

Dr Vuyokazi Mahlati

7/9/1965 – 12/10/2020

Tribute in celebration of an exemplary and beautiful life

IWF Global President Elect
"gone to soon"

This book is a compilation of tribute messages received via the WhatsApp tribute site set up by IWFSA, a selection of messages from memorial services and various other platforms, in loving memory and in celebration of Dr Vuyo's beautiful life.

Dr Vuyokazi Mahlati

Global IWF President Elect

7/9/1965 – 12/10/2020



The life & legacy of Dr Vuyokazi Mahlati

Dear Beautiful and Esteemed IWFSa members,

Today the IWFSa board and members join the global IWF community as we mourn the passing of our beloved IWF South Africa esteemed member and IWF global president designate Dr Vuyokazi Mahlati, a champion for equality, an entrepreneur, mentor and inspiration to many.

Dr Vuyo Mahlati was passionate about women's issues and leadership development. IWF South Africa was founded 19 years ago when its patron, Mrs Zanele Mbeki, together with a group of women leaders, set up a South African chapter of the IWF. Dr Vuyo was determined to work with her forum sisters to make it a success, remaining true to the forum's mission throughout her life. She was an inspiring and unifying force, and her impact on the forum will be felt for years to come.

Her passion was helping emerging women leaders. At the global level, Vuyo contributed in many ways, including, serving a second term as the President of the IWFSa (2011 - 2015), was appointed in 2013 as global director for the Leadership Foundation Board, and co-chair for the IWF Cornerstone Conference 2015 in Johannesburg, served on the IWF Presidents' Council, a body of 70 plus President of IWF forums globally across 6 continents. She was recently nominated unopposed as the 2021-2023 as IWF Global President with her term of office for 2 years due to start end October 2020.

Vuyo's influence and passion was recognized on many levels - In May 2010 she was appointed by the President to serve as one of the inaugural members of South Africa's National Planning Commission for five years responsible for crafting the National Development Plan. As the Commissioner she chaired the working group on the Capable and Developmental State, as well as Spatial Transformation. She was also the Deputy Chairperson of the Panel of Experts tasked with developing the Integrated Urban Development Framework for South Africa.

Vuyo born and bred in Makhanda (Grahamstown) in the Eastern Cape, obtained her PhD from Stellenbosch University. Her thesis, focusing on the role of value chains in mainstreaming rural entrepreneurs into global markets was the only one selected by the Faculty of Economic and Management Sciences to be presented at the University's New Voices in Science Colloquium. Vuyo's leadership draws from vast experience as a policy specialist trained in the UK London School of Economics as well as her corporate leadership and entrepreneurship. She was appointed in September 2013 to serve as the Deputy Chair of the State Information Technology Agency. Her other directorships include being the non-executive director of Lion of Africa Insurance Company, a subsidiary of the Johannesburg Stock Exchange Listed Brimstone Investment Company. She served two terms as the Chairperson of the South African Post Office Board of Directors which includes the Post Bank. Here she led the corporatization strategy from traditional to digital business in mail, logistics and banking.



She previously served for two terms on the Financial Markets Advisory Board as well as member of the Financial Services Board Licensing Committee. She was a director of Alexkor Mining Board, and fund manager Umbono Capital (now One Stone). Vuyo's entrepreneurial experience includes participation in major business ventures that include the listed Sasol Oil and Tongaat Hullet. As the Principal Consultant and Co-owner of African Financial Group her investment portfolio targets financial services and resource-based industries in emerging markets.

As a recognized global thought leader Vuyo participated in global think tanks on corporate diversity leadership and inclusive development. She served as a member of the Global Advisory Council of Corporate Women Directors International based in Washington DC, USA. Vuyo was also a member of Impact Hub Global Advisory Council, an entrepreneurial network with HQ in Vienna, Austria. In 2011 she participated in the 2011 Aspen Seminar in Colorado, USA, as well as the Kiel Institute for the World Economy. She was the Committee member that produced the 25 year Gauteng Province Integrated Transport Strategy (Africa's gateway). Vuyo was the recipient of the 2008 Black Management Forum Presidential Award for Transformational Leadership, as well as the Black Business Executive/ABSA Kaelo (Guidance and wisdom) Award. In 2012 she was the finalist for the 11th Van Ryn's BBQ Public Visionary Award.

Vuyo was consistently recognized for her work in community development and regarded as a pioneer in transformation and change management. She was a generous contributor of ideas, advice and resources to advance the IWF mission. More recently she is known to be the founder of Africa's first indigenous wool processing plant in Butterworth, in the Eastern Cape and founder of the Ivilli and Dedani Brand. She was Principal Consultant and Co-owner of the African Financial Group (AFG) with husband Dr Gil Mahlati responsible for Pan African and Emerging Markets Innovative Financial Solutions.

Our deepest condolences go out to her husband Gil, her 2 children Siseko and Lilitha, family, friends and IWF sisters.

'I'm nurtured by being in nature – I love forest walks and game drives – and by being with the people I love.' - Dr Vuyokazi Felicity Mahlati

We are deeply appreciative of everything you did for IWF South Africa, IWF Global, The World and the next generation of women leaders.

**President, Vice President and Board of Directors
IWF South Africa**





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South African Government

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PRESIDENT CYRIL RAMAPHOSA HAS HAILED THE LATE DR VUYO MAHLATI AS A LAND REFORM CHAMPION AND A TIRELESS ADVOCATE FOR THE EMPOWERMENT OF SMALLHOLDER FARMERS AND RURAL WOMEN.

Dr Mahlati, 55, passed away yesterday, Tuesday, 13 October 2020.

She was the President of the African Farmers' Association of South Africa (AFASA) and the former Chair of the Presidential Advisory Panel on Land Reform and Agriculture.

"This is a great blow to the agricultural fraternity and to the country as a whole; more so at a time when much of our work around land reform is coming to fruition," President Ramaphosa said.

"Our thoughts and prayers are with her family, colleagues and friends at this difficult time, and the entire country mourns her loss," the President added.

The President has expressed condolences also on behalf of Deputy President David Mabuza, who convened the Presidential Advisory Panel on Land Reform and Agriculture.

Dr Mahlati was a social entrepreneur, women's rights activist and policy specialist who served as a member of the inaugural National Planning Commission.

She was a respected leader who held senior roles in the State Information Technology Agency as well as on the South African Post Office Board.

Dr Mahlati also served as Deputy Chairperson of the Panel of Experts tasked with developing an Integrated Urban Development Framework for the country. She held a number of corporate roles and directorships.

"South Africa's land reform process is gaining momentum, guided by the recommendations of the Presidential Panel on Land Reform and Agriculture that was ably led by Dr Mahlati," President Ramaphosa said.

"With the release of the revised Land Expropriation Bill and the state land release programme, we are demonstrating our seriousness about using agriculture and farming as catalysts for economic inclusion," the President added.

As Chair of the Advisory Panel and through her leadership in AFASA, Dr Mahlati was vocal about the need for black farmers and rural women to be brought into the mainstream of the sector.

She worked closely with smallholder farmers and businesses and believed it was critical that rural entrepreneurs be included in value chains to enable them to access international markets.

Dr Mahlati also served two consecutive terms as President of the International Women's Forum (IWF) South Africa.

"She will be remembered for her passion for empowering women, and having established the country's first commercial cashmere production facility in the Eastern Cape, she had both in-depth knowledge and experience of the challenges women farmers face," President Ramaphosa said.

The President said that the African Farmers' Association of South Africa (AFASA) had a great responsibility to take forward Dr Mahlati's work.

"She has left behind a formidable legacy, and it would no doubt have been her wish that AFASA remains a strident and activist voice for the transformation of the sector, and a vital contributor to the land reform process," the President said.





TRIBUTE TO VUYO MAHLATI BY ZANELE MBEKI

Let me acknowledge the Mahlathi and Zondani families. Dear Gil, Lilitha, Siseko, Vuyo’s mom and Cawe. I cannot begin to imagine your pain because I was gutted by the telephonic message that I received on Tuesday morning. For two days I was grieving having taken Vuyo’s passing as my personal bereavement. Only after the Wednesday prayers when so many sisters from all walks of life lauded Vuyo’s personal qualities and sang a litany of songs about her achievements, did I emerge from my self pity to focus on your own pain. In some ways Vuyo had made me think that I am an extension of her family.

CONNECTOR WITHIN FAMILY AND CONNECTOR OF COMMUNITIES

We praise you Vuyo because you loved your family and showed it. As all have attested during this week, your conversations would always be peppered with references to your mom, Gil and Lilitha. When I worried that you spend so much time on our projects, away from your family, I gave you a book written by a feminist author on how disruptive on family life professional work by women can be. She was giving advice to working women on how to pay attention to their partners in order to restore intimacy to their marriages. I had not expected you to share this book with Gil. When we met the next time you told me how Gil appreciated the book. You took work home and took home to work.

It was heart-warming to hear you eulogized by your sister-in-law Cawe in PE when you were garlanded with an Honorary Doctorate at the Nelson Mandela University. Cawe lauded you for keeping the Mahlathi family connected; a real accolade from a sister-in-law! My heart warmed on Wednesday evening when Siseko joined the prayer meeting from New York marvelling at the scope of work that you have done, and yet you were always present in his life.

It is not a mistake that SAWID has taken the role of family because the Mahlathi’s have given the SAWID trustees and its connections a CarteBlanche in organizing the vigils and the memorial meeting before your funeral. SAWID more than any of your other organizations has been brought into your home.

When I first met you Vuyo around 2003, you had already made your mark as a fighter for social justice. For that we honour your upbringing at the Zondani home. At that time you were the executive director of Kellogg Foundation, a development funding agency chaired by Bishop Malusi Mpumlwana, a well known champion for the liberation and development of our people. We had already created SAWID, a very elastic forum which would be a home for all South African women. To be a Sawidian you only needed to be South African whatever your race, religion, class or political affiliation. SAWID made room for the up to 60% of women who are from the grassroots and Under-resourced rural areas. What SAWID understood is that women have much more in common than is catered for in the various formations to which they belong.

As Sawidians we needed to use our forum to heal our inter-generational woundedness, commit to empowering those for whom the new dispensations created by the democratic government were unreachable, and so on.

One of the first projects of the SAWID steering committee was to create civil society initiatives to accelerate the removal of poverty from the lives of black South African rural women. For that to be done practically I was advised to bring Vuyo Mahlathi into the SAWID forum.

We celebrate you because when you joined the SAWID steering committee you immediately convened the Development Commission which you have chaired since that time and which became the most active arm of SAWID.

I mention the Development Commission among the litany of your achievements because it is the one project that took 10 of us to Chile and Tunisia to learn how these two countries had more than halved poverty in their respective countries before the 2015 target of the UN Millenium Development Goals (MDGs).

Drawing on the lessons it had learnt the Commission presented its findings to Cabinet. However for government to act on these proposals, they needed to be turned into ANC conference resolutions. Bravely together with your colleagues you popularised our findings at the ANC Women’s League regional conferences since the League could participate and propose resolutions at ANC conferences. The four issues taken to the ANC conference by the ANC Women’s League were:

- Elevate the Gender Machinery into ‘A Women’s Ministry’ with its own Director General who has a budget for required Programmes;
- Create ‘A Planning Ministry’ to be placed together with the women’s ministry next to the President’s Office for planning together for poverty eradication programmes that are not mainstreamed;
- Create ‘A Women’s Fund’ for special upliftment/empowerment programmes and Projects (as has happened now with GBV fund);
- Establish ‘A Women’s Research Centre’ to monitor the progress of women in all areas of human endeavor. (Such as the covid19 research that you have left us with).

All these were placed in the office of the President to be driven by his/her office because the mandate of post colonial, post-Apartheid, post Pinochet post oppressive regimes are to eradicate the poverty that was created and left by those oppressive regimes.

We won the the facade of the women’s ministry and a planning commission but not the content.

YOUR LAST CONNECTOR WAS DEMONSTRATED IN THE LAST WEEK SINCE YOU LEFT US: CONNECTING WOMEN FOR A NEW ECOSYSTEM

In the past week by your leaving us you have insisted on connecting all the platforms that constituted your network for transforming the current destructive global and national ecosystems that destroys nature and excludes so many people especially poor black women around the world.

The prayers this week brought together your South African network as well as the global. Because that was your outreach. Phumzile represented the reach to the United Nation, IWF constitutes global women’s leadership; AfWID mobilizes the continental outreach and AWLN brings us closer to the AU. All your South African networks took turns in leading your vigils.

It is upto the SAWID Trustees to make it happen going forward. You have shown the way through your untimely death. I called you after your keynote address at the AWCA Woman of Substance Award ceremony only 3 months ago to find out why you envisaged a reimagined ecosystem for the attainment of equality for women. You replied that a crisis creates opportunities for renewal. You said by the shedding of Chris Hani’s blood we got liberation, the covid19 has forced all societies to plan for a Post-Covid economy. By your own death women must work together to heal society.

However as a tribute to you Vuyo and as part of our continuing service to the women of South Africa, we must work to insert this perspective into the current national processes to elaborate a post-Covid-19 programme for the fundamental transformation of our country.

Vuyo you led your life as a proud and compassionate human being. Your proud humility meant that you never wanted to be pitied for carrying a illness for so long, and it informed your compassionate consideration for all of us as you did your best to ensure that we did not have to carry the weight of your pain.

Your life example demands that we magnify your deeds and forever praise your name.

With your permission Vuyo, to say my final farewell to you I would like to borrow and slightly adapt words written by my uncle-in-law, Mike Mosoeu Moerane, words he wrote for his famous song, Sylvia.

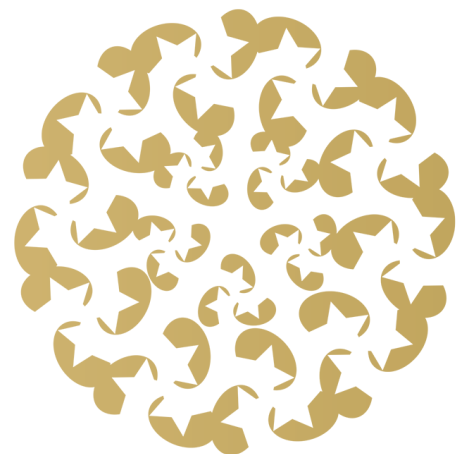
Vuyo mntakwethu ntomb’ asekhaya,
Kazi ndothini ukuthetha nawe.
Xana kunamhlanje sosala sodwa,
Ewe ke namhlanje sizinkedama.
Kazi kunamhlanje soba yini na,
Kambe sitsho sithi ndelantle.



UThix’ azakuphe amathamsanq’ onke,
Ntomb’ entle themba lihle kum,
Ntomb’ enkulu sithandwa sethu.

