

Funeral of Ambassador Nathi Mthethwa: Duma, as the Leader of Government Business is reflecting on this important day in KweSakwaMthethwa

Media Update by the Leader of Government Business, Siboniso Duma

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Dondotha Stadium: In my capacity as the Leader of Government Business, I was assigned by the Provincial Executive Council led by Premier Thami Ntulu to be closer to the family and ensure the coordination of the funeral declared by President Cyril Ramaphosa, Special Category 2.

We worked well with the national government, other spheres of government, and the family to ensure that Ambassador Mthethwa has a befitting send-off.

We draw amazing inspiration from being in KweSakwaMthethwa to bid a special farewell to our leader.

In his political education classes, Ambassador Nathi Mthethwa often reminded us that ISILO Shaka Zulu grew up here.

ISILO became a fearless warrior in the Mthethwa Kingdom under King Dingiswayo. King Dingiswayo became Shaka's mentor and helped him to become a military genius.

Ambassador Nathi would point out that after Dingiswayo's death at the hands of Zwide, Shaka absorbed the Mthethwa people as part of strengthening the Zulu Kingdom.

Critically, Ambassador Nathi Mthethwa was opposed to the narrative that seeks to portray Inkosi Bhambatha ka Manciza as a rebel.

He was quick to tell us that Inkosi Bhambatha was a freedom fighter and that it was therefore inappropriate to describe the resistance against British Rule as Bhambatha Rebellion.

We must always describe the encounter as a Bhambatha War of Resistance.

This encounter proved pivotal to South Africa's geopolitical evolution.

Importantly, this war and many others served as an inspiration to many generations of ordinary people and leaders who found themselves at the forefront of a broader struggle to build a non-racial, non-sexist, democratic, and prosperous society in the late 1800s and early 1900s.

We salute President Cyril Ramaphosa for setting aside time to be with the family today.

President will depart Mthethwa's Residence with Ambassador Nathi Mthethwa's body and the whole family to Dondotha Stadium.

After the funeral service, mourners will remain here, and the president, the family, and dignitaries will go back to Mthethwa's Residence to lay to rest our departed leader. He will be buried next to his father.

Ends

Enquiries

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