

SPECIAL OFFICIAL FUNERAL SERVICE FOR

*Ambassador Dumisani
Shadrack Kumalo*

16 September 1947 – 20 January 2019



Saturday, 26 January 2019

Obituary of Dumisani Shadrack Kumalo

Ambassador Dumisani Shadrack Kumalo was born in Kwambunda village, on the banks of the Blood River in Kingsley, KwaZulu-Natal, to Khelina Kumalo (née Mbatha) and Andries Kumalo on 16 September 1947. He was the fifth child of 11 siblings.

After the family moved to Evaton, south of Johannesburg, he attended Evaton Community School and later Wilberforce College, also in Evaton. He acquired a Bachelor of Arts degree from the University of South Africa and a Master's degree from Indiana University in the United States (US). Ambassador Kumalo spent much of his childhood in Evaton and later moved to Soweto to stay with his elder brother and the only remaining sibling, Henry, who raised him like his son.

Mtungwa cut his political teeth as a student activist. He pursued his fight for freedom, justice and equality for all when he took up journalism, and was one of the founding members of the Union of Black Journalists. This was an epoch when journalists drank hard and lived fast. He slipped into that lifestyle when he joined Jim Bailey's *Post* and *Drum* magazine in 1967, and later joined the *Sunday Times*. Fortunately for him, our country and the world, he stopped drinking on 31 March 1975 and had he lived, he would be celebrating his 44th year of sobriety on 1 April 2019.

It was during this time that he also became an activist in the South African Student Organisation, where he found a platform to contribute and add his voice to the fight against apartheid. From that point on, his family resigned itself to sharing him with the world as he joined the Struggle.

While in exile, Ambassador Kumalo became a key figure in the anti-apartheid divestment campaign that led to the passage of the Comprehensive Anti-Apartheid Act of 1986 by the US Congress. In this context, he played an important role in mobilising members of Congress to reverse then President

Ronald Reagan's veto on sanctions because, as he put it: "Punitive sanctions, I believe, are not the best course of action; they hurt the very people they are intended to help."

"The African Agenda" occupied Ambassador Kumalo's mind as a lifelong vocation. He was a true Pan Africanist who believed in the unity of Africa as an essential condition for the Continent to address her challenges so as to improve the lives of the peoples of Africa for the better.

Soon after Nelson Mandela's release from prison in February 1990, Ambassador Kumalo returned to South Africa for the first time after over a decade of exile in the US. He witnessed the historic elections in 1994 that brought the African National Congress to power and thereafter started to work for the government in 1997 as Director of the US Desk in the then Department of Foreign Affairs – now Department of International Relations and Cooperation (DIRCO).

Ambassador Kumalo was subsequently appointed as South Africa's Permanent Representative to the United Nations (UN) in New York and presented his credentials to then UN Secretary-General Kofi Annan on 21 April 1999. He served as South Africa's Permanent Representative to the UN in New York until 2009.

During his decade-long tour of duty, he gained vast experience in multilateral diplomacy and extensive knowledge and understanding of the challenges facing developing countries broadly and the African continent in particular. In this regard, Ambassador Kumalo was vocal in calling for a strengthened and reformed UN that would serve as a beacon of hope and inspiration for all peoples of the world.

From 1999 to 2009, South Africa chaired several organisations and formations, namely the African Union, Non-Aligned Movement, Southern African Development Community and Group of 77. As chairperson, Ambassador Kumalo articulated the views of Africa and the developing world at the UN, and mobilised support for the socio-economic development programmes of the South and Africa's New Partnership for Africa's Development.

He advocated for a rules-based multilateral system with development, security and human rights at its centre. He actively participated in the main deliberative and subsidiary bodies of the UN and held several positions as chair or co-chair

of various UN bodies: He was Chairperson of the Peacebuilding Commission; Chairperson of the UN Economic and Social Council Ad Hoc Advisory Groups on Guinea Bissau and Burundi, and Co-Chair for the establishment of the Human Rights Council.

From 1 January 2007 to 31 December 2008, South Africa had the honour of serving as an elected member of the UN Security Council (UNSC) for the first time. Ambassador Kumalo led the first South African team to the UNSC. South Africa's main objective in the UNSC was to contribute to the resolution of conflicts and stabilisation of post-conflict situations.