Ndlelantle!

Zanele Mbeki
Founder and Patron
IWFSa



TRIBUTE MESSAGE BY IRENE CHARNLEY

Dr Gill, Lilitha and Siseko Mahlati, mother of Dr Vuyo, members of Dr Vuyo Mahlati’s family, the Zondani family, and friends. Members and leaders of IWF global and SA, SAWID, UN Women, AWCA, Ivili Loboya, Siyaya Media Network, Unisa Women. We are gathered here from near and far across the world to cherish the memory and celebrate the life of our sister and beloved Dr Vuyo Mahlati, a powerful force for peace and democracy, who was a trail blazer for women’s rights and equality.

Our celebration is a demonstration of how Vuyo remains a source of inspiration for all those who in South Africa and globally fight for the same values and the same causes she fought for.

Vuyo was a great woman of South Africa. A great woman of Africa. A great woman of the world. The world grieves for her. But we find hope in her legacy, as does the world.

During her tenure as President of the International Women’s Forum of SA, a part of IWF, a global organisation of 7000 women leaders of significant and diverse achievements, across 33 nations and 6 continents. Vuyo served the South African chapter with distinction. It was not surprising that Vuyo was unanimously nominated as Global President of IWF.

At the end of October 2020 she was meant to assume the IWF global Presidency, the first ever President from outside North America and the first ever from Africa. What an honour this would have been for all women across the world.

Many of us were not surprised by this accolade. Dr. Vuyo always looked to the future. She lived for women empowerment and gender equality.

We are still heartbroken and devastated, our hearts are filled with sorrow. Our sorrow and pain are deep. Our lives are empty in the areas she brightened for us.

I will never forget the call I received from Dr Vuyo last year, and the subsequent lunch with her and the late Veronica Devine, who both encouraged me to accept the nomination as President of the IWFSa, a position Vuyo held for two terms between 2014 and 2015.

On every occasion that I interacted with her over the years, which started in the early days of SAWID and then IWF, I was struck by her tireless commitment to humanity in everything she said and did. The force of her personality. Her fearless strength in adversity. Her intellectual strength. Her strong and genuine conviction and ability to engage people. Her passion shone through in everything she said and did - from her work on women’s equality to her tireless championing of young women leadership which lived through each small or big action we can all take toward a better world.

So despite our collective grief and pain, I hope that Dr Vuyo’s family, friends and women across the world... can see that her work has not ended with her passing but that instead her spirit will live on in the daily acts of the millions of people who are now carrying forward her struggle to create a better, more peaceful and equal world.

We will miss her great shining smile and her indomitable spirit but believe that all those of us she touched, will cherish her memory in the heart of our nation.

May her gentle Soul rest in Eternal Peace.

Irene Charnley
President International Women’s Forum, South Africa



Vuyokazi our Makoti Forever in our Hearts

TO VUYOKAZI

In my language, IsiXhosa, when you use the suffix “kazi” you denote by enlarging whatever word precedes the suffix “kazi”.

When Vuyo was born her parents gave her her name Vuyo but added the suffix “kazi” denoting that the happiness they anticipated in her would be a big big one.

Vuyokazi lived up to her name. She enlarged, innovated elevated, extended and made more joyous or brought happiness whatever she touched.

The passing of anyone who is loved, anyone who belongs to a family, anyone who has purposefully lived , anyone who touches lives, anyone who honors their life purpose.

The cacophony of emotions that we have lived through the past few days, is a testament to who Vuyo was and still is to us. You have heard numerous accolades over the last few days about Vuyo’s public life. I want to pay tribute to Vuyo as a member of the Mahlati family.

Vuyo was our first Makhoti - a woman who loved my brother and he loved her. Young at 22 He truly became “ the wind beneath her wings”. She loved him and because of him, she loved us. Together they were both madly in love with one another. A beautiful thing to behold. They renewed their wedding vows thirty years on at the Cathedral in Grahamston,

We thank the ancestral and celestial forces for the gift- yes the gift that was Vuyo’s life. For loving us as a family- for loving my brother, for making Gil a father, a family head, a respected man in his house and teaching him to love you, Lilitha, Siseko and life itself - thank you.

It would be remiss not to mention how Vuyo respected & loved my Mother. She loved & honoured her completely. Not only as a Mother but as the family matriarch. Vuyo taught us that in humble submission there is honor, there is love and there is life. Vuyo stood with us, cemented us, implored us to appreciate, support & love each other, was passionate about our ancestral home & family celebrations and events.

Vuyo was courageous, never discouraged- insistent that we had to be a family, that we needed to honor the values of our forebears - that we had to honor the Zondani and the Mahlati heritage.

Families who had and still have the privilege of education, believing that the acquisition of education must be a tool to guide our nation to enlightenment and liberation. Starting with the communities that we came from.

I’m not sure how we are going to carry on- we must carry on. I do know that in our own ways we loved & appreciated Vuyo, I know for sure that Vuyo knew how very much Gil loved her Gil knows how much Vuyo loved her. Lilitha Siseko, Lakhanya, Ziizi, Yolanda, Zimvo and Nimba know how much they were loved by Auntie Vuyo.. It is that love that must sustain and will sustain us.

Thank you Vuyo. We let you go, reluctantly, grudgingly but lovingly. We release you to the throngs of ancestral ululations that are standing with the firmament of creation - to welcome you home, to welcome you back after living such a purposeful, selfless and rich life.

Adv Cawe Mahlati
Mafungwashe (Matriach Eldest Female)
Makoti (Wife of Brother)



Dr Vuyo Mahlati, Adv Cawe Mahlati, HRH Princess Nokota Mahlati, Tembela Mahlati

October 16, 2020

Dr.Gil Mahlati, daughter Lilitha and son Siseko, extended family and friends, and our IWF- SOUTH AFRICA sisters.

My term as Global President of IWF ends in a few weeks, and I was meant to pass the torch to that gracious woman of strength and conviction we all know as Vuyo Mahlati.

I was thrilled --- we were ALL thrilled, that Vuyo would lead IWF for the next two years, as its first South African President. In fact, she would be IWF’s first ever President from Africa.

Vuyo and I had a long, meaningful conversation in September. She was excited about the opportunity to step into this role and clearly ready to carry the torch forward. Vuyo was determined to expand IWF and to provide more leadership and enrichment opportunities for women across the continent, the global south and beyond.

Not only did she believe in the IWF mission:

To advance women’s leadership and champion equality world-wide..... **but she embodied it!!!**

We talked at length about this organization we both have cherished; about her deep engagement over the years, about what IWF has accomplished, the steady course it’s charting ...and the wonderful opportunities that lie ahead.

And we talked about the challenges the pandemic is causing to families, businesses, schools, organizations....in every community around the world - About the human cost and social repercussions of these difficult times,

And then, we talked about our families, our beautiful families, each of us having a daughter and a son around the same age, and the challenges of being apart from our adult children due to the pandemic. It was a beautiful conversation....one that I will always remember

Mrs. Mbeki, patron founder of IWF- South Africa. Vuyo was so grateful to you. And grateful to be included amongst the outstanding pioneers of IWF-SA. We know you were the first person she called to inform the good news about her nomination as the next IWF Global President.

And Pumzile Mlambo-Ngcuka– Executive Director of UN Women. Vuyo was honored to present you on stage in Chicago in 2015 as an honoree in IWF’s Hall of Fame.

And thank you Irene Charnley – for your leadership as President of IWF-SA -- in carrying the flag and to all the sisters of IWF-SA who are part of this thriving Forum.

At the beginning of my term as IWF Global President in 2019, we launched the development of a strategic plan to set the course for a more relevant and sustainable future. Vuyo was part of the Strategic Planning Committee - and she was integral to the process and ideas that generated the plan.

She was a deep thinker, a planner, and a visionary. A uniter of people. We will forever cherish her warm smile, her savvy and her serenity. She left us so suddenly, but we know that she watches over us, inspiring **ALL** of us to continue the essential work of IWF, the important work in our communities and in our world.

Her spirit will live on.... in our hearts, our souls and most importantly, in our work. Farewell to our dear sister, our silent hero and shining example, Vuyo Mahlati.

Our hearts go out to Gil, her husband and to Lilitha and Siseko, her children and to all who loved her.

A beautiful light has gone out of the world, but a star has been born in the night skies.



Tribute to Dr. Vuyo Mahlati
From Deborah Trudeau,
Global President of IWF

Dr Vuyo was a shining light. The world knew her as an expert in economic development because she actioned socioeconomic transformation for the benefit of the most vulnerable in our society. But to those close to her, she was also a loyal and dear friend, and a wise and dedicated mentor.

I had the honour of working closely with Dr Vuyo for many years through IWFSa. Together with many others in the organisation we shared in our passion for building a South Africa where women and men could collaborate and contribute as equals. Her leadership within IWFSa was an inspiration, not only because she was a woman who navigated industries where few had gone before, but also because she never compromised on her principles of compassion and integrity. A powerful and graceful force, she was never deterred from taking on challenges that others shied away from.

Two areas of achievement in her career stand out for me:

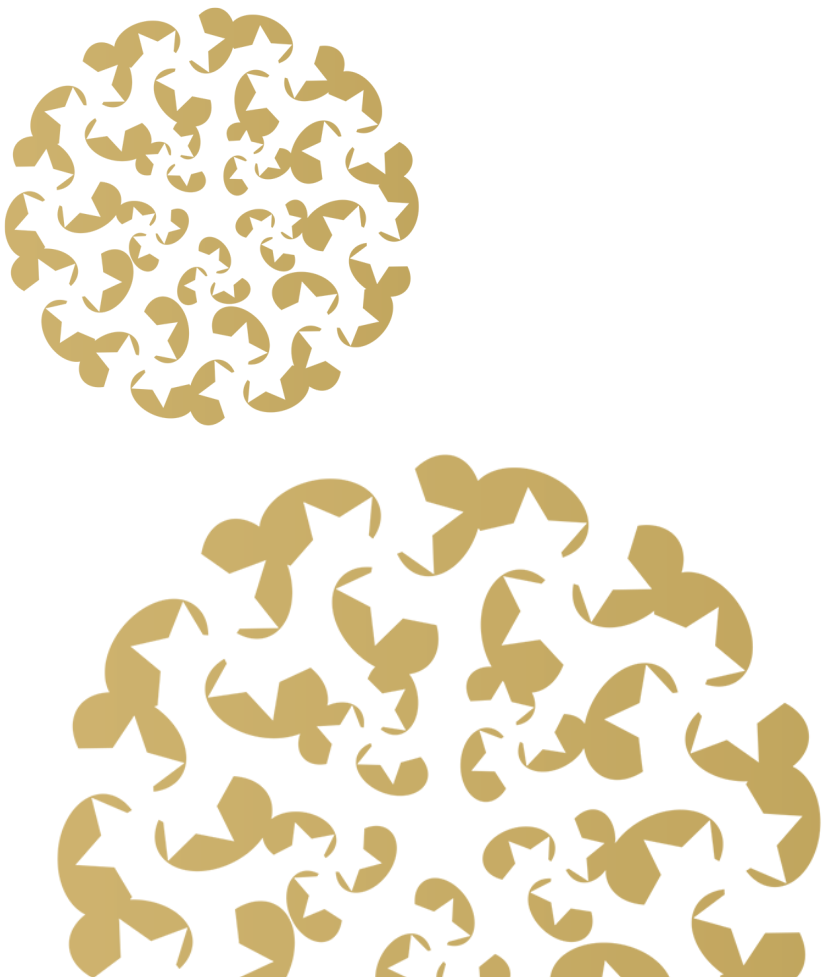
The first was when she pioneered the development of Africa’s first wool processing plant in the Eastern Cape. She brought to life a dream that many thought was impossible.

Her luxury brand Dedani showcased at AFI Fashion Week, and as their collection lit up the runway we were all on the edge of our seats, watching her vision come alive. She did more than build a brand that linked directly to a localised fashion value chain. Within this value chain she integrated rural farmers and rural women, facilitating them into the formal economy where their participation remained exclusionary. In doing this she showed the world that Africa has the capacity to create products of luxurious quality, and that our creativity can rival the best international brands and artisans.

I remember her walking down the ramp, smiling proudly with her team, as the audience cheered for Dedani’s first runway showcase. With the elegance and humility she always carried, she took a bow to the audience’s applause and left us all with awe at what a woman with a dream is able to achieve.

The second stand out moment I recall was at the Mandela 100 year celebration, where we introduced our partnership in support of land reform in South Africa. She came onto the stage in her Xhosa regalia and, to a global audience, she confidently gave the war cry Wathint’ Abafazi, Wathint’ Imbokodo – when you strike a women, you strike a rock. Despite the contentious nature of land reform discussions at the time, her diverse efforts within this sphere allowed her to bring together policy-makers, civil society and the public sector to initiate a way forward that would benefit all stakeholders.

To those who were a part of her journey it was clear that she remained motivated by a bold vision: To uplift others in a meaningful way. Dr Vuyo was the embodiment of Ubuntu, and she leaves us with a legacy of selfless love and giving.



Dr. Precious Moloi-Motsepe
African Fashion International
Founder and Executive



So shocked and deeply saddened to hear the news of Dr Vuyo’s passing. She filled our lives with hope, care, energy and abundant love and always a beautiful smile.

Her passion, commitment and inspirational leadership will be live us forever. I cannot believe our beloved Vuyo is gone.

Deepest condolences to Gil and children and the family. We send them our love and care. May her souls rest in eternal peace.

Maria Ramos

Tributes



Terribly sad to hear of the passing of Dr Vuyo. My sincere condolences go to her family & loved ones. With gentle care.

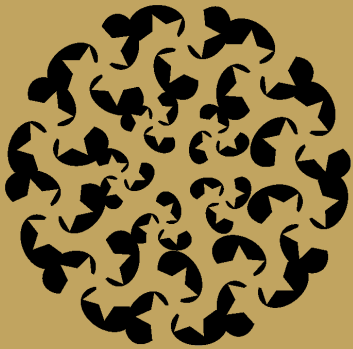
Leila Fourie

Oh Vuyo! Vuyo really! I have run out of prayers. May you find rest. You’ve done so much for so many. Gill and the kids will know we loved her so much. Your ailing mom will be by their side.

Sis Konji

So passionate about diversity n inclusion. May her soul rest in peace.

Tryphosa Ramano



HONOURING THE SELFLESS SERVANT LEADERSHIP OF DR VUYOKAZI FELICITY MAHLATI

By Dr Anna Mokgokong

Some people join organisations, companies and serve communities and their nation looking for something for themselves. They look for inspiration, leadership ideas, day-to-day advice, seek reflection on the more intellectual and entrepreneurial benefits for their personal benefit.

