

Media Statement

For Immediate Release

Date: 17 March 2022

NTATE MOTHELO “PHAREPHARE” RICHARD MOTHUPI HONOURED WITH SPECIAL PROVINCIAL OFFICIAL FUNERAL

Limpopo Premier Mr. Chupu Stanley Mathabatha has warmly welcomed the decision by the President of the Republic of South Africa, Mr. Matamela Cyril Ramaphosa to accord the late Mothelo Richard Mothupi a Special Provincial Official Funeral, Category 2. Mothupi passed away on 08 March 2022.

The late Mothelo Mothupi, affectionally known as “Pharephare” within the Congress Movement, left his home village of Ga-Mamaila Kolobetona around 1960 and went into exile to undergo military training. He was born on the 10 April 1937 at Seoketsi, Ga Mashamba village in the Vhembe District. He spent over 20 years in military training and an assortment of guerrilla warfare tactics in various parts of the African continent most of which was in Botswana and Zambia.

In 2013, he was awarded the National Order of Luthuli in silver for the excellent role he played in pursuing freedom for all South Africans during the liberation struggle and building of democracy in the country. Mothupi is counted amongst many who sacrificed their youth and joined the liberation struggle to put more pressure on the apartheid regime to emancipate the people of South Africa.

Upon his return from exile in 1980, Pharephare Mothupi become instrumental in working underground in the formation of the United Democratic Front (UDF), South African National Civic Organisation Organisation (SANCO), Congress of Traditional Leaders of South Africa (Contralesa) and Congress of South African Trade Unions (Cosatu).

He hails from the generation of fearless, dedicated and revolutionaries such as Ike Maphoto, Peter Nchabeleng, John Nkadimeng, Rampelane Mamuru, John Mahwidi Phala, Madumane Dumi Mathabane, Mark Shope and many others.

Pharephare was amongst the first volunteers who served diligently in establishing the African National Congress structures in Limpopo after the unbanning of political parties in 1990. In 2004, he was elected to the Limpopo Provincial Legislature where he served for a solid 11 years. He later served as a councilor in the Greater Tzaneen Local Municipality.

Details of the funeral are as follows:

Time: 07h00

Date: 19 March 2022

Venue: Ga-Mamaila Kolobetona, Greater Letaba

Other Platforms:

Facebook: Otp: Limpopo Provincial Government

Twitter: @OtpLimpopo

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Issued by the Limpopo Provincial Government

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