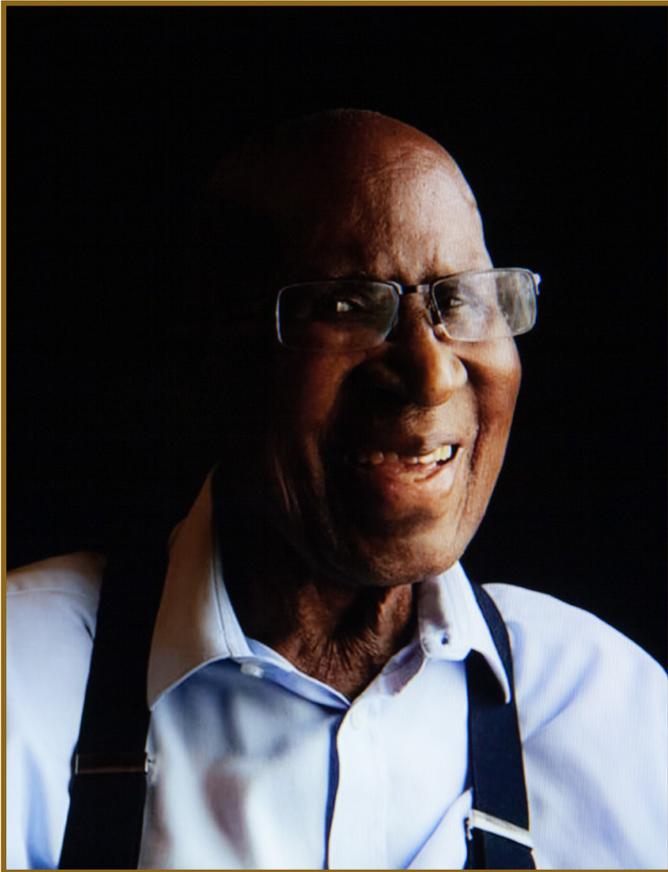


SPECIAL OFFICIAL FUNERAL
SERVICE FOR

Ntate Andrew Mokete Moeti Mlangeni

Wednesday, 29 July 2020



6 June 1925 – 21 July 2020

Obituary of Ntate Andrew Mokete Moeti Mlangeni

Upbringing

Ntate Andrew Mokete Moeti Mlangeni was born on 6 June 1925 in Matoding (later renamed Maynhartfontein farm) outside Bethlehem in the then Boer Republic of Orange Free State (now Free State Province). He is the ninth of 12 children of Ntate Matia and Mama Aletta Mlangeni, and belonged to one of the three sets of twins by the couple.

His parents were farm labour tenants. His father passed on when he was six years old and he was brought up by his mother, with the assistance of his elder brothers. In 1934 his family moved from the farm to rented accommodation in Bethlehem. He moved with his mother to Johannesburg in 1941.

In Johannesburg, Ntate Mlangeni stayed with his elder brother, Sekila, in Pimville, Soweto and later at a makeshift settlement in present-day Orlando township before he found his current house in Dube in 1954, which became his home until his death.

He met June Johanna Ledwaba in 1948 and they married in 1950. They were blessed with four children – two girls, Maureen and Sylvia, and two boys, Sello and Aubrey, who has since passed on.

Education

He started school at the age of 11 in Bethlehem when he enrolled himself at a local church-run school and passed Standard 4 in 1941. He later enrolled for Standard 5 at Pimville Government School in 1942 and passed Standard 6 in 1943. In 1944 he enrolled at St Peter's Secondary School in Rosettenville, Johannesburg where he passed Form 3 (Grade 10) in 1946. He could not proceed beyond Junior Certificate because of financial constraints.

He later managed to complete Matric through correspondence with Rapid Results College while he was imprisoned on Robben Island. He went on to study with the University of South Africa (UNISA), where he completed a Bachelor of Arts (BA) degree in Public Administration in 1979 and a BA (Honours) degree in Political Science in 1983, obtaining the latter cum laude. His Law degree studies were disrupted by the negotiations at the Convention for a Democratic South Africa, which began in 1991.

Employment

Ntate Mlangeni took employment at Jeffery & Gallion as a printing assistant from 1947 to 1955. This position benefitted the South African Communist Party (SACP) and the African National Congress's (ANC) communication units because he would sneak in on weekends to print their posters, banners and fliers.