Some members recognise that an organisation and a nation can only offer what is put into it in the first place. They do stellar work. They stand out. They are the ones whose input is so significant that the organisation, community and nation could not be what it is without their specific and immeasurable contribution. These are the passionate nation builders. On this list you will find Dr Vuyokazi Felicity Mahlati.

LITANY OF VUYO’S CHARACTERISTICS

She was committed to the notion that an organisation and nation itself is more powerful and useful to its members and society as a result of the contribution made to it by dedicated professionals.

The litany of characteristics that Vuyo came to be appreciated for, is very long and varied. She was a wonderful person, selfless, caring, giving, mentor, an outstanding businesswoman, executive director, entrepreneur, a superb farmer, manufacturer, a gifted mentor, a devoted family woman, an inquisitive adventurer, an avid reader, a sharp intellectual and a daring innovator.

Vuyo was a fearless social entrepreneur and gender activist, who was always at the forefront of women entrepreneurship and made deliberate decisions and influenced policies that affected the rural economies in South Africa.

BOUNTIFUL, GOD-GIVEN GIFTS

These are only some of the exemplary qualities I observed in her over the many years of our association and friendship which included our time spent serving various organisations and her becoming President of the International Women’s Forum South Africa (IWFSA), an organisation I also served as President.

Here are just a few of the bountiful, God-given gifts she shared with her family, friends, business associates, communities, nation, and also with the many and varied satellite institutions orbiting the professional universe:

- Former chairperson of Land Reform and Agriculture Advisory panel;
- Former member of the National Planning Commission. As the Commissioner she chaired the working group on the Capable and Development State, as well as Spatial Transformation;
- Deputy Chairperson of the Panel of Experts tasked with developing the Integrated Urban Development Framework for South Africa;
- Founder of Ivili Loboya which led to the birth of the Dedani Collection – Africa’s first indigenous wool processing plant in Butterworth in the Eastern Cape;
- Former President of the International Women Forum South Africa;
- Global Director of the International Women’s Forum;
- President of the African Farmers Association of South Africa and well-known public policy and development planning specialist and
- President Elect of the Global Chapter of the International Women’s Forum, a position she failed to fulfil due to the calling of God.

The eclectic and highly selective range of Vuyo talents, interests and accomplishments is testimony that she was an astoundingly wide-ranging lady. She was truly a woman for all seasons with a renaissance spirit.

Her energy was boundless and generous. In addition, the IWFSA and other organisations benefited enormously from her talents and selfless spirit of service and availability. She gave extensive time and leadership talent to this important institution.

As a friend, neighbour and fellow member of the IWFSA, I was particularly impressed and inspired by her unquenchable and high-spirited enthusiasm for people. She exhibited a laser focus for the impact on people in everything from events and decisions.

What we will all miss is her unwavering supported she conveyed to all of us. When one of our IWFSA members lost her father a week ago, she supported tremendously. She is now inconsolable with Vuyo’s passing. So are all of us.

Her intellect was fertile and her energy was of supernova dimension. Her initiatives overflowed into wonderful community and national projects, large and small, directed towards people. Her accomplishments will live on in countless memories of people she helped and served well. Let this be the legacy for all of us.

POWERFUL WOMAN WHO SPOKE TRUTH TO POWER

Her loss to the fight for black women empowerment is profound. The loss to her beautiful family cannot be described. Sadly too the IWFSA, her communities of Makhandla (Grahamstown), Butterworth and the world over, have also been suddenly left bereft of the smile, the laugh, and the extra effort that would mark her every enterprise.

Vuyo was a brave and powerful woman who spoke the truth in the face of injustice. She was a fighter for justice. She taught women how to organise, how to treat people with respect and listen to them and how to lift up the youth.

The whole structure of her life was about helping others. The work she did was a fundamental part of her life.

SELFLESS SERVANT LEADERSHIP

What does her departure mean for women empowerment? The grace and blessing are that Vuyo used the time given to her so well and so fully, so in a sense it is hard for us who remain behind to complain that the legacy is now determined and the future is less bright without her.

The saying goes “it is not how long you have lived on this earth that matters, but rather how impactful you have been.” Vuyo was impactful.

Through her courage, talent or altruism, she has shown us what selfless servant leadership can look like in reality.

Vuyo represented everything that was good, wholesome and lovely. She had so much ability, energy and charisma. May God rest her gentle soul.



Dr Anna Mokgokong
Chairperson of AfroCentric Health Group, owners of Medscheme and other health care providers
Former President of the International Women’s Forum South Africa.

This is tragic news. Vuyo was such a wonderful, vibrant person. She will be very sadly missed by all. May she rest in peace. Her legacy will live on. Deepest condolences to her family.



Joan Joffe

Waking up to the news of the passing away of Dr Vuyo Mahlati, is devastating...A good Sister, patriot, entrepreneur and community builder. Dr Vuyo was a Global thought Leader with a passion for rural development and women empowerment. Our country has lost a shining light, we have lost a role model as women of South Africa and the world is much poorer for this...Sincerest condolences to everyone who loved her especially the Mahlati family..and I'm just gutted.



Nolitha Fakude

This is so devastating! Thanks Dr Lulu Gwagwa for introducing us! Dr V, It was an honour to know you, engage with you and try to create solutions with you! Thanks for caring deeply, going out of your way to serve humanity especially the underdog. I'm out of words. Your team is devastated! Gone too soon! Your footprints are timeless. Our deepest condolences to Dr Gil, Siseko and Lilitha. Please find strength in God's love.

Judy Dlamini



Dear Sisters,

A dark cloud has just fallen over us. I have been in a state of shock since the news of Vuyo's passing reached me and Gaby. The warmth, grace, intellect, signature smile, out of the box thinking and strong leadership is all what stays with me. Her unopposed nomination to take over the IWF Global Presidency was the crowning glory for her servant leadership. Yes IWFSa is devastated over her sudden transition to the other world but the entire IWF family of sisters is equally in pain.

I have spent the last 45 mins with the past IWF President from the Bahamas, Allyson Gibson, who was the prime mover behind Vuyo's nomination for the IWF Presidency, working with other past Presidents, Sis Zanele, myself and others in South Africa. She was in tears and at a loss for words. Quite unusual for her. She specifically asked me to convey her message of condolence to the IWFSa sisters, and said that had it not been for Covid-19 restrictions, she would fly over here to be with us. She also said to tell you she is available to do whatever we ask of her. Vuyo's legacy is huge, we will do our best to honour her memory. MHSRP



Nana Magomola

Dear Global Summit of Women friends,

I was so saddened to receive the news that Vuyo Mahlati, a champion for women in South Africa, passed away far too soon at the age of 55. We heard her passionate voice on the subject of quotas for women on boards when I invited her to speak at the 2013 Global Summit of Women in Malaysia. She also joined us at the 2014 Summit in Paris and 2017 in Tokyo and at a 2012 Legacies of Women Forum held in Johannesburg which I had organized. Given her extensive board director's experience, she was a part of the Advisory Board for Corporate Women Directors International (CWDI), the research arm of the Summit.

Vuyo was hailed by South Africa's President Cyril Ramaphosa as a land reform champion and a tireless advocate for the empowerment of smallholder farmers and rural women. She also served as Board Director and Chair of the South African Post Office, which she helped to move to the digital market, and as a Director of Lion of Africa Insurance Co, among other companies. In addition, she was Co-Owner of African Financial Group and Founder of the first wool and cashmere processing plant in Africa, Ivili Loboya. She was a woman of many talents, but in everything she did, she always made sure to lift up others. South Africa will miss Vuyo's leadership voice and so will I.

**Irene Natividad
President
Global Summit of Women
of GlobeWomen Research & Education Institute**



So saddened by the loss of this amazing woman leader, mentor and friend so blessed to have had you in our lives Dr Vuyo...



Paul Johnson
iAfrica

The news of Vuyo’s passing is the most devastating, I pray that her husband and children as well as family find comfort in the memories of her life with them. The almighty will give strength to all left behind.



Baby Tyawa

She was an astute lady that all South Africans could be proud of. May her soul rest in peace.



Gusti Coetzer

It’s a truism that ‘Isitya esihle asidleli’. None of us will ever know the time or the day. Thank you for sharing your journey with us, Vuyo. Your generosity of spirit will live forever. You not only shared with your family, Gil, Lilitha & Siseko but the whole world. Lala ngoxolo, ugqatso ulufezile.



Thandi

Members... we have lost our past president, a member, our new global IWF president, a commissioner, a friend... My heart bleeds for Gil, her daughter and son... Most importantly her mom, who Dr Vuyo has been inspired by. Our loving prayers to all who were close to ma’am. It was a priviledge to serve her... Knowing she will continue to shine and leave a legacy...



Janine Hills

Dr Vuyo,

May your smile continue to brighten our days
May your intellect continue to inspire us
May your beauty radiate eternally through every young entrepreneur you have nurtured and fought for
May your soul rest in peace... for we all know you were here!
May you live in our memories for as long as wel live... and beyond
Sincere condolences to your loved ones.

Busi Mabuza

Absolutely unbelievable that you have left us Vuyo. I’ll always remember your lovely welcoming smile, your brilliant inquiring mind, always full of ideas about how to get to the next level. Oh what a loss!!!!



Zonke Mojodina

Vuyo was larger than life. A humble soul with a great heart. We will miss her so dearly. We send our deepest condolences to her family and all the friends and colleagues. Rest In Peace Dadewethu.



Dr Nomzamo Tutu

A great loss indeed that you are no more Vuyo! I’m still in disbelief and in denial. My eyes are still looking at your beautiful smile, your love for people and deep care in ensuring that development is for all. !Your positive energy and dedication to the improvement of our communities has left an indelible mark in our hearts and minds. May your beautiful soul rest in eternal peace my love. My heartfelt condolences to Gil, your beautiful lovely kids, the Zondani and the Mahlati families.



Pumla Goduka

I have to testify to her passion for building legacy and dynasties especially amongst people of colour. She was so excited about building a legacy with her family office. Lilitha who was at Absa Capital at the time was brought into the family business under the tutelage of her parents who wanted to write stories about possibilities about what black families can aspire to and achieve. Thank you for the lessons, the passion and the drive Sis Vuyo. So hard to think about you as no longer here but we shall ensure your dreams take root and thrive. Sleep well Ntombenhle.

Nomkhita Nqweni



TRIBUTE TO DR VUYO MAHLATI

Go well Fellow Warrior for justice! You are a special light that touched us in many ways, and though we are sad about your untimely departure, we feel blessed to have known you and will continue to draw from the light we shared with you!

I met Vuyo through the International Women’s Forum and connected through our passion for women economic empowerment. Her ever present positive energy transformed whatever challenge we faced as an opportunity for new solutions. We found in IWFSa a wonderful space of not only growing leadership talent, but a place to extend one’s leadership talent through uplifting others. In my final year as President of IWFSa, we bonded as we reimagined new ways of extending the impact of IWFSa. She had a magical way in which she inspired young women, and that led to the development of the Young Leaders Connect Program as a platform for galvanizing young women and linking them with the work of the IWFSa.

As a Warrior for development of women leadership Vuyo brought her commitment , intellect and time to enabling opportunities for women in South Africa and the continent. We had an enriching journey exploring with our African sisters like Scholastica Kymaryo how to extend the South African Women Corporate Leaders Program to African countries. Key questions raised were how do you define women leadership taking into consideration the fact that not all countries have stock exchanges, yet they have remarkable women making an impact in the economies?

As I struggled to reconcile myself to your departure, I kept on feeling and loosing the light we shared. Lilitha Mahlati your daughter brought the light back for me at a prayer meeting. In comforting us she told us her mother would always be with the family and those she loved, that we could also find her in the work she did. It is comforting to know we can always get the light we shared through the love you gave and nurtured, in communities and the footprints you left us! Go well fellow warrior of love, peace and humanity!

By Dr Namane Magau
Past President IWFSa

She was everything to some of us. A Catalyst, Hardworker, Multitalented, Humble, Loving. Treated everyone with Honour, Respect and Dignity irrespective of her Social and Academic Status.Had a very good sense of humour.A great woman amongst the Best. I am honoured to have known her for ages, and when she served as one of the Telkom Board of directors, with my late husband.You have run your race Dr. Vuyo Mahlati, you have served our Nation with Dignity and High Moral Values. Thank you soo much Wonan of the African Soul. Lala Ngoxolo Sithandwa sama Afrika. Lala uphumle ntokazi.May your family be comforted, we thank them for sharing you with us.

Rev Nonqaba Mosunkutu

We have all been enriched and touched by knowing her, her generosity and contribution to so many causes and our own particular IWFSa...and we all stand bereft today...condolences to her family, friends and everyone in this group joined by grief and celebrating Dr Vuyo.

Zarina Bassa

A tragic loss not only of a dear and highly respected friend, but a terrible loss to this country! A leading light, Vuyo’s vision for land reform was one of great integrity, equanimity and fairness to all. Vuyo, you’ve left us at such a critical time when your skills are still so sorely needed. I will always remember your beautiful smile, your natural leadership, your tireless efforts to bring more opportunity to your people, and your selfless dedication to others. Rest In Peace beautiful soul and my heartfelt condolences to your husband, you son and daughter, and all your family. Your memory and legacy will live with us forever.

Carole Hambleton-Moser

Minister Didiza sends her condolences on the news of the untimely death of Dr Vuyo Mahlati.

Sindiswa Mabaso Koyane

My Heart is in Shatters just 3weeks back she called to tell how proud she is of me opening The Afrikology Pan African Center in a village.. She said “ Ashantewaa this is quick call to tell you I am proud of you, and I love the work you’re doing inside the Village”. I thanked her for the call and ask her when she is down in Durban please visit me.

Yaa Ashantewaa Ngidi
Director Institute of Afrikology SA

I feel blessed to have had an opportunity to work with Sis Vuyo and learn from her. She was a role model, a grounded leader and a fierce champion of transformation. Her departure is such a huge loss. She has left a remarkable example and set a high bar. A mutual friend has written a tribute to her on the Business Day.

Mzukisi Qobo

MEDIA STATEMENT
GOVERNMENT SADDENED BY THE PASSING OF DR MAHLATI

Government is saddened by the passing away of Dr Vuyokazi Mahlati and extends its heartfelt condolence to her family, friends and colleagues. She was the chairwoman of the advisory panel on land reform and agriculture.

GCIS Director- General, Phumla Williams said “The country has lost a great visionary leader who impacted many lives, embraced challenges and has had a profound effect on the future direction of South Africa particularly on agriculture and land issues. Her life was characterised by her passion to drive social change to better the lives of South Africans.”

Dr Mahlati was serving her second term as a member of the National Planning Commission. In May 2010 she was appointed to serve as one of the inaugural members of South Africa’s National Planning Commission for five years responsible for crafting the National Development Plan.

