

Media Statement
All Editors and Reporters

27 November 2025

PREMIER DR PHOPHI RAMATHUBA SENDS MESSAGE OF CONDOLENCES TO THE HLATI FAMILY

Limpopo Premier, Dr Phophi Ramathuba, has expressed her heartfelt condolences to the Hlati family following the passing on of Dr Sylvester Mbayimbayi Hlati, a highly respected traditional healer and a community leader.

“On behalf of the Limpopo Provincial Government, we extend our deepest condolences to the Hlati family, friends, colleagues and all who were touched by the remarkable life of Dr Sylvester Hlati. During this difficult time, may you find comfort in knowing that his legacy is firmly etched in the history of our province and our country. He will be dearly missed.” said Premier Ramathuba.

Dr Hlati dedicated more than four decades of his life to the advancement, ethical practice and preservation of African traditional medicine. As the founder of the Mhlabuhlangene School of African Medicine and the Southern African Development Community Unified Ancestors Traditional Practitioners Association (SADC UAM), he stood as a pioneering figure whose influence extended beyond the borders of South Africa.

His contributions to education, advocacy, and community upliftment including his bold stance against ritual killings, his campaign for HIV/AIDS awareness, and his efforts to bridge traditional and modern health practices not forgetting his efforts towards disputing myths associated with rhino poaching and GBVF affirmed him as a principled leader deeply invested in the wellbeing of society.

The Limpopo Provincial Government joins the nation in mourning this giant of African traditional medicine and salutes the enduring legacy he leaves behind.

For media enquiries please contact:

Thilivhali Muavha
Premier’s Spokesperson
066 011 7034
MuavhaT@premier.limpopo.gov.za

Ndavhe Ramakuela
Provincial Government Spokesperson
082 200 5357
RamakuelaN@premier.limpopo.gov.za

Issued by the Office of the Premier