From 1955 to 1958, he joined PUTCO as a bus driver, a position he left because of his left-wing views against exploitation.

Political life

Ntate Mlangeni was recruited to the Young Communist League by Mama Ruth First in 1944, where he worked with the likes of Mama Elisa Watts and Mr Joe Slovo. In 1959 he became a full-time 'functionary' of the SACP as well as its secretary for the Johannesburg region, responsible for black groups alongside Mama Esther Barsel who was responsible for white groups.

He also participated in the activities of the Rosettenville branch of the ANC Youth League (ANCYL) from 1944, where he worked with the likes of Joe Matthews, Duma Nokwe, Fats Ngakane and Henry Makgothi. However, he formally joined the ANCYL in 1951 and the ANC itself in 1954, and became the longest-serving secretary of the ANC Dube branch, which he also represented as a delegate at the Congress of the People in Kliptown where the Freedom Charter was adopted.

He served in the SACP and ANC leadership structures of the Johannesburg Area Committee where he worked with the likes of Nelson Mandela, Elias Motsoaledi, Alfred Kgasago, Arthur Hlapane, John and Obed Motshabi, Dan Tloome and Andrew Kunene. He also worked with Mama Ruth First to support the mineworkers' strike of 1946 spearheaded by the SACP-aligned African Mine Worker's Union under the leadership of JB Marks and Tloome.

When peaceful means of expressing dissatisfaction with political marginalisation and economic deprivation by the apartheid minority regime was barred to the majority, Tata Mandela recruited Ntate Mlangeni as the first Umkhonto we Sizwe (MK) foot soldier in 1961. Later that year, he, together with Joe Gqabi, Abel Mthembu, Raymond Mhlaba, Steve Naidoo and Wilton Mkwayi, became the first MK members to be sent for sophisticated military training in China. Here, he and Naidoo were specifically selected for advanced military communication techniques and manufacturing of explosives due to their advanced level of Mathematics.

During this time he met one of his heroes, Mao Tse-tung, who gave him a message to relay to the ANC leadership that the ANC should bring a bigger number for training than it had done with their group.

On his return in early 1963, he joined the underground unit of MK and became a member of its High Command. His major responsibilities at the time were to recruit people and despatch them for military training outside the country. It was during these activities that he disguised as a priest under the aliases of Rev Percy Mokoena and Percy Mbatha. Among the people he despatched to exile were Joe Modise and Chris Hani.

Ntate Mlangeni was arrested with Motsoaledi on 24 June 1963 on the national raid day and charged with the Zeerust group which had been intercepted by the security forces in Zeerust after he tried to despatch them for military training outside the country. However, he and Motsoaledi were acquitted from the Zeerust trial because of lack of evidence against them.

Their acquittal was short-lived, however, because they were again charged in the Rivonia Trial, together with other leaders who had been arrested during a raid at Liliesleaf Farm in Rivonia, Johannesburg on 11 July 1963, as well as Madiba, who was serving a five-year sentence following his trial in 1962.

Before the court passed judgment on him, Ntate Mlangeni told the court that:

“Though leaders of many countries throughout the world have tried to persuade the Government to abandon its apartheid policy, and although resolutions have been passed in the United Nations against South Africa, this has met with no result. All that the Government has done is to reply to the people’s demands by putting their political leaders in jail and breaking up families”.

He was found guilty alongside Nelson Mandela, Walter Sisulu, Govan Mbeki, Raymond Mhlaba, Ahmed Kathrada, Denis Goldberg, Wilton Mkwayi and Elias Motsoaledi, and sentenced on 12 June 1964 to life imprisonment. With the exception of Goldberg who was detained inland, the rest were sent to Robben Island. He was prisoner 46764.

He was released from prison after 26 years in October 1989 with the likes of Sisulu, Kathrada, Mkwayi, Mhlaba and Oscar Mpetha. He immediately became a member of the internal ANC structure led by Sisulu. He also served as Transport Head at the ANC’s Shell House headquarters after his election into the National Executive Committee in 1991.

After the first democratic elections in 1994, he became an ANC Member of Parliament until he retired in 2014. In 2012 he became Chairperson of the ANC's Integrity Commission because of his integrity and ethical conduct.

Ntate Mlangeni was passionate about the sport of Golf through which he made many friends. He founded the June and Andrew Mlangeni Foundation in 2009 to continue with the community charity work that his wife had started whilst he was in prison.

