of many caps. He loved his children, family, a wine connoisseur and an avid golfer.

During his memorial service, at Sci-Bono in Johannesburg his friend and former Director: Corporate Communications in the Office of the Premier, Israel Mogale described how Thabo Masebe loved his two sons as he would always go everywhere with them.

"I feel like he knew that one day he will transit into another space, he made sure that his kids know everyone in his life either than their aunts (immediate family)," said Mogale.

Deputy Director General: National Planning Coordination at Department of Planning, Monitoring and Evaluation, Dr Annette Griessel, recalled how much of a good singer Masebe was.

"I remember him singing Bob Marley's song: No woman, no cry." He had a fun side which will always be remembered.

In a tribute on Facebook, media veteran Rams Mabote who's worked extensively on all media platforms said Masebe gave him a scoop on his first

day as a journalist, earning Mabote a front page at The Star newspaper. He said over the years they developed a friendship where they'd share their love for golf and wine.

"Thabo had the kakkest golf swing I ever saw, but that was his only handicap.

"In a period of 25 years or so, he moved from being my source to fellow golfer and wine lover and briefly a colleague as a government communicator. But, most importantly, we grew a friendship and a brotherhood which I valued to his last day," said Mabote. ■



"I remember him singing Bob Marley's song: No woman, no cry." He had a fun side which will always be remembered.



A caring and meticulous leader



The late, Thabo Masebe brought passion, care and humanity to his leadership roles. He embodied unmatched integrity, passion and loyalty. The staff in the Office of the Premier paid tribute to this selflessness leader.

• His meticulous attention to detail when it came to administration, writing of key messages and his intelligent approach to managing an issue - what did we say/promise, collecting the facts and evidence, who said what and when before responding with the facts and being transparent. Over and above, I still needed to learn the art of his calmness, patience and diplomacy. **Saras Naidoo- Corporate Communication and Branding**

• "It has been a great honour and privilege to have served under Mr Masebe for the past 8 years of my life. With his wealth of knowledge and wisdom, I feel like I have graduated with two PhDs while working closely with him. Mr Masebe embodied B.R Ambedkar's quote that "A great man is different from an eminent one in that he is ready to be the servant of the society." **Admire Ndaba- Media Monitoring and Research.**

• "Bra T's calmness got me through my interview which he sat in on for the post I currently hold in the Office of the Premier back in 2018. My colleagues always used me as the 'middle-man' to get him to approve things. I seemingly had a way to persuade him despite his stubborn nature. I still had so much to learn from you Bra T. Some of the most important lessons Bra T imparted on me were not those in the spoken word. It is in the way he conducted himself and led his life."- **Sixolisiwe Ngele- Digital Media**

• "His ability to inspire, mentor and guide even during the most testing of times is a testament to his character. His character and zeal for all of us in the office is his definitive legacy."- **Tshepo Pilane- Special Programmes**

• I took DDG as my family member, he would relate well with my kids. There was always a lot that you would learn from DDG especially when you are in conversation with him. I will always cherish the moments I shared with him. **Andronica Nedzamba -Photography**

• "We shared a love for football. I remember him making fun of me for wearing a Manchester United jersey. He said jokingly that I should stop supporting them because they are losers and do not deserve my loyalty. He would have laughed at me again today since Manchester United lost 4 -0 to Liverpool. **Stammers Baloyi- IT**

• "Mr Masebe was a passionate perfectionist who challenged us as colleagues. As a future communicator in

government, I will remember and action the many lessons I have learned from him." **Nkosinathi Mtshali- Branding and Marketing.**

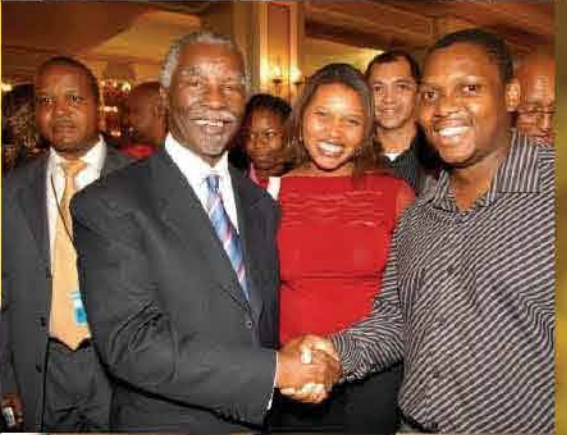
• "Gauteng as a well as South Africa have lost an esteemed and distinguished leader. May we all draw inspiration from his dedication and commitment. Rest in peace to a Great Lion. Thank you for being a selfless and present leader. Your lessons will reverberate for generations to come." **Atlegang Pooe- Strategy and Media Liaison.**

• "Mr Masebe was one of the very few Senior members (SMS) who was very humble and did not use his position to look down on others. He will be dearly missed. Lala uphumble olwakho ugaatso ulufezile! **Phelisa Khuzwayo- Human Resource.**

• "I will miss his gentle and cheerful 'good morning Sibho.' The office life will never be the same." **Sibongile Ntshaba- Development Communication**

Gauteng as a well as South Africa have lost an esteemed and distinguished leader.

**Kha vha edele nga mulalo, Makovhagada!
Gumani nga nne ni vhuye, phaanda hanga a hu
tsheena munwe!**



THE END OF AN ERA...

Family, friends, comrades and colleagues gathered at the Kempton Park Civic Center in Ekurhuleni to bid their farewell to Thabo Masebe on Saturday, 23 April 2022. Masebe died on 17 April 2022 at the age of 57.

He was accorded a special official funeral by President Cyril Ramaphosa, who also announced that the national flag would fly at half-mast in Gauteng as a sign of respect for the late communicator.