Dr Mahlati was also involved in business through her company Ivili Loboya. Her company produced South Africa’s first cashmere which is created and processed in rural Eastern Cape. She was a recipient of the “2019 Woman of Substance” award presented by the African Women Chartered Accountants. Dr Mahlati was a recognised global thought leader, who participated in global think tanks on corporate diversity leadership and inclusive development.

“Our thoughts and prayers are with her family and friends. May she rest in peace and may her legacy continue through the lives of all those she had touched,” said Williams.

Issued by: Government Communication and Information System (GCIS)
13 October 2020

National Planning Commission Mourns the Passing of Commissioner **Dr Vuyo Mahlati**



The NPC is saddened by the untimely passing of one of our own, Dr Vuyo Mahlati, a member of the Commission since its inception in 2010.

Dr Mahlati's contribution to the development of our democratic state and the betterment of the country, especially the poor, is immeasurable. She was dedicated to transformation, the emancipation of women and an inclusive economy, among key pre-requisites for

social cohesion and nation-building in South Africa. She completed a doctoral degree from the University of Stellenbosch, in which she researched the mainstreaming of rural entrepreneurs into global markets. She was an erudite scholar and contributed to the writing of the National Development Plan – Vision 2030 (NDP). But her contribution was not just academic, and saw her at the forefront of turning ideas into actions, as witnessed by the many causes for which she rolled her sleeves, helping to move South Africa forward.

Dr Mahlati was a champion of the poor and the downtrodden. She fought passionately for the empowerment of black farmers and rural women to become an integral part of the mainstream sector. She founded Ivili Loboya, one of Africa's first indigenous wool processing plants located in rural Butterworth, Eastern Cape province. Amongst other corporate positions and directorships, she was the president of the African Farmers' Association of South Africa, director of the International Women's Forum, as well as the Chairperson of the Presidential Panel on Land Reform and Agriculture.

Dr Mahlati was a staunch commissioner of the NPC, first appointed at the beginning of the Commission in 2010, and re-appointed for the current second term, where she offered her expertise, sharp intellect and passionate advocacy for the NDR, in particular the empowerment of women and black people in general. Her decade-long service on the Commission represents vital institutional memory and a critical resource she availed across many sectors and organisations.

Her shocking passing away will leave the Commission and the country poorer. We find solace from the fortune of having worked with her during the height of her career and her rise as a decorated leader within and outside South Africa. Our deepest condolences go to her family and friends.

May her departed soul rest in peace.



**national planning
commission**
Department
of the
PUBLIC
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA





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Home / News / *News details emerge following sudden death of land reform champion*



Waking up on the 13th of October 2020, no one would have thought that Dr Vuyo Mahlati would have breathed her last breath. The voice of the struggle for women’s economic empowerment and the commercialisation of Black farmers is no more. Vuyo will be remembered on how she touched many lives with her smile and energy. Always engaging to find solutions to the many challenges that our country face, more so in agriculture, rural development and land reform matters. In a number of areas where she served, she always went an extra mile to ensure success and excellence.

The farming sector and the landless masses of our country will remember her and her leadership as the Chairperson of the Presidential Advisory Panel on Land Reform and Agriculture.

As the President of African Farmers Association of South Africa (AFASA), she led her organization in engaging government on matters that affect South Africa’s agricultural sector, particularly black farmers. Her concern about the Land Bank saw her mobilizing other black farmers organisation in articulating the need for a development financial institution to support farmers with credit.

She was eager and always showed interest how government working in partnership with the private agricultural role-players can solve problems across the sector.

Her death has robbed us her valuable contribution in the development of South Africa’s agriculture and agribusiness sector plan, as the country continues to work on strategies for fostering inclusive growth from the shock of the pandemic.

Vuyo built networks beyond the boundaries of our country. Africa was also her home. She remained to the end a role model to many of us, old and young. Our thanks go to her husband, Mr Gilimamba Mahlati, and the children for sharing their mother with the nation, and for the immense contribution she made to our country.

May you be comforted during this time as you to come to terms with her departure.

Lala kahle Dokotela, we will surely miss you.

Department of Agriculture, Land Reform and Rural Development



Dr Vuyo, dedicated to Dr Gil Mahlati, a mother to lilitha and her brother. I just know how you were looking forward to your daughter's wedding this year, that had to be postponed because of the Covid-19 pandemic. I was looking forward to you installation as the next International Women's Forum president later this month in Washington, DC, USA. I was so happy for you just being president elect of the IWF, as you were the first non-American president for the first time in the history of the IWF. All past 32 presidents all Americans. It was such ground breaking news that we were planning a big celebration for African women in the continent, little did we know there was another celebration planned for you in heaven.

When this was announced in September and I could not keep the good news without sharing them on post, the post received about 90 likes and people celebrated with you on being president elect. You are a humble servant of the people, classy and cheeky, dressed of note and I particularly loved your traditional Xhose outfits!

A beautiful soul, generous, family centered woman and forever smiling.

You were happy to lead when duty called for it. I worked closely with you, during the IWF-SA presidency from 2012 - 2015. I was chairman of your membership committee for two terms and we successfully hosted the 2015 cornerstones IWFSa at Sandton Convention Centre. We hosted about 150 international delegates from various countries on South African shore. It was a highly successful international conference and you showed your real leadership skills throughout.

We will forever miss your humility, your legacy will lead forever, we have more than 200 alumni that our strategic leadership programme has created in this country of young emerging women business leaders, that you have created with other IWFSa women. This mentoring programme will remain one of your reach legacies in this country.

My heartfelt condolences to your family that you loved and cherished so dearly.

Fare thee well, my dearest friend and leader. You ran your race and finished your race, now you are in the warm hands of your Creator. lala ngoxolo Dadewethu.



Nomonde Mabuza

My dear elegant, beautiful and caring friend Dr Vuyo,

Thank you for being a beacon of light in our lives.

You radiate energy and love and your presence will never leave us thanks to your lasting legacy.

Rest in peace dearest Vuyo

Dot Field



TRIBUTE TO DR VUYO MAHLATI

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**By Dr Namane Magau
Past President IWFSa**

Dear Irene and Stephanie,

What an inspirational memorial to Dr Vuyo. I was captivated throughout. I am spurred on to work to make sure that IWF Ghana makes a difference to the lives of others.

Thank you for inviting us to join in the celebration and know that you, the IWF SA family, the IWF Global Family and the Mahlati family are on our hearts.



Rosalind KINA

Dear Irene and members of IWF SA,

May I extend my deepest and most heartfelt sympathy to you at the loss of our beloved Vuyo. She was an amazing and inspiring leader and I feel privileged to have known her and seen her light shine so brightly.

She touched the lives of so many and achieved so much, always with compassion and integrity. She will be sorely missed.

I was so looking forward to serving on the IWF Global Board under Vuyo's leadership and helping to contribute to realising her vision for a brighter future.

Your IWF UK sisters extend their condolences to Yuyo's family, friends and to all members of IWF SA.

With our love and deepest sympathies.



Julie Goldstein
Chair, Member-at-Large Committee
Global Board Director
International Women's Forum
IWF UK Member

Thank you my Leader we will miss her in the Agriculture sector our hearts are broken.



Dr Edson Likando

She was an anchor in SAWID ready to provide guidance, such wisdom abd sisterly care.

Ntombikayise Shangase Zulu



Isitsha esihle asidleli. Vuyo you tried your best. I remember having a long chat with you trying to come up with a solution to help my little struggling project. Dr Vuyo I know you will rest in peace if we continue to promote your dreams. We have lost.Sincere condolences to your better half and to all members of your family. Gone too soon. Lala sthandwa. Lala uphumule.



072 295 0758

Death is so unkind, Dr as are always called you, you have indeed made a mark in planet earth. Greetings to the elders and our stalwarts as you enter the place of no return. May your soul Rest In Peace!



Frans Baleni

Sesi Vuyo was a sister with no borders.

She was always willing to engage and respond - with no hierarchy.


Sesi Vuyo, like many of the SAWID elders I know - commanded respect in a calm, respectful and humble ways.

Like them, she remain my role model and source of inspiration.

May the family of Mahlati be comforted and be granted strength in this trying time.


We in SAWID and nation has lost a professional legend.

May your beautiful soul rest in eternal peace sesi Vuyo.



072 401 0936

Vuyo - you are with the saints that went before you.



Toni Randolph

Vuyo - you ran your race with distinction - we must not let you down - we must ensure the baton is picked up and passed on. Lola ngoxolo qhawekazi!!

Kwa Baka Mahlati Sithi dudu!!



Ambassador Beryl Sisulu
SA Ambassador to Greece

Vuyo you have been a role model to all of us who knew you. You did not hide your beautiful talents which were bestowed upon you by your creator the Almighty. An intelligent and beautiful soul. You will always be missed. Thanks for representing women so well. RIP Vuvu uMama u Nokota wam-fumana umakoti.

Bulelwa (Smally) Maqubela

Vuyo - you will be missed and you are irreplaceable. Your soul is Resting In Peace. Condolences to your hubby (Gili) and beautiful children!! Layla ngoxolo ntombentle.



Nomazotsho Memani

How does one begin to talk about this larger than life lady! I found Vuyo to be an intellectual, a wise soul, self motivated- she made things happen, a problem solver, she was a logical thinker.



076 080 4303

We will honour her life and her leadership by dedicating our lwf work this year ahead to Vuyo's legacy.



+61 417 201 264

My mentor, where do I start talking about this amazing soul. I am a very talkative person. Today I am speechless. I am gutted! I acknowledged you in my recent book but you did not get to read as it approaches the shelves. You are love, you are resting. You have made an indulable mark globally. Your passion for the poor and you are the most practical leader I know. I love you to eternity. You made leadership look like a walk in the park. Such a big heart. Such a lady, even at death. The world has lost a leader, heaven has gained an angel.

Nosipho Damasane



I am really struggling this morning with coming to terms with Sis Vuyos death, and I am not the only one for sure. I cannot find it in myself to say rest in peace, its very difficult. She has left us shattered, how do we carry on without her? Only the devine knows. Her passing is untimely and very sad. All I can say is you were so loved my dearest sister.



082 554 3213

Vuyo Mahlati, a consummate professional. I worked with her at the Presidency with Planning Commission and on the Land Task Team. She would lead by canvassing everyone around her. She leaves an indelible mark in that space. Hardworking, determined, persuasive....beautiful soul that Vuyo was. May she rest in eternal peace.



071 267 874

A selfless leader! It was never about her. She truly lived for the development of others. Makubendlela ntle Vuyo! Enkosi ngale ngoma.

Mpumi Bikitsha

The news of Vuyo's passing is as devastatingly shocking as it is sad. A great loss, not only to her family, but to the nation and close friends. Her tremendous contribution in championing the cause of women in general, particularly those in the rural communities, is one of the great legacies that she leaves behind. Our heartfelt condolences to her husband Dr Gil Mahlati and their children Lilitha and Siseko. MHSRIP



Sipho Pityana

We thank God for her life. She was an asset to the nation. We all benefited from her hardwork and selflessness. Deepest condolences to the family. May her soul rest in peace.



078 280 8800

Been trying to say something about Vuyo, the words are just not coming out. Your motherland weeps for you, Qobokazana, good night.



Dr Nolitha Vukuza

I have been battling to believe that Vuyo is no more. Worked with her in the early 2000 in the Small Business Development sector. May her soul rest in eternal peace.



Ndileka Nobaxa

I remember meeting Vuyo when she was doing her PHD at Stellenbosch university while pursuing my Development Finance studies , I saw a very vibrant , engaging , purpose driven lady , very focus and meaning , smart yet so humble and loving . She was the same Vuyo on the 9th August 2020 when she was our guest speaker at AWCA woman of substance (purposeful , driven , focus, loving , authentic). Vuyo passes on , I believe, when we need her the most in our nation , leading formations that will change our society for the better . Kalan ngoxolo Vuyo . We are challenged to carry the baton where you left off . Your legacy lives !

Tshidi Mokgabudi

I still don't believe we are talking about Vuyo as the late Vuyo! What an inspiring, witty and loving soul! She remained grounded and humble although she was breaking glass ceiling after glass ceiling! I hope you got a sense of how much we appreciated you before you departed! Death is certainly the last enemy to be conquered: so death do not be proud! Your soul shall surely rest in eternal peace and power!



Ndumi

Dear Irene , I just learned this morning of the passing of Vuyo Mahlati. A bright star, fearless leader, mentor and friend and far too young. A beautiful light has gone out of the world, but a star has been born in the night sky. She will live along our hearts. Un abbraccio.



**Romina Nicoletti
IWF ITALY**

She indeed passed on at a time when the nation needed her especially in the spatial redesign of rural spaces. She passed on as I was engaging her in the development of the Ginsberg and surrounding King Williams Town villages. It is a great loss for us young women that were looking forward to nursing off her intellect and diligence. Maybe this is a wake up call to us all Women to unite even more in supporting capable and developmental driven women and fight even more for their place in decision making positions with policies that support them.

**Sethu Loyilane
Young Women's Network**



Dearest Deborah, Anne, Sharon, Stepanie, Irene:
dear IWF colleagues:

It is with heavy hearts, with deep empathy and sorrow, that we express our condolences on the loss of our dear Dr. Vuyo Mahlati, on behalf of IWF Mexico.

Our Chapter is grateful of her leadership and commitment to the IWF agenda across the globe. She will be remembered as an inspiration, as a unifying force, as a role model, as an achiever who broke all limits to fulfill her goals, helping other women to reach out for success.

She did so much. She had so much more ahead...

We wish to extend our sympathies to Dr. Vuyo Mahlati's family and the entire IWF Team. Our best way to honor her is to keep on working together with passion to advance women's leadership and champion equality, as she did throughout her short and intensely rich life.

May Vuyo Rest In Peace.

Sincerely,

**Silvia Cherem
IWF México**

Oh Gil and your young family you are in our prayers. May the good Lord counsel and comfort you. May He touch your deep wound of losing your dearly loved wife with His healing hands. Psalm 147: 3 says: He heals the brokenhearted and binds up their wounds. May your wound be treated exactly like that by the good Lord. Amen.

Nocawe Makiwane

Deepest and heartfelt condolences to the whole Mahlati clan on your devastating loss. May the good Lord give you strength and the will to bear the pain and to find solace in the knowledge that she has given her all to serve, to give selflessly of herself in all areas of her life. Makalale ngoxolo aphumle.

Nomathemba Kela



What a beautiful and calm soul, Vuyo was, may her soul rest in peace and rise in glory. Condolences to Gilimamba her children and family. We will keep them in our prayers.

Nana Ditodi

What a humble, gentle and unassuming Soul, so abruptly taken away whilst hard at work. Had a shock of my life upon hearing of the devastating news.