Honours and decorations

Ntate Mlangeni received the following honours:

1. Isithwalandwe/Seaparankwe (1992) – the highest award by the ANC to those who have made an outstanding contribution and sacrifice to the liberation struggle.
2. National honours in the form of the Presidential Order for Meritorious Service: Class 1 Gold from President Mandela (1999).
3. **Honorary doctorates:**
 - UNISA (2013).
 - Rhodes University (2018).
 - Durban University of Technology (2018).
 - Cape Peninsula University of Technology (2019).
4. **Freedom of cities:**
 - Freedom of the City of Sedibeng (2016).
 - Freedom of the City of Johannesburg (2016).
 - Freedom of the City of London (2018).

Ntate Mlangeni is survived by his younger sister, Fedile, two daughters, a son, 10 grandchildren, 12 great-grandchildren and two great-great-grandchildren.

Hamba kahle Motlokwa, Sithwalandwe/Seaparankwe!

The nation mourns your departing. Your memory will remain in the hearts and minds of the freedom- and peace-loving peoples of the world.

Programme

SPECIAL OFFICIAL FUNERAL SERVICE FOR NTATE ANDREW MOKETE MOETI MLANGENI

Wednesday, 29 July 2020

PART ONE

Family Valedictory Service at home

545 Ndlovu Street

Dube Village

Soweto

06:30 Family Prayer

08:00 Cortège departs for the University of Johannesburg (UJ),
Soweto Campus

PART TWO

Special Official Funeral Service at Imbizo Hall, UJ, Soweto Campus

Programme Director: Minister Thoko Didiza

09:00 National Anthem

09:05 Opening Prayer

09:10 Welcoming remarks on behalf of the Premier of Gauteng:
MEC Panyaza Lesufi

09:20 Reading of obituary: **Mr Tshepo Lebepe**

- 09:25** Musical tribute
- 09:30** Tribute by a family friend: **Mr Malose Kekana**
- 09:35** Tribute on behalf of the June and Andrew Mlangeni Foundation:
Deputy Minister Hlengiwe Mkhize
- 09:40** Tribute by veteran and family friend:
Former President Thabo Mbeki
- 09:45** Tribute by Ledwaba Family representative: **Mr Lucas Ledwaba**
- 09:50** Tribute by Mlangeni Family representative:
Ms Matefu Mlangeni
- 09:55** Musical item
- 10:00** Tribute by the Grandchildren: **Memory** and **Mpumi Mlangeni**
- 10:10** Tribute by the Children: **Ms Sylvia** and **Mr Sello Mlangeni**
- 10:20** Musical item
- 10:25** **Eulogy by His Excellency President of the Republic of South Africa, Mr Cyril Ramaphosa**
- 10:45** Sermon: **Chaplain-General Monwabisi Jamangile**
- 10:55** SANDF Ceremonial
- 11:00** Cortège departs for Roodepoort Cemetery

PART THREE

At the cemetery

- 11:30** Family and President Ramaphosa seated
- 11:45** Removal of the National Flag from the coffin by the SANDF and handing over to the family
Last Post and Reveille sounded
SANDF bearers and Ceremonial Guard of Honour withdraw

Bearers

Home to hearse: SANDF

Hearse to funeral service venue: SANDF

Funeral service venue to hearse: SANDF

Hearse to cemetery: SANDF

Bearers

WO1 S. M Wessels

WO1 G. Reed

WO1 M. J. Jack

WO1 S. M. Mahungela

WO1 D. F. M. Buys

WO1 D. T. Tlhageng

WO1 N. A. Adams

WO1 J. J. King

Warrant Officer – in – charge

MWO J. T. Tlolane

National Anthem

Nkosi sikelel' iAfrika
Maluphakanyisw' uphondo lwayo,
Yizwa imithandazo yethu,
Nkosi sikelela, thina lusapho lwayo.

Morena boloka setjhaba sa heso,
O fedise dintwa le matshwenyeho,
O se boloke, O se boloke setjhaba sa heso,
Setjhaba sa South Afrika - South Afrika.

Uit die blou van onse hemel,
Uit die diepte van ons see,
Oor ons ewige gebergtes,
Waar die kranse antwoord gee.

Sounds the call to come together,
And united we shall stand,
Let us live and strive for freedom,
In South Africa our land.



REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

