



OFFICIAL FUNERAL
SERVICE FOR

Dr Bomo Edna Edith Molewa

Saturday, 6 October 2018



23 March 1957 – 22 September 2018





Obituary of Dr Bomo Edna Edith Molewa

Dr Bomo Edna Edith Molewa (née Mmethi) was born on 23 March 1957 in the small town of Bela-Bela in the then Northern Transvaal (now Limpopo).

She and her six siblings grew up on a farm where their father, Michael, was a school principal and their mother, Esther Nnana, was a private teacher.

At a young age, Dr Molewa was sent to boarding school at Mmamethake High School and like all other students, she could only visit home once a quarter.

In 1975 her family relocated to Mabopane, which later became part of the then Bophuthatswana homeland (now North West).

She completed her high school education at the famed Hebron Training College – an institution that has produced many luminaries and successful alumni who have gone on to take leadership positions in South Africa and abroad.

Her political activism was awakened when she was a young student at Hebron Training College, and she first identified herself with the aims and aspirations of the African National Congress (ANC).

It was a dark time; apartheid repression was at its zenith and the student and labour movements were actively working underground to overthrow the racist Nationalist Party government. She joined these movements and participated in the structures of the civic association, trade union movement and a women's movement that was led by the Federation of Transvaal Women.

After completing her studies at Hebron Training College, she taught at Moloto and Makaunyane secondary schools from 1976 to 1981.

She took a break from teaching and worked in the retail sector. As a result of her advocacy on behalf of workers, she was elected into positions of leadership within the trade union and civic movements.

Between 1984 and 1990, she rose from being a shop steward in the Commercial and Catering Allied Workers' Union of South Africa (CCAWUSA) – the forerunner of the South African Commercial, Catering and Allied Workers' Union (SACCAWU) – to being chairperson of then Warmbaths' local branch of CCAWUSA and SACCAWU respectively, and chairperson of the local branch of the Congress of South African Trade Unions (COSATU) of the then Pretoria/Witwatersrand/Vereeniging (PWV) Region (now Gauteng).





In 1987, she was elected as the second deputy president of CCAWUSA, and later the first deputy president of SACCAWU, and served two terms in the respective positions.

She was one of the founding members of COSATU and also served as a member of the Regional Executive Committee in the then Northern Transvaal and later in the then PWV Region.

Dr Molewa was active in the underground structures of the ANC's liberation army, Umkhonto we Sizwe (MK); operating under the Peter Nchabeleng Unit that was based in the then Northern Transvaal. She received training through the late Ephraim Mogale and was one of the core leaders in her underground unit. Together with her comrades in the unit, her responsibility was to secure shelter and other logistics for MK operatives who had infiltrated the country.

She paid a harsh penalty for her loyalty to the liberation struggle, as she was targeted by the repressive state apparatus. She was arrested and detained countless times and in 1989, she was arrested for being in possession of an MK arms cache whilst still nursing her new-born son and was held in solitary confinement for six months.

Following the unbanning of the ANC and the trade union movement in 1990, she continued her political activism, gaining training as a negotiator and arbitrator through the Independent Mediation and Arbitration Institute of South Africa, and through actual practice within the trade union movement.

Based on her growing capabilities and experience, SACCAWU appointed her to serve on the Board of the National Labour Economic Institute between 1992 and 1994. This body played a formative role in the development of the new South Africa's economic policies.

In 1994, she was amongst the first group of parliamentarians in the new democratic Parliament and was the first female Chairperson of the Portfolio Committee on Trade and Industry.

Her career in environmental conservation began in 1996 when she was Member of the Executive Committee responsible for environment. She headed the environmental management, conservation and tourism functions in various provincial government departments – namely Tourism, Environment and Conservation (1996 to 1998); Economic Development and Tourism (1998 to 2000); and Agriculture, Conservation and Environment (2000 to 2004).

During that era, she proved to be a visionary leader, directing the reform of provincial environmental legislation and institutions, including the North West Parks and Tourism Board and its internationally acclaimed ecotourism driven economic model for nature conservation in Pilanesberg, Madikwe and other provincial protected areas.

As part of her drive to place environmentally sustainable development at the heart of provincial economic growth, Dr Molewa mooted and championed the establishment of three United Nations (UN) Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation World Heritage sites.





These included the paleo-anthropological sites at the Cradle of Humankind in partnership with Gauteng, the Makapans and Taung extension in partnership with Limpopo and the meteorite impact site of Vredefort Dome in partnership with the Free State.