Rest In Peace Vuyo.

Lulu Johnson

What a terrible development that Vuyo passes away so early in her energetic life. Serious but always pleasant in her unmistakeable presence. Tsela Tshweu my sister!

Lechesa Tsenoli

What a beautiful and calm soul, Vuyo was, may her soul rest in peace and rise in glory. Condolences to Gilimamba her children and family. We will keep them in our prayers.

Nana Ditodi

It is for the first time that I really and truly feel that a giant tree has fallen, that although death is part of life, it is always hard to accept. May Dr Vuyo's soul continue to live and inspire. May her family be confirmed, her husband, children and all other children who belonged to her heart.

Vuyiseka Mkele

I'm so grateful to have known Vuyo. What a pleasant friend! May her soul rest in peace. Condolences to her husband, children and the entire family.

Makaziwe

Phenomenal woman! You shall be sorely missed, May your soul rest in eternal peace!

Ambassador Fikile Magubane

Gone too soon. A courageous and vibrant, Yet kind and humble soul. A social entrepreneur who couldn't ignore the inequalities of our country. Rest In Eternal Peace Vuyo and rise in glory.

Sizeka



Commissioner Vuyo Mahlati served on the National Planning Commission with passion and commitment. She was motivated by the goals of eradicating poverty and reducing inequalities. Her legacy lives on in Women’s movement and many community organisations she contributed to and helped to build capacity for transformation from the ground up. Her death is a devastating loss for South Africa, the Women’s movement, her family and friends. Condolences and solidarity as another exceptional woman leaves us! Thank you Vuyo for shared experiences, friendship, and hope.



Viviene Taylor

No words can ever express the shock and sadness I felt when I heard the sad news of Sis Vuyo’s passing. I never thought she would depart so soon. Having known and worked with Sis Vuyo in various capacities over the years and lastly, at IWFSa, I got to see true leadership and love for women’s affairs up close. She was a firebrand spokesman and proponent for women’s rights and affairs and an ardent advocate for entrepreneurial development. I am deeply grateful for lessons and wisdom she passed on, the patience and diligence she always showed and her love for people and country. We have lost a legend. Sincere condolences to Dr Gil, her lovely children and the families. May Sis Vuyo rest peacefully in the arms of the Almighty forever.



Lindiwe Sadza

We wish to express our heartfelt shock on the lose of Dr. Vuyo Mahlati, a gallant leader who provided a critical role in championing women leadership. Dr Vuyo inspired, mentored and created a warm and inspiring platform of hope for many who came across her. As Farmers Connect Africa, we send our condolences to her husband, children, the entire family and South Africa.



Dr Edson Likando
Farmers Connect Africa
International President



Thank you President indeed some of us we are gentle giants today in the global stage because of her and thank you President for role you are playing in the Agriculture Sector in Africa and that was her passion and Im humbled to led by you as one of the leaders in Farmers Connect Africa and I got the passion from sis Vuyo to do what Im doing my President Im humbled and heart broken she is gone too soon.

083 783 1239



Celebrating the Life of Dr Vuyo Mahlati: 07 September 1965 – 13 October 2020

SAWID mourns the devastating loss this morning of one of its most loved and pivotal presences, Dr Vuyo Mahlati, wife to Dr Gill, mother to Lilitha and Siseko, a SAWID Trustee, the Chair of the SAWID Development Commission, the recently appointed President of the International Women’s Forum-IWF, (of which she had been a previous President of the SA Chapter), the President of AFASA, the Association of African Farmers, founder of the Ivili Loboya (wheel of wool) factory in Butterworth, Deputy Chairperson of the African Financial Group, President of Siyaya TV, and a second term National Planning Commissioner in the Presidency. Many other organisations, government departments and businesses can lay claim to her service, loyalty, time, and dedication.

The loss to our country due to the sudden passing of Dr Vuyo Mahlati is incalculable. For decades she has been quietly obsessed by the fervent desire to effect meaningful social change and she was deeply involved in the work of many government departments, including the Presidency and COGTA. She had been the Chair of the Presidential Advisory Commission on Land Restitution, tasked with the oversight of the final report on Land Restitution, and she formed part of an advisory committee to the Provincial Government of the Eastern Cape during the Covid-19 period.

Dr Vuyo was someone who, as the author of a June 2017 article in Fair Lady magazine noted, lived many lifetimes in one lifetime. She was quoted in this article as seeing her life as divided into three parts. “There’s me as the mother, wife and daughter, and that’s my centre. Around that, there are a lot of innovations, but they’re basically in two areas: the policy activism work and the entrepreneurial side”.

Having grown up in the Eastern Cape with a strong mother who worked as a shepherdess and later as a teacher in farm schools, since a black married woman in her time could not get a permanent teaching position, Dr. Vuyo noted that her mother nurtured her interest in traditional and commercial farming methods, and she doted on her mother, her husband and children in turn doted on her.

Dr Mahlati completed a PhD in Development Economics under Mark Swirling of the Sustainability Institute at Stellenbosch University. Her thesis, focusing on the role of value chains in mainstreaming rural entrepreneurs into global markets, was the only one selected by the Faculty of Economic and Management Sciences to be presented at the University’s ***New Voices in Science*** Colloquium.

As a second-term member of South Africa’s National Planning Commission, she chaired the working group on the Capable and Development State, as well as on Spatial Transformation. She was also the



Deputy Chairperson of the Panel of Experts tasked with developing the Integrated Urban Development Framework for the country.

Her leadership drew from vast experience as a policy specialist trained in the UK London School of Economics, as well as her corporate leadership and entrepreneurship. She was appointed in September 2013 to serve as the Deputy Chair of the State Information Technology Agency. Her other directorships include being the non executive director of Lion of Africa Insurance Company, a subsidiary of the Johannesburg Stock Exchange Listed Brimstone Investment Company. She served two terms as the Chairperson of the South African Post Office Board of Directors which includes the Post Bank. Here she led the corporatization strategy from traditional to digital business in mail, logistics and banking. She previously served for two terms on the Financial Markets Advisory Board as well as member of the Financial Services Board Licensing Committee. She was a director of Alexkor Mining Board, and fund manager Umbono Capital (now One Stone). Dr. Vuyo’s entrepreneurial experience includes participation in major business ventures that include the listed Sasol Oil and Tongaat Hullet. As the Principal Consultant and Co-owner of African Financial Group her investment portfolio targets financial services and resource-based industries in emerging markets.

As a recognized global thought leader Dr Vuyo participated in global think tanks on corporate diversity leadership and inclusive development. She served as member of the Global Advisory Council of Corporate Women Directors International based in Washington D.C, USA. Dr Vuyo is also a member of Impact Hub Global Advisory Council, an entrepreneurial network with HQ in Vienna, Austria. In 2011 she participated in the Aspen Seminar in Colorado, USA, as well as the Kiel Institute for the World Economy. She’s the Committee member that produced the 25 year Gauteng Province Integrated Transport Strategy (Africa’s gateway). She was the recipient of the 2008 Black Management Forum Presidential Award for Transformational Leadership, as well as the Black Business Executive/ABSA Kaelo (Guidance and wisdom) Award. In 2012 she was a finalist for the 11th Van Ryn’s BBQ Public Visionary Award and in 2019 was recipient of the African Women Chartered Accountants Woman of Substance Award, amongst many she received, including a Mail and Guardian award as Visionary Leader.

Our deepest condolences to her husband, her children, her beloved mother, all the thousands of men and women who knew and loved her, and the many colleagues and friends she had all over the world.

Dr Vuyo, you were a singular and selfless leader, leading the path for so many of us. We commit to finishing the work you set out do. You were the one we were waiting for, we will not let you down, your brothers and sisters on this earthly journey to effect social justice and equity for women salute and honour you. May you travel well on your heavenly path.



Afasa is poorer without your leadership Mbokodo. Will be sorely missed, your smiles permanently etched in our memories.

082 663 4940



A Dynamic Impactful Woman; a Pioneer with a heart of Gold... too painful to bear.

Keketso Maema



I saw you in action my dear sister, mentor, shero in San Francisco in 2012 and you were on fire on the international stage representing the SA Chapter of IWF. I was again privileged when I was part of a committee to assist organizing the Cornerstone Conference and I was in awe of your leadership in bringing all the stakeholders global and local to collaborate. My recent participation in the Agricultural sector had once again brought me close to working with you.

It was a privilege knowing you Sis V. I salute you. May your soul rest in everlasting peace.

Kulungile Baba



She has left a gap we may never be able to close because of the dedication she demonstrated in everything she did. Her footprint will remind bright on the sands of time. That footprint may lead us to where she wished the country to go. Rest in Peace dear Vuyo.

Sankie



It is with pain that I remember memories we shared doing 2nd Economy Intervention Projects amongst one standing ones was St Lucia in KZN where u were instrumental & we identified indigent families to organise them around sustainable livelihood projects of such as fruit baskets, table maths & linking them to Mr Price, around Vhembe & Tzaneen mangoes & avacado women growers & linking them to big supermarkets like woolworths, checkers. Ooh that was your strength, understanding rural women challenges. I am forever grateful for being under your wing, drinking under the tree of knowledge nourishing me all the way. I know it is painful to Dr Gill & children but you have ran your race and has made tremendous contribution & leave us with incredible memories of knowledge, humbleness, diligent, hardworking most of all service to the poor and vulnerable & will forever be remembered even if is unbelievable now. Ngilibhimbi ke mina when I get emotional it get worse. Hamba Kahle Sisi & Dr Gill usethathile u Thixo u Vuyo, nxese Bhuti nabantwana. Lala Ngoxolo Vuyo.

Tina Radebe





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IN MEMORIAM – DR VUYO MAHLATI

Just over 2 years ago, when the country was grappling with the vexing question of land reform, the late Dr Vuyo Mahlati took on the task of chairing the Presidential Advisory Panel on Land Reform. Such a task – involving complex public policy, economics, transformation and justice issues – was in line with the type of work Dr Mahlati had dedicated her life to.

As a businesswoman, gender champion and farming activist, Dr Vuyo's portfolio of work and contribution to society was multisectoral. Her contribution to the farming sector and its business models is best captured by her PhD Thesis in Development Economics completed at Stellenbosch University. Its focus – the role of value chains in mainstreaming rural entrepreneurs into global markets – became a pivotal contribution in driving a deeper understanding of how rural entrepreneurship could be harnessed, supported and scaled.

Dr Mahlati's academic credentials – spanning her MSc in Social and Policy Planning from the London School of Economics and her PhD – became an important source of inputs for the nation at large. As a member of the National Planning Commission, the National Programme Coordinator for ASGISA and member of the boards of the Post Office group and the Financial Markets Advisory Board, her commitment to the country was acknowledged and appreciated. As a leader of the African Farmers Association of South Africa (AFASA), South African Women in Dialogue (SAWID), President of Siyaya TV and President of the International Women's Forum, Dr Vuyo's commitment and advocacy transcended borders.

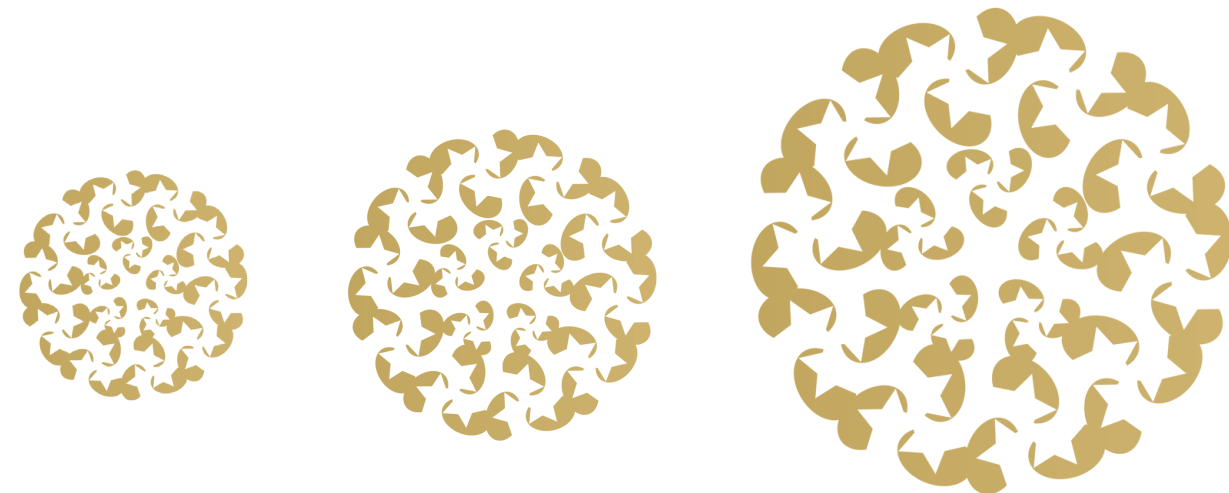
NATIONAL EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Polo Leteka Radebe (President), Langa Madonko (Deputy President), Kelly de Kock (Secretary-General), Thabiso Ratshelola (Deputy Secretary-General), Khaya Sithole (Treasurer-General), Prudence Makololo (Deputy Treasurer-General)

God give talents and wisdom, depending on how an individual grow the talent and use the wisdom. Dr Mahlati grew her talent by ensuring that she uses her wisdom in all spheres of human spirit: girl child issues, women issues in different categories. Her love for umhlaba on agricultural issues. Her Humbleness, a polite voice and all characteristics she had that identified her with spirituality.

Rest sister, you have fought a good fight, your journey on this earth has been completed. Wait in Spirit for your crown. The family be comforted in the word of God.

Jabulile Zondi



WORLD WOMEN LEADING CHANGE

Dear MaV Dr Vuyo.

Elegant well poised African Think Tank Woman.

You were for the social justice of this Country Continent and the Globe.
Your standing in society was remarkable.

I remember having a conversation with your sister in-law Advocate Cawe about your African Beauty. She said you were her Mum replica. I said whaa meaning UButi went out to look for someone just like mummy.

You touched people with your Natural beauty infectious smile and that African Elegancy. Well Groomed woman. Polite Humble however very strong woman.

Intellectual of Note. You have done mightier bigger things at your age. Whaa you touched people with your humility Ubuntu you gave them love in return you received love.

You have fought the good fight, You have finished the race, You have kept the faith and remained committed to the end.

You left a beautiful loving wise gentle but very strong elegant black African Global Leader. God be with You till we meet again when we Meet in Power.

Love and light Debbie Dineo Raphuti

Dr Vuyo Mahlati is the epitome of how to impact and leave an indelible mark in the lives of others. She had the Midas Touch. Wherever she served, she left the place in a better state than the one she found it in. This is a woman one must emulate.

