

## **Celebrating the Legacy of Solomon Linda and South Africa's indigenous music**

**By Denis Joseph MP**

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Speaker – In today's debate we will reflect on Solomon Linda, the South African Musician, singer and composer also known as Solomon Ntsele, as well as South African indigenous music. Solomon was born in KZN in 1909 under British Rule and died on the 8<sup>th</sup> October 1962. In our Democratic Government we have the opportunity to honour Solomon Linda and many musicians and song writers and artists who form part of our collection of heritage.

One of Solomons songs originally composed in Zulu in 1939 under the title " Mbube" was in 2004 with the support of the South African government and Gallo records acknowledged in the movie, "Lion King" that we know today as the "Lion sleeps tonight".

Speaker the message or the lesson of the Lion King reminds us of the blinding effects of power and those who will do anything to be in control.

Dr Ruben Richards in his book " Hottentots Hospitality" writes about the abuse of power and control dated back to the 14<sup>th</sup> century when the Portuguese Settlers attempted to colonise the Cape and African shores and were defeated at Salt River by Local Khoikhoi Leaders. They settled in what it is called today Mozambique and Angola.

The Dutch and British that arrived on African Shores in 1652 with a strategy to be nice to indigenous people and gather intelligence was a lie. The plan was dispossession, to take the land of the indigenous people, to control them and their culture, their beliefs, cultural objects, social life, spiritual life and heritage. This is what Dr Ruben Richards describes as abuse of hospitality. This abuse continued under the apartheid government and is still happening under ANC government today. The ANC is abusing the hospitality of South Africans.

One such example of the ANC abusing the hospitality of South Africans, is the Sarah Baartman memorial Centre in Hankey Valley in the Eastern Cape. Baartman was buried with dignity on the 9<sup>th</sup> of August 2002, however the ANC government launched a Memorial Centre in her name in 2014. The cost of the centre has escalated to nearly R200 million, but it is still incomplete, which is an insult to the indigenous people.

Ons Kaapse Malei Kore, Kersfeeskore, die Kaapse minstrels, Die acapella Kore, Gemeenskapskore en al die feeste in Suid Afrika waar musiek en kunstenaars ons sosiale kohesie en nasiebou bevorder, is 'n boodskap van hoop en vir almal sê ons namens die DA, dankie.

Music is and remains part of our cultural heritage. Musiek is deel van ons se kom vandaan. Die Departement van Sport, Kuns en Kultuur kan 'n groter bydrae maak om kwessies soos jeugontwikkeling, armoede, werkloosheid, ongelykheid en transformasie aan te spreek. Die regering moet die department hoër op die prioriteitslys plaas.

Indigenous music comes from indigenous history, from indigenous people, indigenous tribes, and indigenous songs with instruments.

Every Tribe, culture and language in South Africa contributes towards unity in our diverse society.

Sport, Kuns en Kultuur vakke moet weer in die skool kurrikulum ingestel word. Dit sal die beste voorbeeld wees om Solomon Linda se voorbeeld te volg.