She was part of the organizing and negotiating team during South Africa's first hosting of the 2002 World Summit on Sustainable Development, and contributed significantly to the successful adoption of the Johannesburg Declaration on Sustainable Development and its Johannesburg Plan of Implementation, which was internationally applauded.

In 2004, she became the first woman Premier of North West and continued to keep herself abreast of strategic environmental programmes, especially where collaboration was necessary between provinces and national government to achieve natural and cultural heritage conservation objectives.

Throughout this period, she was an active member and leader in the ANC, having served her branch and provincial structures in North West in various capacities, including as Chairperson of the ANC Women's League (ANCWL) in North West, as Deputy Chairperson of the ANCWL in Ga-Rankuwa and as Provincial Treasurer of the ANC.

Dr Molewa was the first woman to be elected as a Provincial Chairperson of the ANC in North West.

In 2009, she was appointed to Cabinet as the Minister of Social Development and in 2010, as the Minister of Water and Environmental Affairs.

During her tenure as the Minister of Water and Environmental Affairs, she facilitated investment into massive water projects in South Africa and also served on the World Water Council (an international multi-stakeholder platform organization whose mission is to mobilise action on critical water issues at all levels) and the 2030 Water Resources Group (whose mission is to help countries achieve water security by 2030 by facilitating collective action on water between government, the private sector and civil society).

Dr Molewa was instrumental in South Africa signing a Memorandum of Understanding with the Water Resources Council and the setting up of the Strategic Water Partners' Network in South Africa, which seek to manage and secure strategic water resources.

In 2014, the portfolios were split and she was appointed Minister of Environmental Affairs.

She was a respected leader on the African continent in a number of areas relating to water security, the environment and the global Sustainable Development Agenda (SDA). Under her stewardship, the SDA was elevated to a high-profile position – nationally and globally.

She served as head of delegation to a number international negotiations in various fields, including the Convention on Biological Diversity on Sustainable Development which





culminated into the adoption of the Sustainable Development Goals; Convention on the International Trade in Endangered Species; World Heritage Committee and the International Climate Change negotiations (Mexico, 2010 & Durban, 2011) leading up to the UN Climate Change Conference in Paris in 2015.

Upon her appointment, she immediately prioritised the global climate change crisis at both an international and national level. As part of this effort, she facilitated the development of South Africa's National Climate Change Response Policy that was approved by Cabinet in 2011.

This policy includes a range of measures aimed at achieving both South Africa's overall national goals reflected in the National Development Plan and meeting the country's commitments under the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change.

Dr Molewa was instrumental in leading work on the enhancement of early-warning systems through the South African Weather Service (SAWS) to enable better management of the risks of climate variability and change at all levels. Through her leadership, the SAWS has built the research infrastructure and observational platform to improve the early-warning systems in the country.

She was always an ardent advocate for cooperative governance and always ensured that the department's policies were linked to the work of other provincial and national government departments. The success at the 17th session of the Conference of the Parties is testament to her commitment to practice the notion of integration and alignment, advancing the spirit and the letter of our constitutional provision on cooperative governance and intergovernmental relations.

She is widely credited as being instrumental in the negotiations that led to the signing of the historic Paris Agreement to Combat Climate Change in 2015. In recognition of her leading role in the negotiations, she was awarded the Order of Légion d'honneur (Legion of Honour) by the Government of the Republic of France in 2018 – the highest decoration bestowed to a foreign national by the Government of France.

She has also served as president of the African Ministers' Council on the Environment and two terms as president of the African Ministers' Council on Water. She also chaired the South African Cabinet's International Cooperation, Trade and Security Cluster.

Dr Molewa also enthusiastically advocated for growing South Africa's Oceans Economy by means of the Malaysian "Big Fast Results" participative planning methodology called Operation Phakisa. The first of these integrated Operation Phakisa programmes was the Oceans Economy, followed by the Biodiversity Economy and the Chemicals and Waste Economy Phakisa programmes.

She advocated for the orientation of the Security Cluster into Rhino Protection, which led to the Integrated Strategic Management of Rhinoceros Approach adopted by Cabinet in 2014.





Thanks to this multi-disciplinary approach, recently released statistics show rhino-poaching numbers continue their successive decline.

Dr Molewa served under each of South Africa's Presidents since the dawn of democracy and also served eight times as Acting President of the Republic of South Africa in 2014, 2015 and 2016 respectively.

She served on the ANC's highest decision-making body, the National Executive Committee (NEC) and the National Working Committee.

She was also the Chairperson of the ANC's National Disciplinary Committee and until 2017, chaired the ANC's International Relations (IR) Subcommittee. It was under her stewardship that the IR Subcommittee provided the research and capacity support that paved the way for the passing of a number of ground-breaking foreign policy resolutions at the ANC's 54th National Conference at Nasrec in 2017.