"I think of death as some delightful journey that I shall take when all my tasks are done." - Ella Wheeler Wilcox ("The Journey")

Sis Vuyo, your tasks are done. Rest in eternal glory.

Shantall Ramatsui

Vuyo my namesake, homie , your untimely passing has left a deep wound in my life.I remember us growing up together as children in the dusty streets of Grahamstown, where we used to join our parents going to Zenzele, a woman's movement at the time. Little did I know that you would become this great social activist for the empowerment of women. As teenagers we proceeded to Mthatha where we attended our high school, you at St Johns and mna at Buntingville and eventually hooking up in Pretoria in 2003. You have indeed been a great gift to all of us , SA and the world at large. You have left massive footprints on this beautiful country . The pain of losing you is unbearable , however am grateful that I have been part of your wonderful journey. When you texted me two weeks ago planning to get together, little did I know that you were bidding your farewell. Thank you for your humility, sisterhood, unconditional love for all around you. I thank the lord for your life and the wonderful memories you have left behind.To Gil, Lilitha, Siseko, the Mahlati and Zondani families at large I send you strength, love and light. Thanks for sharing this wonderful soul with us. Our deepest condolences and prayers. May her beautiful soul rest in eternal peace peace.

Vuyokazi Mahlasela- Matsam

We send our love to her family and thank them for sharing her with our family in such a deep meaningful way. Our deepest condolences and heartfelt sorrow at your loss boMahlati. Alwehlanga lungehlanga.

REST IN PEACE BEAUTIFUL VUYO.

With love from the Sangweni, Mabuza, Msibi, Msimang and Kingston family

May Your Soul Rest In Peace, beloved sister, Vuyo

Philisiwe





NPO Registration #: 2001/028742/08

13 October 2020

In loving Memory of Dr Vuyokazi Mahlati



It is with deep sorrow that we have learnt of the sad passing of Dr Vuyokazi Mahlati, a social entrepreneur, gender activist, former global director of the International Women's Forum and our very own AWCA Woman of Substance™ 2019 amongst many other accolades.

Dr Vuyo Mahlati's contribution to the fight for gender equality and impactful social change is unrivalled and earned her the coveted AWCA Woman of Substance award in 2019. During

her tenure she was elated to be working with young women in reshaping the nation and had shared her intentions to do even more. Delivering the key note address at our Women's Month Conference 2020, Dr Vuyo (as we affectionately called her) coined the term "singonOZALA" talking to how women are builders and nurturers in all spheres of life and that one term held so much power and resonated with those in attendance.

We wish to express our most sincere condolences to the Mahlati family at this difficult time. A life so beautifully lived deserves to be beautifully remembered. May loving memories ease their loss and bring them comfort. We are torn and mourn with them.

May her soul rest in eternal peace!

Board Members: Z Khanyile (President), B Hanise (Deputy President)
P Molope, G Mayisela, P Makhangu, L Serine, T Tembani
KwaZulu-Natal: N Shezi (KZN Chairperson),
Western Cape: N Sithole (WC Chairperson).

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Tel: (+2711) 621 6881 (+2711) 621 6882
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Our deepest condolences to the Mahlati Family, children, friends and colleagues. I had to regain a bit of strength before writing this message our sister, Vuyo Mahlati.

Vuyo's passing has robbed the transformation movement of a vital vein. A torchbearer of deluxe class, she served the nation on many fronts as a womanist, a corporate leader, an academic, a mentor, a global thought leader and steward, a policy guru and a midwife of hope.

At the dawn of our democracy she and her husband Gil selflessly opened the doors of their home and their hearts and counselled those of us who found Cape Town to be something of a foreign country, and helped us navigate the dynamics of the place.

I'm reminded of Timothy 4:7-8 because Dr Mahlati "fought the good fight, she has finished the race, she has kept the faith".

What a bitter pill to swallow ... I will forever treasure the memorable times working with Dr Vuyo. I've learnt so much wisdom from her. She was a woman of integrity and consistency. No matter what the challenges were, her character never changed. She was forever bubbly and I will miss her crazy laughs that at times I thought she was crying. Dr Vuyo thought me to believe in myself and to always remain thankful and humble. There was one thing we had in common: We loved our Mother in laws dearly. She was a good listener, always made time to listen and talk less. I am honored to have worked with her closely. We shared many moments of laughter and tears which ended up in her enjoying a cup of her favourite honey and ginger tea. My heart goes out to Dr Gil, Lilitha, Siseko and the family on their loss. May the Lord comfort them and may his peace reign in their lives. Rest in Peace Dr Vuyo.



Cookie

Rest in peace beautiful soul! You don't know how shocked I was when I heard the announcement of your passing. I'm still lost for word, but you must know that you left a big foot print for women in leadership to fill. Fare you well and rest heroine, you have won your race.



Cossie Rasana

What a beautiful soul you are; What an Inspiration - I remember when you took time to encourage me as I started my move to the USA - "Destined for the Stars" you shared. You find ways to inspire in unique ways. I remember what. When I facilitated a three day session with you and Vice Presidents, you took the challenge posed to change eliminating to eradicating poverty. Your actions speak for the focus and impact you have had in doing just that. You represented South Africa well on global stage with your Ubuntu Leadership. You sure have left a trail for other to walk in. I am still in shock and I send my condolences and comfort to your family and Gil. Rest in Power.

Laura Machaba Abiodun

God plucks His most beautiful flowers. A world without Vuyo Mahlati is unimaginable.

The devastating news we all received this morning is like a resounding bell that just will not stop. Dr Vuyo Mahlati was just an amazing human being. Clever, witty, visionary, humble, down to earth, compassionate, beautiful inside and outside - all centred around the emancipation and empowerment of women. We have many memories of her at a personal and professional level. In her 55 years on earth she achieved so much. We will not forget her love for and commitment to her country South Africa. You know how we all talk with no action, about what's wrong and what needs to be done? Vuyo not only spoke out the truth, she also got up and took action. The women of the agricultural sorority will miss her tremendously as the voice that spoke out for them and addressed their issues. Much like her good friend, the late Ntombi Msimang. She was the former Chair of the BBBEE Tourism Council, and was an admirable chair on the transformational challenges of the Tourism industry. She loved her Gil and her children like a protective mother hen, and she had room in her big heart for all her friends and family, making each one of us feel like we were the only ones she cared for. She somehow made time for us all, ensuring, as Maya Angelou said, that she left us feeling good about ourselves.

Let the Cooperative Movement join the hundreds of voices that have been paying tribute to the gentle giant Dr Vuyo Mahlati. Cooperatives were introduced to the good Dr by Sobuza Dlamini because we were in search of an Economist who understood the Cooperative Eco System. Vuyo didn't fail us, she journeyed with us until the SAWBCC launch in 2014. SAWBCC was launched by Khanyisile Kweyama and this was possible because of the amount of work that Vuyo dedicated to Cooperatives. Vuyo's contribution to the South African economy is commendable and will live with us for many years to come. People who have paid tribute before us have applauded her for having been selfless and humble. As cooperatives we in deed give her a standing ovation for her humble personality. There are very few people who respect cooperatives in this country and she was one of the well educated women who had time for us. The cooperative movement salutes you Dr Mahlati for your economic knowledge and your implacable skills. You were the caliber of citizen that this country so much needs. The void that you've created is indescribable. You also truly lived in Gods image. Good night my sister see you in the morning. You will certainly rest in peace.

Ann Tshepo Ngutshane on behalf of SAWBCC and NACSA



It was a pleasure sharing so many platforms together and formulated strategies for change especially when we worked on the changes regarding the impact of Etolls on the people of Gauteng as an Panel of Advisors..., a consummate professional, even when you differed with her, she never took it personally, next time you meet, she would flash her smile...and give a big hug...there are so many interactions with Vuyo, to many to exhaust, suffice to say that she was passionate about South Africa, and I know that many people have similar stories that demonstrate her contribution.

Finally, one has gathered the strength to put something down, one is trying to go beyond the initial shock of her untimely passing...yes, gone too soon has found meaning and it is truly sad.. with her tiny and soft voice she would always shout whenever we met, 'Sis D, how are you, with her smile, she will be truly missed...

We met at the dawn of democracy presiding at various SOEs working on issues of transformation, an issue she was passionate about and we shared notes ..she has a soft exterior, but was feisty and tough...and and was firm against chauvinistic tendencies. We worked with her at the IWFSa, and I succeeded her as IWFSa President, she demonstrated her commitment to women's empowerment and emancipation...something she worked tirelessly for. It was a pleasure sharing so many platforms together and formulated strategies for chang especially when we worked on the changes regarding the impact of Etolls on the people of Gauteng as an Panel of Advisors..., a consummate professional, even when you differed with her, she never took it personally, next time you meet, she would flash her smile...and give a big hug...there are so many interactions with Vuyo, to many to exhaust, suffice to say that she was passionate about South Africa, and I know that many people have similar stories that demonstrate her contribution. I want to add my voice in thanking her husband Gil, for allowing her to fulfill her true potential...my most sincere condolences to him and the children and the entire family, she lived for them and loved them dearly.

May her legacy sustain, and her soul rest in eternal peace. We miss her already. May God bless her soul.

Danisa Baloyi





FROM THE OFFICE OF THE CEO

MEDIA STATEMENT

TO: PRINT AND ELECTRONIC MEDIA HOUSES

FROM: KGANKI MATABANE

SUBJECT: BBC MOURNS THE PASSING OF DR VUYO MAHLATI

DATE: 13 October 2020

The Black Business Council (BBC) mourns the untimely death of the President of the African Farmers Association of SA (AFASA), Dr Vuyo Mahlati.

Dr Mahlati was a South African social entrepreneur, gender activist and global director of the International Women's Forum. She was the founder of Africa's first indigenous wool processing plant in Butterworth, in the Eastern Cape. Dr Mahlati was the former Chairperson of the Presidential Advisory Panel on Land Reform and Agriculture and also served on the National Planning Commission.

"South Africa and the entire agricultural fraternity have lost a true patriot. She contributed immensely to ensure that black farmers gained access to land and entry to the agricultural value chains" said Sandile Zungu, President of the Black Business Council.

Our heartfelt condolences to the Mahlati family, the AFASA and South Africa at large.

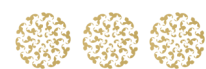
ENDS

About the Black Business Council

The Black Business Council (BBC) is the over-arching confederation that represents black professional, business associations and chambers. The primary purpose of the BBC is to lobby government on policy related matters and to play an advocacy role where policies are in place in order to accelerate the participation of black business in the mainstream economy.

Special tribute to Dr V. My first interaction with her golden smile and presence of her presence was when my firm Lesika was then appointed as consulting firm to SAWID and Isigodlo Trust to deal with financial and setting up financial systems in place. She was firm, never compromising, with deep knowledge on understanding the trajectory of these organisation. Very dedicated and never left any stone unturned on any misunderstanding. A tree has fallen, a continent has fallen prey to a valuable loss. Africa will never ever see its shades, and eat if its fruits ever again. What remains is the map of the shadow and trail of impact that can never be forgotten. Always ready and in a hurry to the next meeting to add value, impact someone's life and make a difference by sharing wholeheartedly her unreserved contribution. May her soul rest in peace. May the family be consoled by the Comforter during this painful experience of loss and bereavement and be aware that, Africa is also experiencing the pain and loss with them.

Sir Simon van Wyk



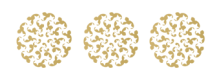
I learnt so much from you and you played a big role in shaping my life. I always knew that I had a big sister who I could call on and seek their wise counsel or burden her with my issues. I guess you played that role diligently and passed with flying colours and it's time for you to rest.

You touched so many lives and gave selflessly as if you knew that you will not be with us forever.

To the family your pain is our pain and I hope God grants you strength to live through this.

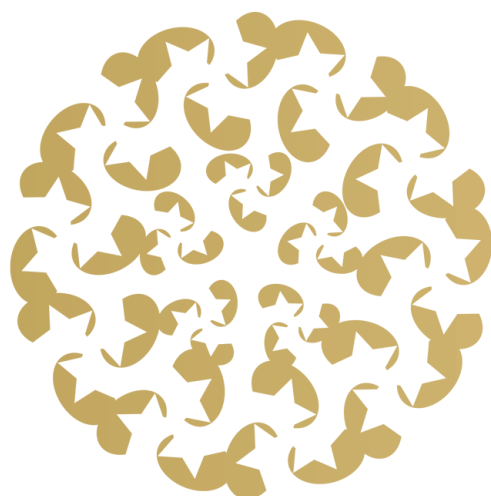
Go well Sis Vee.

Pam Yako



Once again we have lost a giant. The angels are smiling they have gained one of their own. We continue to make Vuyo proud by carrying the baton.

CEO Lwandle RNS Mining



Sometimes the heart just breaks - and that's all it can do, to break. Reeling from the devastating loss of Dr Vuyo Mahlati. Nothing seems adequate. Not even words.

Her loss is deeply resonating in our hearts here at home as well as across the globe. We feel her loss at a deep personal level, as she was one of us who did seminal works.

Somehow, fate ensured she achieved remarkable things beyond her age. She seemed to understand the true meaning of time and purpose as she spent her time wisely on earth. She was both purposeful and purpose-filled as she made sure women and rural development were not forgotten agendas. She capable led Women's bodies here at home and Internationally - she inspired a generation, she shaped an age and public discourse, she relentlessly pushed boundaries. Indeed, her pedigree remains.

Even amidst our deepest sorrow, we must be grateful she lived among us. It was truly an honor to know her. As she transitioned to be absent here, she is flown afar. MHSRIP.

Thelela Vika

A precious soul a powerful woman. A strong impactful journey you travelled. May your soul rest in peace.

Riah Phiyega

Gone way too soon but she has left a legacy that will last forever. May God's grace comfort and strengthen the family through this time. RIP...Silahlekelwe.

Yolanda Miya

Condolences to the family, may God give you wisdom, during this time, Psalm 23 is your shield. May Vuyo's soul rest in peace.

Gwen Tshabalala

Thank you to those who offered us this opportunity to grieve as a collective, "sigwxale emswaneni". Vuyo was an exceptional lady who lived an impactful life. South Africa has been robbed of a shining jewel. We however also appreciate that her legacy will not die as she has already groomed significant others to carry her baton. We thank Gil for allowing her to reach her full potential in life and supporting her in keeping together a busy professional life and a loving family. May you eat in peace Vuyo. Ugqatso ulufezile.

Thuthula Balfour

I'm shocked by the passing of Dr Vuyo. I knew her as Commissioner Mahlati when I was working as a junior researcher in the secretariat of the National Planning Commission in 2011. She was always energetic and eager to mentor young colleagues. She inspired me to pursue my PhD and always had a word of encouragement ready when she saw me. This is a great loss to South Africa. My deepest condolences to her family and loved ones. May her soul rest in everlasting peace.

