

Now that your heart has ceased to beat.

In no time constrained by the protocols of our times we will bid farewell to you, hearts heavy with sorrow, eyes full of tears.

We who have taken so much of your life from you and you unflinchingly giving it your all at great risk to your own health in the service of the Nation.

We will play the Last Post in recognition of a very special patriot who now joins the esteemed and illustrious list of communicators par excellence such as Oliver Tambo, Duma Nokwe, Tom Sebina, Ruth First, Dulcie September, Prince Msutu, Mcebisi Bata, Parks Mankahlana , Dumisani Makhaye, Ronnie Mamoepa, Collins Chabane, Sindiso Magaqa, Ignatius Jacobs and Bavelile Hlongwa.

Development communications occupied a very special place in your heart.

As foot soldiers and Movement trained communicators at HQ we knew with the likes of Dumisani Makhaye and Smuts Ngonyama and Joel Netshitenzhe that our Comms was on lock-down with you at the centre and you had no holy cows.

You did not suffer fools gladly...

None were spared in your path yet you communicated with such empathy and compassion.

City Press knows you. SANEF knew you and yet at the heart of all the exchanges was the love for the Republic.

You were decisive, principled, firm, loyal and was clear on what you expected from us as Communicators.

Unveiling a plaque in honour of Comrade Ronnie Mamoepa at GCIS on the 12th July in 2019 you stated that "in renaming this place as the Ronnie Mamoepa Media Centre we (our Government) was making a statement of intent ...that we were challenging all Communicators in government to follow in his footsteps to carry the torch of communicating directly with the people as Ronnie did.

You said "Government Communicators must not be the news, must not be celebrities, they must be available at all times, speak the languages spoken by our communities and be humble "

You taught us so much more than what one can share more in this platform.

You loved this country and njengejoni you died with your boots on.

Indeed it is true that he who digs the well never drinks from it...

We have lost a great orator

We have lost a great wordsmith

Perhaps your contagious laughter and zest for life is what I will miss more.

Thanks for the caring, the kind word when things hurt and boy did they hurt!

Hamba Mthembu, Hamba Qhudeni, Hamba Mvelase!

Ngesibinze ngantoni na ke kade?

Hamba Thole leDuna!

Your day is done!

You led from the Frontline!

Still we ask -how does the Pain Settle?

Nomfanelo Kota - ANC Caucus Spokesperson