As a respected gender and women's rights activist, she was a member of the NEC of the ANCWL, a position she retained since 2003. In 2016, she was elected as the National Spokesperson of the ANCWL.

Dr Molewa held academic, leadership and management qualifications from the Harvard Kennedy School of Government and the Wharton School of the University of Pennsylvania, as well as an Honorary Doctorate in Applied Sciences from the Vaal University of Technology. At the time of her passing, she was studying towards a Postgraduate Diploma in Developmental Studies at the University of South Africa.

In 2017, she was installed as the First Chancellor of the Sefako Makgatho Health Sciences University.

Despite a full and active political career serving the people of South Africa, she enjoyed cooking, reading, singing, spending time with close friends and family, and listening to gospel and pop music.

She was an active member of the Roman Catholic Church at the Sacred Heart Cathedral in Pretoria. She also regularly supported other church organisations such as the Zion Christian Church, the Uniting Reformed Church, the Methodist Church and the African Methodist Episcopal Church, amongst others.

She is survived by her four children – Keneilwe Mogasoa, Didi Sethema, Michael Sethema and Basiame Sethema; three grandchildren – Ogone Kitchin, Isago Sethema and Motheo Sethema; her mother, Nnana Esther Mmethi and her six siblings – Fana Mmethi, Joseph Mmethi, Vivian Mmethi, Mmanakedi Matseoane, Tebogog Mmethi and Mapula Mhlanga.





Programme

OFFICIAL FUNERAL SERVICE FOR MINISTER BOMO EDNA EDITH MOLEWA

PART ONE

Family Valedictory Service at home

320 Rigel Avenue
Waterkloof Ridge
Pretoria

06:30 Family Prayer

07:30 Cortege leaves for the Tshwane Events Centre

PART TWO

Funeral Service at Tshwane Events Centre

Programme directors:

Minister Nkosazana Dlamini Zuma
MEC Gwen Ramokgopa

09:00 National Anthem: **SANDF Band**

09:05 Opening Prayer by **Father Amos Masemola**

09:10 Welcoming remarks: **Premier David Makhura**





09:20 Reading of obituary: **Dr Mary Manthatha Setati**

09:40 Musical item

09:50 Tribute by former colleague: **Dr Snowy Khoza**

10:00 Tribute on behalf of friends: **Ms Dipuo Peters**

10:10 Tribute by the ANC Women's League (ANCWL):
Ms Bathabile Dlamini, President of the ANCWL

10:20 Musical item

10:30 Tribute on behalf of siblings: **Mr Fana Mmethi**

10:40 Tribute on behalf of the children: **Mr Basiame Sethema**
Mr Michael Sethema

10:50 Tribute on behalf of the grandchildren: **Mr Ogone Kitchin**

11:00 Musical item

11:10 **Eulogy by His Excellency President of the
Republic of South Africa, Mr Cyril Ramaphosa**

11:55 Sermon: **Chaplain General Monwabisi Jamangile**

Benediction

SANDF Ceremonial Guard of Honour

12:15 Cortege departs for the Zandfontein Cemetery





PART THREE

At the Cemetery

12:45 Immediate family and President Ramaphosa seated

13:00 Removal of the National Flag from the coffin by the Military and handing over to the family

Last Post and Reveille sounded

SANDF Bearers and Ceremonial Guard of Honour withdraw

Committal: **Bishop Duncan Tsoke**

13:40 Vote of thanks: **Mr Andrew Dipela**

Benediction





Pall-bearers

Home to hearse: **SANDF**

Hearse to Funeral Service Venue: **SANDF**

Funeral Service Venue to hearse: **SANDF**

Hearse to cemetery: **SANDF**

SANDF PALL-BEARERS

SA Army

Brig Gen G Soldaat

Brig Gen TS Lekalakala

SA Air Force

Brig Gen YJ Mavumbe

Brig Gen EM Riekert

SA Navy

R Adm (JG) NS Gogi

R Adm (JG) MJ Josias

SA Military Health Service

Brig Gen Z Maso

Brig Gen SD Molefe





SANDF BEARERS

SA Army

MWO B Koorzen

MWO F Kriel

SA Air Force

MWO JP Botha

MWO JZ Mnisi

SA Navy

MWO J Majoko

MWO MN Tsotetsi

SA Military Health Service

MWO BS Motsamai

MWO RE Maluleka

Warrant Officer in control of the bearer party:

CWO R January





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

