



**MEDIA STATEMENT**

**Monday, 06 April 2020**

**For attention Editors and Journalists**

**For immediate release**

**MEC Thandi Moraka mourns the passing of Xitsonga music icon Mr. Samson Mthombeni**

Limpopo MEC for Sport, Arts and Culture, Thandi Moraka has expressed shock and sadness at the passing of Xitsonga music legend Mr. Samson Mthombeni (74), who passed on yesterday, Sunday 05 April due to illness.

Mr. Mthombeni was a Xitsonga music icon whose music made a huge impact in the country and abroad. In 2005, he performed in the UK through Limpopo Provincial Government's intervention, in the same year, the Living Legend Status was bestowed on him at the 3rd annual Xitsonga Music Awards function. He featured regularly on Radio Tsonga's playlist in the 70s and early 80s. Some of his classics include Xinengana xa n'wampfundla, Miyela nhwanyana, Xa rila xinyenyana and Bombo ra tika. Miyela nhwanyana was a signal tune for Ta Vutomi Programme on Radio Tsonga (currently Mungana Lonene FM).

He played a significant role in promoting social cohesion and nation building through his music, he brought pride to Limpopo Province and South Africa and MEC Moraka has described his passing as a sad moment for the people of the province particularly the music industry which has lost a pioneer of Xitsonga music.

"We wish to extend our sincere condolences to the Mthombeni family during this difficult time. We know and understand that Mr. Mthombeni enjoys popular support, we however wish to remind and urge all his fans and supporters to follow all the lockdown restrictions due to COVID-19 as declared by the president of the country"  
MEC Moraka

Ends.

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