

XIKUNDU COMMUNITY MOURNS THE PASSING AWAY OF MINISTER COLLINS CHABANE 16 MARCH 2015



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The community of Xikundu village is still in shock after the announcement of the passing away of Minister Collins Chabane. The village is situated at the eastern part of Thulamela Municipality under Vhembe District in Limpopo Province. The area is under traditional leadership of Hosi J Xikundu which covers 8 villages in the areas of Malamulele.

Since the announcement the community of Malamulele is struggling to come to terms with the news. Church leaders, traditional authorities and other community structures have been going in and out of the Chabane family as early as Sunday morning to pay their condolences.

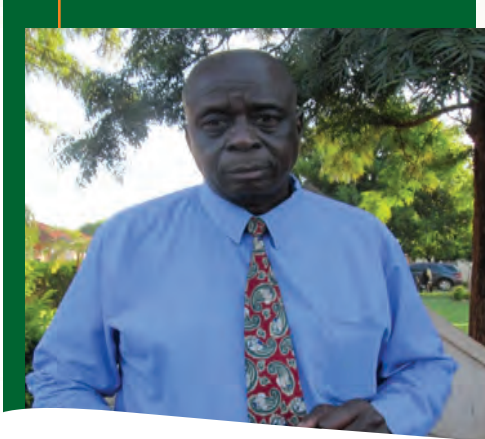


The Mayor of Thulamela Local Municipality Cllr. G Mahosi after the prayer session at Chabane's home on Monday 16 March 2015.

“On behalf of government we would like to send our heartfelt condolences to the Chabane family, friends and relatives. We are saddened by the minister’s untimely passing way. Government has lost a great leader, a stalwart and a dedicated public servant”. The mayor indicated that she was with the minister on Saturday at the funeral of Hosi Magona/ Nxumalo but little did she now that she will never see him again.

The mayor requested the community of Xikundu and the people of Thulamela municipality to be united and work together during this difficult time. Mayor Mahosi was accompanied by the speaker and exco members.





Mr Msimeki John: Principal of Mayeke School.

Minister Chabane began his primary education at Mayeke School then called Xikundu Bantu School from 1965 until 1972 said Msimeki. "I took over as the principal of the school after Mr Chabane E.S the father to Minister Chabane in 1987. Although Collins was now at national level he never lost touch with the school as he would always pass by whenever he was around". According to Mr Msimeki, Minister Chabane has contributed a lot on the area of education in the rural village of Xikundu. "We are deeply hurt by this tragedy. Late last year he requested a list of most disadvantaged pupils at our school and took them to Kruger National Park, just to mention some of the few things he has done for the school".

Representing the local churches Maluleke a senior member at IPHC said "He was still young, death robbed us. I am lost for words, I don't know what to say, I am in a terrible pain as I am also a member of this family" Mr Maluleke could not hold back his tears during the interview. It was clearly visible that the news took him by surprise.



Mr Maluleke H.N of IPHC.



From the left: Mamayila Mayevu and Maria Tshambatani after the Monday prayer service.

In their language (Tsonga) these women said " Hi lahlekeriwile swinene. Swi twala onge I norho", meaning that it is a great loss; it feels like a nightmare or a dream. The two went on to say "our area is under developed, we don't have water and our streets are bad with no tar road. We were expecting that all this will change if he was to be in government for a longer period". From the tar road which leads to Kruger National Park Punda Maria gate one travels 4km in a gravel road to Chabane's family house.



Mr Moses Maluleke: SANCO Deputy Chairperson.

On behalf of South African Civic Organisation (SANCO) Maluleke said they were shocked by the sudden death of a comrade, community leader, a political veteran and a humble person such as Minister Chabane. "He was one of us, he worked with us and always showed us respect" He contributed a lot in the development of this area and was a peace maker said Maluleke. "We had planned a meeting with him as a structure and he had agreed to meet with, unfortunately that will never happen. He was a pillar to most of us"

The Xikundu Tribal Authority also visited the Chabane family. Hosi/Chief Xikundu expressed his sadness as he was paying his condolences on Monday 16 March 2015. He indicated that Minister Chabane was a son to them and that they lost a great leader and a giant.

Immediately after the prayer service the ANC NEC also paid their visit to the family, amongst them it was Joe Maswanganyi another political veteran who worked very closely with Minister Chabane as a politician in the province.



Some of the community members during a church service at Chabane's family in Xikundu on 16 Monday 2015.



Local people leaving the Chabane house after church service on Monday.