Sithembile Mbete

Dear Sis Vuyo, a phenomenal, smart, kind, sharp & gracious mentor, sister & friend - I am so much richer for the special privilege of knowing you & hold your memory with much gratitude. May Gil, Lil-itha, Siseko & the entire family be consoled through this difficult time knowing that their dearest sis Vuyo rests in so much love and light. Lala Noxolo Qhawe - blessings to all.

Michelle Odayan



At a loss for words right now! Our collective hearts are heavy with sadness! Gone too soon! But what a life, what an impact, what achievement ! You did it all Vuyo , with great love and humility & a sense of urgency as though you knew your time with us was limited! Rest in power my sister! Goduka ntsengwanekazi ebitsala neenkabi, nangona usishiya sinxunguphele! You certainly walked your talk! Camagu!



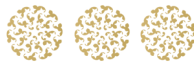
Nomonde Mapetla

Wish I could understand what God is trying to communicate to us in the times when we r most challenged in ways unprecedented, God picks on our most strongest of leaders . We plead for mercy we plead for forgiveness. Vuyo has done what she was able to do and gave it all. We might not have verbally told her enough how much we appreciated her, our wish is to honour her with the peaceful rest she deserves .



Gloria Serobe

MHSRIP... My sincere condolences to family and friends.



Zola Nkonki

A dynamic Impactful Woman; a Pioneer with a heart of Gold... too painful to bear.



Keke

I saw you in action my dear sister, mentor, shero in San Francisco in 2012 and you were on fire on the international stage represent-ing the SA Chapter of IWF. I was again privileged when I was part of a committee to assist organizing the Cornerstone Conference and I was in awe of your leadership in bringing all the stakeholders global and local to collaborate. My recent participation in the Agricul-tural sector had once again brought me close to working with you.

It was a privilege knowing you Sis V. I salute you. Kulungile Baba. May your soul rest in everlasting peace .



Sonto Mujukachi

It is said that we don't live by years but we live by deeds. Indeed Sis Vuyo's deeds have been visible and continue even in her passing. May her family, friends and colleagues find solace during this sad period. May her beautiful soul Rest In Peace.



Connie Motshumi

She has left a gap we may never be able to close because of the dedication she demonstrated in everything she did. Her footprint will remind bright on the sands of time. That footprint may lead us to where she wished the country to go. Rest in Peace dear Vuyo.

Sankie

Rest in Power my leader, my inspiration, my mentor!! It is well.

Karabz



It is with pain that I remember memories we shared doing 2nd Economy Intervention Projects amongst one standing ones was St Lucia in KZN where u were instrumental & we identified indigent families to organise them around sustainable livelihood projects of such as fruit baskets, table maths & linking them to Mr Price, around Vhembe & Tzaneen mangoes & avacado women growers & linking them to big supermarkets like woolworths, checkers. Ooh that was your strength, understanding rural women challeng-es. I am forever grateful for being under your wing, drinking under the tree of knowledge nourishing me all the way. I know it is painful to Dr Gill & children but you have ran your race and has made tre-mendous contribution & leave us with incredible memories of knowledge, humbleness, diligent, hardworking most of all service to the poor and vulnerable & will forever be remembered even if is unbelievable now. Ngilibhimbi ke mina when I get emotional it get worse. Hamba Kahle Sisi & Dr Gill usethathile u Thixo u Vuyo, nxese Bhuti nabantwana.



Lala Ngoxolo Vuyo

Vuyo was truly an accomplished professional at the height of her career when we lost her. She was intellectually gifted, an outstand-ing leader, and dedicated to doing good and making a difference. The mark of Vuyo's life can be seen and felt through the many peo-ple she touched throughout her remarkable life. From humble beginnings she exuded a gentleness and a sparkling charm that was infectious, making people feel good to be around her.

Vuyo was smart and accomplished but maintained a humbleness of spirit, and was able to communicate with people from all walks of life. She was a good listener and gave her full attention to the person she interacted with, a rare attribute in today's rushed world. Our sincerest condolences to Vuyo's family and loved ones. Our thoughts and prayers are with you during this time of immense loss. Wishing you much strength during these trying times.

You will not be forgotten Vuyo. Your legacy continues to burn brightly through your projects and in our hearts.

Hamba Kahle Sister, May Your Soul Rest in Peace.

Yvonne Muthien

(Reaffirmed by Bernedette Muthien, who honours Vuyo for her compassionate and unflinching feminist and ethical leadership and sistahood, hasta siempre companera)



O Royale ka khutso naledi ya Afrika!

Monhla

At a loss for words right now! Our collective hearts are heavy with sadness! Gone too soon! But what a life, what an impact, what achievement ! You did it all Vuyo , with great love and humility & a sense of urgency as though you knew your time with us was limited! Rest in power my sister! Goduka ntsengwanekazi ebitsala neenkabi, nangona usishiya sinxunguphele! You certainly walked your talk! Camagu!

Nomonde Mapetla

Dearest Irene, dear sisters of iwfsa, all people who even once have met Vuyo Mahlati!

With great sadness we have learnt about her demise!

We were very happy to know that she was nominated as the IWF Global President! We were proud for your forum!

Together with her family and friends we mourn the unexpected untimely departure of such energetic and beautiful woman, the great teacher for the next generation of young women.

We know the pain of the loss and our hearts are crying together with you! May her memory be eternal!

**Irina muravieva, president of IWF- Russia
Tatiana Volgina, IWF- Russia Director**

In Stellenbosch February 2019. We had fun. Thank you.Vuyo. I will miss you so dearly. South Africa and the world is empty without you. I felt the impact and it cuts too deep.

Nomzamo Tutu

Dear Vuyo... You left an indelible mark in the development sector. Your passion for women empowerment and upliftment of rural are-as and the Eastern Cape province is evident. May your dear soul rest in eternal peace. Condolences to the Mahlati and Zondani families. You were here...

Xolile Titus

Dear Vuyo,

Your life reminds us that true leadership is about service to others, integrity and embracing of all people. You have run your race with excellence daughter of Africa. No doubt your prize is as great as your works on earth. May your precious soul Rest In Peace until we meet again dear sister. May our good Lord comfort your dear family.

Isabella Makuta

Vuyo, usithandile sonke and we all loved you. You ran your race very successfully and impactfully. Rest in eternal peace, dearest sister. We were all blessed to have known you and to have walked part of our journeys with you. Gili, the kids and the whole family, you have our deepest condolences. The universe will give all of us the balm and succour that times like these call for. Ngothando al-ways.

Thandeka Mgoduso

It was with sadness and shock to learn of your passing dear Vuyo. May your beautiful soul rest in Peace. Your life was a testament of what it is to live a life of abundance. You have set a very high standard for all of us. You have finished your race and you ran in with diligence and so much compassion and love. What is left is for us to take over the baton and continue the fight. You will be sorely missed.

To the family, aluhlanga lungehlanga..... Wanga uThixo anganonga. Lala ngoxolo Nzwakazi yomthonyama gorhakazi ugqatso ulufezile.

Nomfundo Ntloko Gobodo

On behalf of Southern African Women In Leadership (SAWIL), I'd like to send our heartfelt condolences to the family, friends and col-leagues of Dr Vuyo. Your loss is our loss! She was a true champion of transformation. She paved the path for us, it is now up to us to honor her by picking up where she left of. May we all remain stead-fast in the hope that Resurrection Is Promised.

Seipati Mokhuoa

I have seen something further under the sun, that the swift do not always win the race, nor do the mighty win the battle, nor do the wise always have the food, nor do the intelligent always have the riches, nor do those with knowledge always have success, because time and unexpected events overtake them all.

Dr Vuyo will be dearly missed, the last two time we met we were discussing how to revive our organisation with Veronica when she was launching her beauty range and soon after that we lost her.

In August we planned to ensure that our rural women get the recognition they deserve in 2021 and are in the forefront and I re-member Vuyo said " Thank you for planning ahead dear" let us en-sure we achieve this and soon thereafter she left us. Death indeed overtook us

May our loving God Jehovah strengthen the family and comfort you during this time. He is closed to those crushed in spirit and a source if comfort.

Shiphra



Oh Sis Vuyo “Mommy” as I called you.

I remember this day so well. The pride, relief, laughter and tears of joy after months of hard work and sleepless nights.

The Advisory Panel on Land Reform and Agriculture handing over the Final Report to President Ramaphosa and Deputy President Mabuza.

You served your country well selflessly with so much passion, loyal-ty and dedication. I still can’t believe you are gone. I have learnt so much from your humility, decisiveness and leadership.

May your lovely soul rest in eternal peace and rise in power Dr. Vuyo Mahlati! Robala ka khutšo Mmago rena.

Dear Vuyo,

Your strong forceful yet quiet inspiration will be sorely missed but always present. The person you are and decisions you made and the example of beauty dignity determination care will live with me. . Wishing strength and compassion to your family and all those that love you.

Let the Cooperative Movement join the hundreds of voices that have been paying tribute to the gentle giant Dr Vuyo Mahlati.

Cooperatives were introduced to the good Dr by Sobuza Dlamini because we were in search of an Economist who understood the Cooperative Eco System.

Vuyo didn’t fail us, she journeyed with us until the SAWBCC launch in 2014. SAW-BCC was launched by Khanyisile Kweyama and this was possible because of the amount of work that Vuyo dedicated to Cooperatives.

Vuyo’s contribution to the South African economy is commendable and will live with us for many years to come. People who have paid tribute before us have applauded her for having been selfless and humble.

As cooperatives we in deed give her a standing ovation for her humble personality. There are very few people who respect coop-eratives in this country and she was one of the well educated wom-en who had time for us.

The cooperative movement salutes you Dr Mahlati for your eco-nomic knowledge and your implacable skills.

You were the caliber of citizen that this country so much needs. The void that you’ve created is indescribable.

You also truly lived in Gods image. Good night my sister see you in the morning.

You will certainly rest in peace.

Ann Tshepo Ngutshane on behalf of SAWBCC and NACSA



Personally, and on behalf of the Africa Institute of South Africa in the Human Sciences Research Council, we wish to express our deepest sympathy to Vuyo’s family, friends, colleagues and the many lives she has touched. She gave so much and had plenty more to give. Gone way to soon. Our lives were enriched by her presence. She will be missed. I recently called on her to give a presentation at our Annual Archie Mafeje lecture on land reform in South Africa. Despite her busy schedule there was no hesitation on her part. We thank her for her commitment and her family for shar-ing her with us all.



Cheryl Hendricks

Our deepest condolences to Dr Vuyo’s family. We have lost a great leader and role model for young women from different walks of life. Her legacy of fighting for the emancipation of Black farmers will live on. May the Almighty comfort the family during this difficult time and may her beautiful soul Rest In Peace.

Mahlengi

How does one react to the news that her friend of 32 years is no more? This is what I am grappling with as I pen down this tribute to My Dear Friend Vuyo.

I met Vuyo in Cape Town in 1988 when she was just 23years old. I experienced her first graduation, wedding ,We became friends who even shared maternity dresses as our pregnancies were close. She was an aunt to my daughters and I was an aunt to Lilitha and Siseko . She knew she could count on me that when she was travel-ing , I will pick up the kids from school , make sure that the was a meal for her Family . Chores that I did with a Smile.

The tributes and legacy that friends , colleagues, business associ-ates , mentees and all those who Vuyo’ crossed their paths are a journey that started when Vuyo was in her early twenties . She had a vision to serve and make an impactful , sustainable difference in every life she touched . A vision she stayed true to until her last day on this earth.

To Gill - You married Vuyo and most importantly , you also married her vision , embraced and walked this journey with her . I thank you for sharing Vuyo with my family and most importantly with the nation.

To Lilitha and Siseko - You grew to be visionaries and grounded as your Mom , Your selflessness in sharing you Mom with all of us is appreciated. My Friend , Vuyo we have shared each other’s great moments and important milestones in our lives without fail . The last big one be-ing when you invited me to PE to share in celebration of your Honorary Doctoral Degree, awarded to you by the Nelson Mandela. It was a profound moment and I am glad that I could be part of this moment .

I thought we still had many more to celebrate, little did I know it was not to be. My Friend Vuyo, I will forever treasure the times we spent together.

My deepest condolences to Gil ,Lilitha Siseko , the Zondani and Mahlati Families.

Tidi Khobane

Dear sis Vuyo,

What you and Veronica did for me years ago changed the trajectory of my career. Your support gave stability and your interest in me open doors, and gave me wisdom courage. I owe a debt of gratitude to you that I promise to continue paying forward. Thank you for sharing so much of yourself to so many. You will be missed. Thank you so much. May your family be blessed. May you Rest with the angels. May you Rest In Peace.

Lk



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14 October 2020

MEDIA STATEMENT

SUGAR INDUSTRY MOURNS PASSING OF TRANSFORMATION, LAND REFORM AND POLICY EXPERT

The South African Sugar Association (SASA), on behalf of the country’s sugar industry, is saddened by the death of the highly respected and regarded President of the African Farmers’ Association of South Africa (AFASA), Dr Vuyo Mahlati.

“A giant has fallen. South Africa has lost a colossal figure who espoused transformation and land reform without fear or favour in the agricultural sector. Dr Mahlati was also a great thinker, an intellectual and entrepreneur par excellence,” said Sindi Mabaso-Koyana, Independent Chairperson of SASA, which is affiliated to AFASA. A farmer, policy expert and member of the National Planning Commission, Dr Mahlati chaired the Presidential Advisory Panel on Land Reform and Agriculture, which was “mandated to review, research and suggest models for government to implement a fair and equitable land reform process”. President Cyril Ramaphosa hailed the work of the panel whose most recommendations were accepted and supported by Cabinet.

Dr Mahlati was also a global director and newly appointed President of the International Women’s Forum, which, according to its website, has more than 7 000 diverse and accomplished members from 33 countries on six continents. Last year, she was the recipient of the African Women Chartered Accountants (AWCA) Woman of Substance Award. AWCA is a non-profit organisation which was founded in 2002 to develop and support black women to become chartered accountants.

“Dr Mahlati was truly a phenomenal woman, a remarkable professional, a trailblazer like no other and an asset to both South Africa and the agricultural sector. Her passing has robbed us of a beautiful soul with a beautiful brain. We would like to extend our sincere condolences to her family, friends and colleagues. May her soul rest in peace,” said Mabaso-Koyana.

ISSUED BY SASA EXTERNAL AFFAIRS DIVISION

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Condolences

TO THE MAHLATI AND ZONDANI FAMILIES
ON THE PASSING OF DR VUYO MAHLATI

The country loses a hero.

