

Media Statement  
For Immediate Release

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## LIMPOPO PREMIER MOURNS THE PASSING OF HOSI DR N'WAMITWA II

Limpopo Premier, Dr Phophi Ramathuba, has received with deep sadness the news of the passing of Hosi Dr Phyllia Tinyiko Lwandlamuni N'Wamitwa II, the first female traditional leader of the Vatsonga people and the first woman in South Africa's history to be appointed as Hosi.

Hosi Dr N'Wamitwa II was a trailblazer who broke long-standing cultural and societal barriers, paving the way for women in traditional leadership. Beyond her royal duties, she was a committed public servant and freedom fighter who actively participated in the Convention for a Democratic South Africa (CODESA) negotiations in the early 1990s, which laid the foundation for South Africa's democratic dispensation in 1994.

Her unwavering dedication to public service saw her serve as a Member of Parliament for fifteen years, from 1994 to 2009, where she contributed meaningfully to the shaping of the young democracy. Her commitment to education and community development was equally profound. She served in the education sector as a Circuit Inspector, leaving a lasting impact on learners, educators and communities alike.

"We have lost a giant of our time, an activist and a fearless leader who shattered the shackles of patriarchal oppression by claiming her rightful place as heir to the Valoyi royal throne. Hosi Dr N'Wamitwa II was a steadfast advocate for women's rights and a powerful voice against gender-based violence and femicide," said Premier Dr Ramathuba.

The Premier conveyed heartfelt condolences to the Royal Family, the Valoyi Traditional Authority, the people of Limpopo and the nation at large. The Limpopo Provincial Government will work closely with the family and relevant stakeholders to honour her life and legacy in a manner befitting her immense contribution to society.

Hosi Dr N'Wamitwa II will be remembered as a courageous pioneer, a servant of the people and a symbol of transformative leadership.

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