Ambassador Kumalo also chaired several committees of the UNSC. He was Chair of the 751 Sanctions Committee on Somalia; Chair of the UNSC mandate review; Vice-Chair of the Sanctions Committee on Liberia; Vice-Chair of the Sanctions Committee on Cote d'Ivoire; Chair of the Ad Hoc Working Group on Conflict Prevention and Resolution in Africa, and Co-Chair of the Counter-Terrorism Committee.

He returned to South Africa in 2009 after completing his tour of duty in New York and was appointed Special Envoy for the Great Lakes Region in the DIRCO before retiring.

After his retirement from the DIRCO, Ambassador Kumalo served as the Chief Executive Officer of the Thabo Mbeki Foundation (TMF) until 2015. His contribution to the work of the TMF will forever be appreciated, particularly the establishment of the Thabo Mbeki African Leadership Institute, a TMF initiative in partnership with UNISA, which trains young people in order to contribute to the development of a cadre of thought leaders on the African Continent.

He was a big, exuberant man with a wide and generous smile, and a sense of humour to match. In his spare time he loved music, particularly jazz concerts and jazz clubs.

Ambassador Kumalo is survived by his wife, Ntombikayise Kumalo, brother, Henry, children and grandchildren.

*Ndlelanhle Mntungwa! Mbulase odl'umuntu emyenga ngendaba!
Donda weziziba!*

Programme

PART ONE

- 07:00 **Family Valedictory Service at home**
576 Carlswald North Estate
Midrand
- 08:30 **Cortege departs for Calvary Methodist Church on Corner Harry
Galaun Drive and 7th Street, Midrand**

PART TWO

Funeral Service at Calvary Methodist Church

Programme directors: Professor Barney Pityana and Dr Cassius Lubisi

- 09:00 National Anthem: **SAPS Band**
- 09:05 Opening Prayer: **Reverend Thembeke Cira**
- 09:10 Reading of the obituary: **Mrs Busisiwe Thage**
- 09:25 Musical tribute
- 09:35 Tribute by family friend: **Mrs Lulekwa Mngcwabeni-Pingo**
- 09:45 Tribute by a comrade and friend: **Dr Sam Gulube**
- 09:55 Musical tribute
- 10:05 Tribute by Madikizela Family Representative: **Mr Monde Madikizela**
- 10:15 Tribute by Kumalo Family Representative: **Mr Henry Kumalo**
- 10:25 Tribute by the children: **Mr Mandla Kumalo**
- 10:35 Musical tribute
- 10:45 Tribute by **Former President Thabo Mbeki**
- 11:00 Message from the wife read by **Ms Thandeka Sangweni**
- 11:15 Musical tribute
- 11:20 **Eulogy by Minister Nkosazana Dlamini Zuma**
- 11:50 Sermon by **Reverend Siviwe Waqu**
- 12:10 SAPS Ceremonial
- 12:20 **Cortege departs for the Westpark Cemetery, Johannesburg**

PART THREE

At the Cemetery

- 12:50 Immediate family and Minister Dlamini Zuma seated
13:00 Removal of National Flag from the coffin by the SAPS and handing over to the family
Abide with me and Reveille sounded
SAPS bearers and Ceremonial Guard of Honour withdraw
13:30 Vote of thanks: **Dr Bongani Khumalo**

Pall-bearers

- Home to hearse: SAPS
Hearse to church: SAPS
Church to hearse: SAPS
Hearse to cemetery: SAPS

Hymn:

Nzulu Yemfihlakalo

Nzulu yemfihlakalo, nzulu yesimanga
ezalise umhlaba nesibhakabhaka
Le nzulu yesimanga ngokaThix'unyana
Oweza ebantwini ngokubasindisa

Wabon'uluntu lonke luwe esonweni
imiphefumlo yonke ihlel'elishweni
wasikwa yimfesane engummangaliso
wathabathela kuye lonk'ihlazo labo

Kwba ngummangaliso ukuzalwa kwakhe
Waphila wafundisa ngokuncamisayo
Waba ngummangaliso umnqamlezo wakhe
Wafa woyis'ukufa saba sisismanga

Hayi obobunzulu boluthando lwakhe
naloo msebenzi wakhe ungenakuqondwa
Abakholwayo namhla abanakugwetywa
Ma udunyiswe Nkosi kusephakadeni.

Amen.

National Anthem

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

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

Uit die blou van onse hemel,
Uit die diepte van ons see,
Oor ons ewige gebergtes,
Waar die kranse antwoord gee,
Sounds the call to come together,
And united we shall stand,
Let us live and strive for freedom,
In South Africa our land.