Our deepest condolences and sympathies go to the Mahlati and Zondani families on the passing of Dr Vuyo Mahlati. Dr Mahlati was a valiant, yet empathetic, warrior in the struggle for Women's economic empowerment and the commercialisation of Black farmers. In her role as Chairperson of the Presidential Advisory Panel on Land Reform and Agriculture, and as the President of African Farmers Association of South Africa (AFASA), she worked tirelessly to unite government and private agricultural role players to solve problems across the sector. More than most, she understood the importance of the agricultural sector as the backbone to economic and social prosperity. A sector which the Fund, itself, has undertaken to support through our Farming Input Vouchers. Dr Mahlati remains, and will always be, a role model for all of us and we hope that her husband, Dr Gil Mahlati, and her children Lilitha and Siseko, take some comfort in the proud, enduring legacy she has left behind, as they come to terms with their grief.

Dear Vuyo - you were loved by so many yet you had the ability to make each of us feel a special bond with you. You were an inspiration, a titan with a big heart and ever so gentle. We know that your spirit lives on in each soul that you touched. You will be sorely missed dearest.

Mampiti Matsabu



Dr. Vuyo,

A devoted mother, wife, sister, aunt, friend and mentor to many. One who chose to champion and dedicate herself to the upliftment of many. You were a gentle soul yet a gentle dynamite who leaves an indelible legacy with so much social impact to the many lives you have touched. We thank your family for having shared you with all of us.

Love you sisi yours will never be forgotten. You were a blessed Daughter of the Most High. Rest in Power, Rise in Glory.



Kedibone Leshaba-Segoale

Dr Vuyo Mahlati is the brains behind this global rendition of my Praise Poetry. I met her when I was a little girl and she held my hand until this day. I'm grateful for the powerful platforms she has opened up for me on South African Women in Dialogue, African Women in Dialogue, International Women's Forum and her mentoring and coaching has made me to become an agent of change. Her legacy lives on because the Queen does not die. She has joined the ancestral orchestra of Queens, the great Nunny of the Maroons, Queen Europa, Queen Nerfititi, Queen Cleopatra, Queen Ngoyi, Queen Maxeke, Queen Tambo, Queen Sisulu, Queen Makeba, Queen Madikizela Mandela. Rise in Power Ngubengcuka, Mthemb'obhuzubhuzu, Rise In Power Dr Vuyo Mahlati. Your legacy lives on. Amaaaaaandla...

Jessica Mbangeni- Imbongi

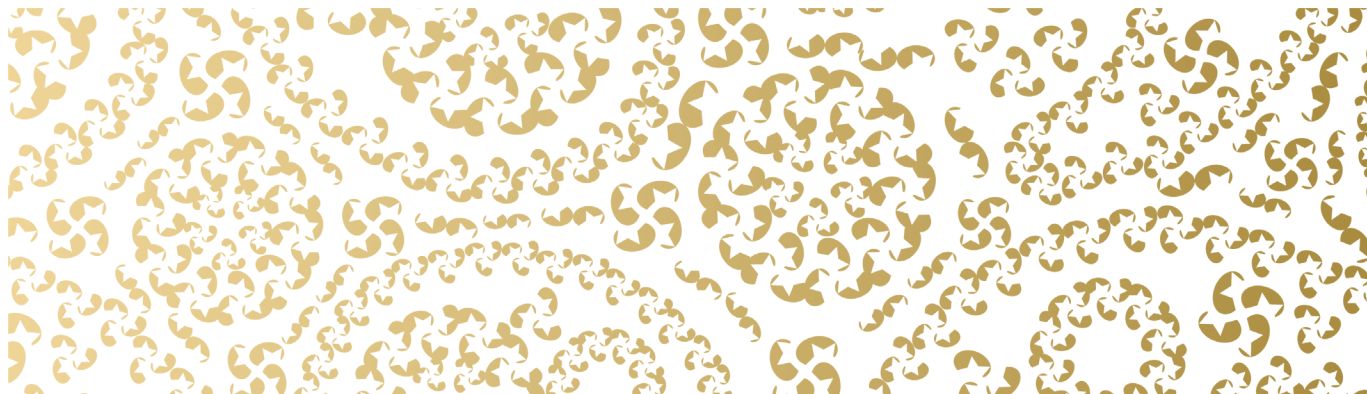


Our deepest sympathy and condolences to Vuyo's family.

I will miss her collegiate approach to resolving issues in every situation.

She was a great colleague .

Helen and Warwick Rule



OPINION: A TRIBUTE TO A TRUE 'CONSUMMATE INTELLECTUAL'

By Opinion Time of article published Oct 18, 2020

JOHANNESBURG - The passing of Dr Vuyo Mahlati is a tragic loss that has amplified the magnitude of the deep crisis the country faces on multiple fronts.

Mahlati's life was wholesome. It spanned struggles in education, gender, children, art, economy, politics, tradition, land, fashion, identities, ethics and panhumanism.

She was a consummate intellectual. In 2008, I met Mahlati in Limpopo at a post office function where Statistics South Africa (Stats SA) was showcasing the programme for assigning addresses for communities who did not have them.

We were so animated in our discussions on how these physical addresses would eliminate the scandal of invisibility for the marginalised.

Eight years later in June 2016 Chief Justice Mogoeng Mogoeng passed a scathing judgement on how the lack of addresses undermined democracy, giving the IEC 18 months to resolve this.

Sadly, the addresses remain unaddressed. Mahlati recurring theme was the space economy of apartheid and how it had to be undone.

A quick scroll down the memory lane of interactions in meetings, telephone conversations, emails, social media and opinion pieces glows intense radiation of who she was and what stood for.

Our engagements propelled Stats SA to establish the Centre for Regional and Urban Innovation and Statistical Exploration at the University of Stellenbosch in 2010.

The quality of work that the country prides itself emanates from this innovation.

In her struggle to advance food production by small farmers, Mahlati was on my case to produce a farmers database including running an agriculture census. Only commercial agriculture was covered.

Mahlat's doctoral thesis discussed Marula and its industrial production in Phalaborwa. Her argument was that his would be important for agricultural parks that are close to production.

In July she asked me to be part of the SA Women in Dialogue's transdisciplinary study group to respond to the Covid-19 food parcels crisis.

Unbeknown to me she even assigned me a lead position which she circulated amongst members. The transdisciplinary study report has a deadline of November.

Her passing makes our resolve to deliver the report even more urgent. It is this specific question of How Long that Gipson Kente drove through theatre that haunts us today – How Long? Mahalti the eternal activist concerned with the scandal of invisibility of the poor and poverty reminds us.

May Her Soul Rest In Peace and her family that she never stopped talking about be consoled.

Dr Lehohla is the former Statistician General of South Africa and the former head of Statistics South Africa

Business Report

Dear Sis Dr Vuyo, it is still so unbelievable that you are no longer with us. Truly you are gone too soon.

You always had twinkling eyes and a beautiful smile. You could authentically engage with anyone: with our Communities (at your best), Heads of State and Royalty, with Farmers especially, the bedrock of any society - our Food Security, Inclusivity and Agricultural wellbeing were embedded in your mind and heart.

Further, you were so present and erudite in giving guidance whenever called upon. Including with young women like I was when I first met you in the early 2000's. I knew you by reputation (you were in the broader WDB, SAWID and IWF fold) and most recently you engaged with us late last year (2019), when we as Identity Partners met with you on a new women led Agri Fund. Always wise, always willing - for impact.

Your progeny, Lilitha (Dedani) and Siseko are such evidence your's and Gil's profound love and commitment to each other and to family.

Dr V you last encouraged me in July of this year (2020). You always made a way to be interested in younger women and to encourage them and to take the time to ask after Ma Sophie De Bruyn (you were part of a group that gave her honour in Atlanta, USA in 2018). Your name is written in history Sis Vuyo. You are indeed gone too soon ... we pick up your spear as you taught us to do: Hamba Kahle Mbokodo.



Sonja De Bruyn

Beautiful Tribute and music from Sonja for Dr Vuyo. May her twinkling eyes and beautiful soul rest peacefully #Irreplaceable Gentle Giant. My sincere wish is that more women take an authentic leaf from Sis Vuyo's legacy to mentor other young women and carry on the baton other generations to come. It is well.



Mindfulness Dialogue Lead

Good morning Zinkokheli zam.... Because of Dr Vuyo Mahlati my show Africa in Me will be flighted this morning on Etv Morning Show. I am hoping to have an show on Moja Love too. Please Tune in as I will be telling our African story. Dr Vuyo Mahlati's legacy lives on..."Mama Ivili lisaquba"...

Jessica Mbangeni
e The Morning Show



PRETORIA - Mourners yesterday described the late land reform and women's rights champion Dr Vuyo Mahlati as an indelible spirit. They were speaking during a memorial service at Unisa.

Mahlati, who died last week aged 55, was involved in myriad causes; she was a social entrepreneur, gender activist and global director of the International Women's Forum.

She founded Africa's first indigenous wool processing plant in Butterworth in the Eastern Cape and made strides in her quest for rural development through land reform.

She died of an undisclosed illness, according to her son Siseko Mahlati.

Her funeral service will take place tomorrow at the Glen Methodist Church in Garsfontein, east of Pretoria.

Her son, also a family representative, said: "From a son's perspective it was amazing knowing her. She had an amazing way of touching people's lives, and we now see it the most with all the support that we are getting from all around the globe. It is testament to the person she was and the long-lasting legacy she left."

He said she had the gift of truly making an impact in her many causes. "She was a nurturing being and had a golden heart; people only saw a fraction of her greatness.

"She did quite a lot, and even though she was not too well in the past couple of months she continued to work.

"We were worried from a health point of view, but she continued to work, we were concerned, but could see it was what kept her going.

"She gave everyone around her a true piece of herself and without any doubt had the greatest intentions in her actions, which I believe is a gift."

International Women's Forum for South Africa president Irene Charnley said they were saddened by the loss of Mahlati.

"She was a powerful force of peace and democracy, and has been a great source of inspiration through the many courses she fought for.

"We find hope in her legacy, which inspired so many of us during her tenure as head of a global organisation of 7000 leaders across 33 nations and six continents. She served it with distinction.

"It is not surprising that she was unanimously nominated as global president for the International Women's Forum, and was due to ascend the global presidency."

Mahlati would have been the first president outside of North America and first from Africa.

"This would have been an honour for many women across the continent and globe. We are heartbroken, but look to the inspiration through her many good deeds in different causes."

Former deputy president Dr Phumzile Mlambo-Ngcuka, who was close to Mahlati and even helped organise her wedding many moons ago, said she was saddened by the loss of her colleague, friend and confidant.

"She used her knowledge to serve people who could easily be forgotten. She worked in rural development and helped us make great strides."

PRETORIA NEWS

Siyaya TV and Moja Love channels is honoured to have had an opportunity to work with such an icon and leader. Dr Vuyo appreciated the passion of her fellow entrepreneurs , joined the team and fully committed herself to the vision of becoming a commercial television broadcaster.

We at Siyaya TV and Moja Love are thankful that we could give her a hero's send off on a platform she co created and nurtured to success.

Hamba Kahle Mbokodo. Hamba Kahle Qhawekazi. Your impact and legacy lives on.

Thandi



Minister Patel Pays Tribute to
Dr Vuyo Mahlati

- It is with great sadness that we heard of the passing of **Dr Vuyokazi Felicity Mahlati**. It is a tragic loss for the agriculture sector and the country as a whole.
- Dr Mahlati was a member of the team which co-shaped the Poultry Masterplan, and championed transformation and the participation of small and emerging players.
- She served as a member of the Poultry Executive Oversight Committee (EOC) co-chaired by myself and my colleague Thoko Didiza, Minister of Agriculture, Land Reform and Rural Development
- She poured her energy into transformation in the agriculture and agro processing sector, and pushed to bridge the gender gap.

Our deepest condolences go out to the her family during this time.





Farewell to
Dr Vuyo Mahlati
a torchbearer of deluxe class

Dr Vuyo Mahlati's passing has robbed the transformation movement of a vital vein. A torchbearer of deluxe class, she served the nation on many fronts as a womanist, a corporate leader, an academic, a mentor, a global thought leader and guardian of the cause, a policy sage and a midwife of hope.

She was a valued stakeholder of the NEF in the implementation of the mandate to grow black economic participation across the length and breadth of the country. As an institution the NEF drew inspiration from her seminal work as we pursued the progressive and patriotic imperative of unlocking value chains for mainstreaming rural entrepreneurs into global markets, a topic that was at the heart of Dr Mahlati's PhD thesis. Her wisdom was instructive as we continued to support the growth and success of black SMEs and industrialists across the various sectors of the economy.

The NEF conveys our profound commiserations to her husband, Dr Gil Mahlati, their children Siseko and Liiitha, family, friends and colleagues, and wishes them the Lord's abiding grace and healing.

Philisiwe Mthethwa
CEO, NEF



Lala ngoxolo, daughter of the soil.



**A special donation from South Africa’s Dedani collection to the IWF.
Made by Africa’s first Cashmere Processing Plant, located in rural Eastern Cape, using wool from indigenous goats.**

TITLE

Virago: Legacy Warrior (UManqoba in Nguni, South Africa)

DESCRIPTION

Once in a lifetime piece designed and made by women and youth of rural South Africa. The award winning manufacturer has created opportunities for the sheep and goat farmers to supply, as well as previously unemployed local women and youth encouraged to build on indigenous skills. As natural fibres are used, focus is on ethical and sustainability production.

Decor Item (Wall hanger) 130cm x 200cm (6,56 x 4,26 feet) machine knitted with blended Wool and Cashmere.

COLOURS

BLACK backdrop
BROWN (Tortilla)
ORANGE
GREY AND WHITE borders
Accentuated with subtle embroidered beads, BLACK AND BLUE buttons

ARTISTIC DESIGN DEPICTS

An African Tembu Matriarch (Mandela’s Ethnic Group). The colours represent the traditional attire (umbhaco) and headgear with a tinge of orange/red ochre and the geometric designs used for the borders.

SYMBOLISM

The courageous, strong and centred woman, a nurturer who’s actions and intentions are legacy building. She transcends boundaries and stereotypes. She belongs to the world.

ABOUT TITLE

Virago (Latin) is a woman who demonstrates exemplary and heroic qualities. The Warrior - Manqoba (Nguni). The One who overcomes and conquers.



BAWO WETHU

Bawo wethu osezulwini,
Maliphathwe ngcwele igama lakho,
mabufike ubukumkani bakho,
mayenziwe intando yakho emhlabeni,
njengokuba isenziwa ezulwini.
Siphe namhlanje isonka sethu semihla ngemihla.
Sixolele amatyala ethu njengokuba
nathi sibaxolela abo banamatyala kuthi.
Ungasingenisi ekulingweni,
kodwa sihlangule ebubini.

Amen.

Matthew 6 : 9-13



