



05 April 2021

## PREMIER NTOMBELA SADDENED BY THE PASSING AWAY OF DR. MAPHALLA

Premier Sefora Ntombela is saddened by the passing away of Dr. Kgotso Pieter David Maphalla.

Dr. Maphalla, affectionally known as KPD, passed away earlier today, 05 April 2021 at a Bethlehem hospital following a long illness. He was 66 years-old. A Sesotho prolific author, Dr. Maphalla has penned over 70 books in a career spanning more than 40 years.

In addition to writing novels, Dr. Maphalla also wrote poetry and short stories and he also played a pivotal role in the formation of QwaQwa radio, a community radio station based in QwaQwa, his hometown.

During his prestigious career, Dr. Maphalla has won several awards for his outstanding work. In 2007, he was conferred with an honorary doctorate in literature by the University of Free State.

Premier Ntombela said she was deeply hurt about the passing away of Dr. Maphalla, adding that his death has robbed the Free State province of a gifted author whose work has inspired many people, young and old, across the province.

“I have learnt with deep and profound sadness about the passing away of *Ntate* Maphalla. Dr. Maphalla was a living testimony that the pen is truly mightier than the sword. Through his works, Dr. Maphalla sought to unite Africans especially during a very dark period in our country.

The Free State province has lost a truly gifted and inspirational man. On behalf of the Free State Provincial Government and the entire citizenry of the province, I would like to send my heartfelt condolences to the Maphalla family.

MEDIA RELEASE



May they find solace during this painful time and may Dr. Maphalla's soul rest in peace," Premier Ntombela said.

The family will announce funeral arrangements during the course of the week.

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