MINISTER CHABANE’S MEMORIAL SERVICE IN LIMPopo

By Eunice Nkuna and Thanyani Netshikweta: DoC, Limpopo

MEC Jerry Ndou said:
“Minister Chabane dedicated his life to the service of his country and people when he was just 17 years old, joining the MK. In fighting for the ideals for equality, justice and freedom; Minister Chabane displayed dedication and has served in numerous leadership roles within MK, the ANC and government.”

Mashudu Mphaphuli said:
“We used to call him the Animal, we have lost a good soldier, a unifier and a disciplined cadre.”

MECs Ndou, Rudolph Phala, Ishmael Kgetjepe and Hosi Shilungwa Mhinga.
Evangelical Presbyterian Church (EPC) Men’s Guild at the home of Minister Chabane paying their condolences.

Dr Thomas Chauke said:
“I always felt so proud sharing a stage with him. It was an honour to have him as a colleague and a homeboy in the music industry. We have lost an icon. He is irreplaceable.”

GC Maluleke said:
“He left us too soon. We did not spend much time with him, we still find it hard to believe that he is gone. We are a royal family with amany relatives but he managed to incorporate all of us in his life. He was a selfless man.”

L Masia said:
“He was not only a member of our church but also participated in the EPC Men’s Guild whenever he had time. Through his efforts, President Jacob Zuma attended our Conference, the Synodal in October 2012 and addressed all men at the conference.”

Grace Nkobyane said:
“I was part of a team that organised his wedding not knowing that I would also participate in his funeral. It is so painful.”

SABC journalist Njanji Chauke at Xikundu village covering Minister Chabane’s memorial service.

People came in their numbers to pay their last respects.

The following traditional leaders attended the memorial service:
- Hosi Mhinga, Mdavula, Makuleke, Mahonisi, Xikundu, Nkavele, Madonsi, Nxumalo and Mathebula.

The following MECs attended the memorial and visited the family thereafter:
- Ndou, Charlie Sekoati, Phala, Kgetjepe, Mapula Mokaba and Joyce Mashamba.

The following media houses covered the memorial service:
- South African Broadcasting Corporation (SABC), Mala FM, Univen FM and Giyani Community Radio FM.
In the wake of the tragic passing of Minister Collins Chabane and his two protectors, the Eastern Cape Provincial Office of the Department of Communications (DoC) conducted a mini-activation to encourage the public to sign a locally designed condolence book. The DoC staff took an hour break, to distribute information leaflets containing Minister Chabane’s brief biography to the public. The condolence book was kept open in a special information stand created in honour of the late Minister.

Some of the messages from the public:

"Rest in Peace Tat’ uChabane, we will remember you for all the good things you have done for our country." – A Ndaba

"RIP Qhawe lama qhawe (Hero of Heroes). You will always be in our hearts, you have played your part it’s time for us to keep that legacy." – M Sawule

"To the family of Minister Chabane we spare our condolences to let you know South Africa is crying with you. RIP Chabane, we are proud of you, great son of the soil." – M L John

"May your soul rest in peace." – N Pinyana
Minister Collins Chabane was laid to rest at the Chabane Royal Graveyard on 21 March at Xikundu village. More than 15 000 people attended the funeral at the Saselamani sport field in honour of Minister Chabane.

His sister, Ella Chauke, speaking on behalf of the siblings said, "We have accepted his death, if you cannot change the situation, you better accept." She then sang "Tatana wa vitana, u vitana mina". Minister Chabane’s children, Tsakani and Matimba also paid tribute to their father with a song and speech.

In paying tribute to Minister Chabane, President Jacob Zuma said, "Collins was like a son to me, he was different from many of us. He was a strategist." The President indicated that when government needed someone to assist in The Presidency, Minister Chabane was found to be the one suitable for the job. "He was a hard worker and a dedicated person, he used to publicise the performance of other Ministers while he was responsible for the monitoring and evaluation in The Presidency," continued the President.

Nthabiseng Special School is the only school in Ba-Phalaborwa Local Municipality which caters for people living with disabilities. Minister Chabane was one of the people who used to assist the school. "Things will never be the same again. He was always there for us whenever we needed him as a school and now it feels like we are left alone and the children will definitely feel his absence," said Nkhensani Khosa.

ANC Regional Secretary in Sekhukhune, Jerry Maseko said: "The ANC-led government has lost a great thinker. He was the brain behind the Road Agency Limpopo when he was the MEC for Public Works which was later implemented at national level as the South Africa National Road Agency Limited. He started the Marula Festival which is still celebrated in Limpopo. This is a great loss to the nation."
Free State bids farewell to Minister Collins Chabane

By: Lehlohonolo Manoto: DoC, Free State

Even those who did not know Minister Chabane got to learn more about him during a free lecture at his memorial service that was held on 20 March at the Civic Theatre in Bloemfontein. He was described as a gallant soldier, a servant of the people, a freedom fighter, a dedicated and a fair Minister who always smiled.

Among the people who attended the memorial service were the Speaker of the Free State Legislature, Mamiki Qabathe, Education MEC Tate Makgoe and Public Works MEC Sam Mashinini. MEC for Environment, Tourism and, Small, Medium and Micro Enterprises, Msebenzi Zwane was the programme director of the first part of the programme while MEC for Sport, Arts, Culture and Recreation, Mathabo Leeto handled the second part.

Representatives from the African National Congress (ANC), Democratic Alliance (DA) and Freedom Front Plus (FF) also conveyed their messages of support. The service became emotional when the audience started singing Struggle songs. The song, “Ulele Chabane” was very touching.

Minister Chabane was laid to rest on 21 March at Xikundu village, Malamulele in Limpopo. The Minister was accorded an Official Funeral Category 1. The funeral of his protectors, Sergeants Lawrence Lentsoane and Lesiba Sekele, were conducted by the South African Police Service (SAPS) as they died in the line of duty. May their souls rest in peace.

Speaker Qabathe said:
“The ANC and the country as a whole have lost a great thinker, a volunteer and a hard working Minister who was humble in nature. Hamba kahle Mkhonto.”

MEC Makgoe said:
“Minister Chabane was the epitome of humility and dedication. In all the portfolios that he was assigned to, he distinguished himself by displaying competency, efficiency and professionalism.”

MEC Leeto paying tribute to Minister Chabane.

MEC Mashinini speaking at the memorial service.

A DA representative conveying his condolences.

An FF member addressing the audience at the event.

MEC Mvambi said:
“Minister Chabane will be fondly remembered by the government communication service of our country as he was the first to ensure that our plight to get communications to be recognised as a pivotal instrument of service delivery is realised. He continued this journey as the Minister of Public Service and Administration. We will miss his contributions to the professionalisation of our work.”

William Bulwane said:
“We would like to send our heartfelt condolences to the family of Minister Chabane, the ANC, government and the people of South Africa. We have lost a true soldier, a revolutionary, a fighter and an intellectual of note. The nation has lost not only him but also members of the SAPS, Sergeants Sekele and Lentsoane.”