

## **This Heritage Day we should be united in our differences**

By Thamsanqa Mabhena MP

*DA Shadow Deputy Minister of Transport*

**Ngiyathokoza Sihlalo,**

Ngilotjhisa isitjhaba soke,

Angithome ngiithi, ngiyi Mbuduma, uNcagu, Umasokasokile, isigwegwe sako Bingweni, esasinda ngombana ingeselitje Khathana khayingesilithi sasizama ukweluleka, Matjhaba.

uMatjhaba Morena uRhulubela wako Nyembezi owaphuma nesiyala sekosi izulu lina wabuya naso singakathambi.

Kum'hlana umn'twana azak'lila ngembelekwani athi "Mma ngipha ibisi" waphendula wathi "Mntwanami ubona ngimntazinyana nje, noyisakho am'liganyana njel, siyok'bona senzeni".

Bare Matjhaba ke sefologa sewela gare,

Ga marega amanana.

UMatjhaba yindlovu enduna! eyakhamba izikhotha um'lomo koNandi, eyakhamba itjhisa imizi yabantu beyayok'tjhisa newakhabo Linkana Litjhaba.

Umrhali akaqedwa.

**Chairperson,**

The DA sends our most sincere condolences to the people of Ophongolo in KZN, where the carnage continues unabated. What is more sad is the fact that in this time of grief and great distress, the people of Ophongolo are on their own, while their so called government leaders are gallivanting the world at tax payers expense. In fact that ANC tweetist [sic] and poor excuse of a Minister boarded a flight on a business class ticket and guess what, he is tweeting live from Qatar. What a shame, anisenamahloni. Sies!

Anyway, **Chairperson** we are here.

Today, this esteemed house is celebrating and recognizing a musical icon and a pioneer of the music industry. We are celebrating Mr. Solomon Popoli Ntsele (u-Linda), best known for composing the song titled Mbube, which was later sampled and reproduced as "The lion sleeps tonight" and has over the years been performed by various artists, gaining popularity across the globe in the process.

**Chairperson,**

While we celebrate the life and time of this icon, we ought to shine the spotlight in the music publishing and copyrights regime at the time. Most of our icons were ripped off, and received the short end of the stick. To a point where, their hard work continues to be distributed worldwide and millions of people across the globe continue to consume and enjoy this authentic South African classic and beautiful sound, but their families are not beneficiaries of this craft. To say this was a raw deal,

would be an understatement, a great injustice. We call on the Minister of condolences to address this great injustice and intervene and assist these families to correct these injustices.

In closing **Chairperson,**

Another elephant in the room, we have demagogues who are race-baiting and gaslighting hatred on a daily basis. These miniscule and minion organisations are mushrooming everywhere and encouraging xenophobic attacks and ethnic targeting. This to score cheap political points and ride on the agony and genuine frustrations of our countrymen. They are sending us down a tribalism path of no point of return, a one way ticket to chaos and destruction.

These charlatans will soon be stopping us in the streets and demanding that we smile a certain way to prove that we are of a certain descent and lineage, this is absurd, however if good men and women don't do anything about it, it will be our reality soon. We run the risk of not being able to enjoy these authentic jams and beautiful sounds in some areas and places, because one may be attacked for being associated with a certain tribe.

We have to reject this ethnic mobilization, because South Africa is a constitutional democracy and we are a beautiful and diverse nation. This must never be misconstrued to suggest that we promote lawlessness, in fact quite the opposite.

Mr. Linda created music that transcends through demographics and geographic and could be enjoyed by everyone. On that spirit we say thank you, to Mr. Linda for his craft may his legacy continue to live on.

Bayede Ngwenyama!